

THE
EDINBURGH
Monthly
MAGAZINE.

APRIL—SEPTEMBER, 1817.

EST QUODAM PRODIRE TENUS, SI NON DATUR ULTRA.

Hor.



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THE
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No I.]

APRIL 1817.

[Vol. I.]

Contents.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

Memoir of the late Francis Horner, Esq.
M. P. 3

On the Sculpture of the Greeks.....9

Present State of the City of Venice.....16

On the Constitution and Moral Effects of
Banks for the Savings of Industry.....17

Tales and Anecdotes of the Pastoral Life,
No I.....22

Observations on the Culture of the Sugar
Cane in the United States, and on our
System of Colonial Policy.....25

Memoir of a View-Hunter.....27

Account of the American Steam Frigate.....30

On Sitting below the Salt.....33

The Craniological Controversy.—Some
Observations on the late Pamphlets of
Dr Gordon and Dr Spurzheim.....35

On the proposed Establishment of a
Foundling Hospital in Edinburgh.....38

Remarks on Greek Tragedy, No I. (*Æs-
chyl's Prometheus*).....39

Notices concerning the Scottish Gypsies.....43

SELECT EXTRACTS.

Account of Colonel Beaufoy's Journey to
the Summit of Mount Blanc.....59

Account of the remarkable Case of Mar-
garet Lyall, who continued in a state
of sleep nearly six weeks.....61

ANTIQUARIAN REPERTORY.

Grant of the Lands of Kyrkenes to the
Culdees of Lochleven, by Macbeth son
of Finlach, and Gruoch daughter of
Bodhe, King and Queen of Scotland.....65

Writ of Privy Seal in Favour of 'Johnne
Faw, Lord and Erle of Litill Egypt,'
granted by King James the Fifth,
Feb. 15th 1540.....ib.

Act of Privy Council 'anent some Egyp-
tians'.....66

The Wyfe of Auchtermuchtie.....67

Account of the Highland Host (1678).....68

Extract from 'A Mock Poem upon the
Expedition of the Highland Host;' by
Col. Cleland.....69

ORIGINAL POETRY.

The Desolate Village—a Reverie.....70

Italy.....71

Verses recited by the Author, in a Party
of his Countrymen, on the day that
the news arrived of our final victory
over the French.....72

REVIEW OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

A Series of Discourses on the Christian
Revelation, viewed in connexion with
the Modern Astronomy. By Thomas
Chalmers, D.D.....73

Harold the Dauntless; a Poem, in six
cantos. By the Author of "The Bridal
of Friermain".....76

Arnata. A Fragment.....78

Stories for Children; selected from the
History of England, from the Con-
quest to the Revolution.....79

PERIODICAL WORKS.

Edinburgh Review, No 54.....81

Quarterly Review, No 31.....83

**LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC
INTELLIGENCE.....85**

WORKS PREPARING FOR PUBLICATION 88

MONTHLY LIST OF NEW PUBLICA-
TIONS.....90

MONTHLY REGISTER.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.....96

PROCEEDINGS OF PARLIAMENT.....102

BRITISH CHRONICLE.....106

Commercial Report.....113

Agricultural Report.....116

Meteorological Table.....118

Births, Marriages, Deaths.....119

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PRINTED FOR WILLIAM BLACKWOOD, NO 17, PRINCE'S STREET,
EDINBURGH; AND BALDWIN, CRADOCK, AND JOY,
PATERNOSTER ROW, LONDON;
To whom Communications may be addressed;
SOLD ALSO BY ALL THE BOOKSELLERS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

* * * As it is the wish of the Editors to render this work a **REPOSITORY** of whatever may be supposed to be most interesting to general readers, they beg leave to offer one or two remarks on what is new in the plan they have adopted, and on the specimen of it now submitted to the Public.

UNDER the title of *Antiquarian Repertory*, they have reason to hope, from the access that has been most liberally allowed them to unpublished manuscripts, both in the national and in family repositories, that they shall for a long period be able, not only to lay before their readers articles calculated to gratify curiosity, but also to rescue from oblivion such materials as may throw some light on the disputed points in British history, and on such minute features in the state of society in former ages, as must necessarily be excluded from the pages of the historian.

THE Editors have ventured to allot a part of their **MAGAZINE** to notices of the articles contained in the most celebrated periodical publications;—under which they propose also to include works published in parts, at more irregular intervals, and a list of the contents of the minor Journals. They are aware of the difficulty of giving general satisfaction under this head; but as they have never seen any attempt of the kind made, or at least persevered in, either by their predecessors or contemporaries, they cannot but hope, that this proof of their resolution to spare no pains for the gratification of their readers, will be received with indulgence. And here they must regret, that it has not been in their power to notice, in the present number, the *British Review*, No **XVII.** which contains the best discussion they have any where seen of the means by which an equalization of weights and measures may be effected.

If the Editors shall be able to realize their own wishes and expectations, the *Register* will comprise a greater variety of information than is to be found at present in any monthly publication. Rush as it may appear, they will venture to declare, that it is their ambition to give such a view of Foreign and Domestic Affairs, as may in a great measure supersede the necessity of resorting to Annual Registers, or other more voluminous and expensive works, for the period which their labours may embrace. But as their limits had been almost reached before they began to print this their last branch, the Editors must request their readers to take the present as but an imperfect specimen of what they mean it to contain. Every division of it has been curtailed; and the *Public Papers and Accounts*, as well as the list of *Patents, Promotions, &c.* have been unavoidably postponed. All these, however, shall be given, from the commencement of the year, in the early numbers of the *Magazine*.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

THE Memoir of an eminent and favourite Scottish author, lately deceased, will appear in an early Number.—“*Observations,*” &c. concerning the progress of Scottish Literature—and the article on Hospitals by Q. in our next.

THE Review Articles, by W. A. and B. W. and the Communication from “*An Unknown Friend,*” are unavoidably delayed till next month.

THE two Communications from L. N. have been duly received. We are sorry to assure him, that the process described in his first cannot at all benefit or interest the public as a discovery. It has been well known, and generally practised, for the last fifty years.

THE paper by ‘*Junius*’ is in many respects interesting, but it is unfortunately so overloaded with “*fine writing,*” as to be quite unfit for our humble miscellany in its present shape.

No II. will be published in Edinburgh on the 20th of May, and in London on the 1st of June.

THE
EDINBURGH
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No I.]

APRIL 1817.

[VOL. I.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

MEMOIR OF THE LATE FRANCIS HORNER, ESQ. M. P.

Of the many eminent and good men whom Great Britain may proudly boast of having produced,—who have dedicated their lives to the service of the state,—and have ministered to the improvement and the happiness of their countrymen, not less by the exercise of splendid talents in the public councils of the nation, than by the bright example they have afforded in private life, of inflexible integrity, and the practice of every amiable virtue,—there is certainly not one whose death has excited a deeper or more universal regret, than that of Mr FRANCIS HORNER. To the nation at large, as well as to those fortunate, though now afflicted, individuals, who were attached to him by the dearer ties of consanguinity and friendship, the loss of this excellent man is indeed irreparable.

Statesmen beheld in him an example ever to be admired, and ever to be emulated, of great parts, and still greater worth, wholly and sincerely devoted to the attainment of the noblest of objects,—our country's good, and the general improvement of mankind. It was their delight to contemplate, in this highly-gifted individual, a combination almost without a parallel,—of every virtue, and every acquirement, which can dignify and adorn the character of a public man;—a powerful understanding,—various and profound knowledge,—a sound and penetrating judgment,—original and enlightened views,—a correct and elegant taste,—an impressive yet modest eloquence,—a fervent but chastened zeal,—never-failing discretion,—a high and independent feeling,—and, above all, a

Vol. I.

most unimpeachable honour. Where now, alas! shall good men search for, or searching find, a union so inestimable of intellectual and moral excellence, to cheer their hopes, and confirm their virtuous purposes, in these times of political difficulty and of relaxing principle.

Splendid, however, as these his public virtues were, the knowledge of them served only to enhance the pleasure, which it was the peculiar happiness of his relations and friends to enjoy, from the contemplation of his private worth. Dutiful, affectionate, and social; gentle, cheerful, and unassuming; full of kindness and full of charity; he was the joy and pride of his family, dear to every friend, and a perfect pattern of goodness in all the relations of domestic life. For these sorrowing individuals, this only consolation now remains,—silently to dwell on the remembrance of his numerous virtues, and to fix the love of them for ever on their hearts.

Of the exalted estimation in which Mr HORNER'S character was universally held, no testimony can be more gratifying or more unequivocal, than the tone of deep and feeling regret with which his death was announced in all the public prints; and the strain of unexampled eulogy which was poured forth on his high attainments, and his generous nature, in the House of Commons, by political opponents as well as by private friends, on the melancholy occasion of moving for a new writ for the borough which he represented in Parliament.

The following paragraph, admirable alike for its elegance and its truth, appeared in the Morning Chronicle of Friday, the 26th of February 1817.

"It is with deep concern we have to announce the death of Francis Horner, Esq. Member of Parliament for St Mawes. This melancholy event took place at Pisa on the eighth instant. We have had seldom to lament a greater loss, or to bewail a more irreparable calamity. With an inflexible integrity and ardent attachment to liberty, Mr Horner conjoined a temperance and discretion not always found to accompany these virtues. The respect in which he was held, and the deference with which he was listened to in the House of Commons, is a striking proof of the effect of moral qualities in a popular assembly. Without the adventitious aids of station or fortune, he had acquired a weight and influence in Parliament, which few men, whose lives were passed in opposition, have been able to obtain; and for this consideration he was infinitely less indebted to his eloquence and talents, eminent as they were, than to the opinion universally entertained of his public and private rectitude. His understanding was strong and comprehensive, his knowledge extensive and accurate, his judgment sound and clear, his conduct plain and direct. His eloquence, like his character, was grave and forcible, without a particle of vanity or presumption, free from rancour and personality, but full of deep and generous indignation against fraud, hypocrisy, or injustice.—He was a warm, zealous, and affectionate friend—high-minded and disinterested in his conduct—firm and decided in his opinions—modest and unassuming in his manners. To his private friends his death is a calamity they can never cease to deplore. To the public it is a loss not easily to be repaired, and, in times like these, most severely to be felt."

In the House of Commons, on Monday, March 3d, 1817, LORD MURFET rose, and spoke as follows:—"I rise to move that the Speaker do issue his writ for a new member to serve in Parliament for the borough of St Mawes, in the room of the late Francis Horner, Esq.

"In making this motion, I trust it will not appear presumptuous or officious, if I address a few words to the House upon this melancholy occasion. I am aware that it is rather an unusual course; but, without endeavouring to institute a parallel with other instances,

I am authorized in saying that the course is not wholly unprecedented.

"My lamented friend, of whom I never can speak without feelings of the deepest regret, had been rendered incapable for some time past, in consequence of the bad state of his health, of applying himself to the labours of his profession, or to the discharge of his parliamentary duties. He was prevailed upon to try the effects of a milder and more genial climate—the hope was vain, and the attempt fruitless: he sunk beneath the slow but destructive effect of a lingering disease, which baffled the power of medicine and the influence of climate; but under the pressure of increasing infirmity, under the infliction of a debilitating and exhausting malady, he preserved undiminished the serenity of his amiable temper, and the composure, the vigour, and firmness of his excellent and enlightened understanding. I may, perhaps, be permitted, without penetrating too far into the more sequestered paths of private life, to allude to those mild virtues—those domestic charities, which embellished while they dignified his private character. I may be permitted to observe, that, as a son and as a brother, he was eminently dutiful and affectionate: but I am aware that these qualities, however amiable, can hardly, with strict propriety, be addressed to the consideration of Parliament. When, however, they are blended, interwoven, and incorporated in the character of a public man, they become a species of public property, and, by their influence and example, essentially augment the general stock of public virtue.

"For his qualifications as a public man I can confidently appeal to a wider circle—to that learned profession of which he was a distinguished ornament—to this House, where his exertions will be long remembered with mingled feelings of regret and admiration. It is not necessary for me to enter into the detail of his graver studies and occupations. I may be allowed to say generally, that he raised the edifice of his fair fame upon a good and solid foundation—upon the firm basis of conscientious principle. He was ardent in the pursuit of truth; he was inflexible in his adherence to the great principles of justice and of right. Whenever he delivered in this House the ideas of his clear and intel-

ligent mind, he employed that chaste, simple, but at the same time nervous and impressive style of oratory which seemed admirably adapted to the elucidation and discussion of important business: it seemed to combine the force and precision of legal argument with the acquisitions and knowledge of a statesman.

“Of his political opinions it is not necessary for me to enter into any detailed statement: they are sufficiently known, and do not require from me any comment or illustration. I am confident that his political opponents will admit, that he never courted popularity by any unbecoming or unworthy means: they will have the candour to allow, that the expression of his political opinions, however firm, manly, and decided, was untinged with moroseness, and unembittered with any personal animosity or rancorous reflection. From these feelings he was effectually exempted by the operation of those qualities which formed the grace and the charm of his private life.

“But successful as his exertions were, both in this House and in the Courts of Law, considering the contracted span of his life, they can only be looked upon as the harbingers of his maturer fame, as the presages and the anticipations of a more exalted reputation. But his career was prematurely closed. That his loss to his family and his friends is irreparable, can be readily conceived; but I may add, that to this House and the country it is a loss of no ordinary magnitude: in these times it will be severely felt. In these times, however, when the structure of the constitution is undergoing close and rigorous investigation, on the part of some with the view of exposing its defects, on the part of others with that of displaying its beauties and perfections; we may derive some consolation from the reflection, that a man not possessed of the advantages of hereditary rank or of very ample fortune, was enabled, by the exertion of his own honourable industry—by the successful cultivation of his native talents, to vindicate to himself a station and eminence in society, which the proud and wealthiest might envy and admire.

“I ought to apologize to the House, not, I trust, for having introduced the subject to their notice, for of that I

hope I shall stand acquitted, but for having paid so imperfect and inadequate a tribute to the memory of my departed friend.”

MR CANNING.—“Of all the instances wherein the same course has been adopted, as that which my Noble Friend has pursued with so much feeling and good taste on this occasion, I do not remember one more likely than the present to conciliate the general approbation and sympathy of the House.

“I, sir, had not the happiness (a happiness now counterbalanced by a proportionate excess of sorrow and regret) to be acquainted personally, in private life, with the distinguished and amiable individual whose loss we have to deplore. I knew him only within the walls of the House of Commons. And even here, from the circumstance of my absence during the last two sessions, I had not the good fortune to witness the later and more matured exhibition of his talents; which (as I am informed, and can well believe) at once kept the promise of his earlier years, and opened still wider expectations of future excellence.

“But I had seen enough of him to share in those expectations, and to be sensible of what this House and the country have lost by his being so prematurely taken from us.

“He had, indeed, qualifications eminently calculated to obtain and to deserve success. His sound principles—his enlarged views—his various and accurate knowledge—the even tenor of his manly and temperate eloquence—the genuineness of his warmth, when into warmth he was betrayed—and, above all, the singular modesty with which he bore his faculties, and which shed a grace and lustre over them all; these qualifications, added to the known blamelessness and purity of his private character, did not more endear him to his friends, than they commanded the respect of those to whom he was opposed in adverse politics; they ensured to every effort of his abilities an attentive and favouring audience; and secured for him, as the result of all, a solid and unenvied reputation.

“I cannot conclude, sir, without adverting to a topic in the latter part of the speech of my noble friend, upon which I most entirely concur with him. It would not be seemly to mix with the mournful subject of our present contemplation any thing of a con-

roversial nature. But when, for the second time within a short course of years, the name of an obscure borough is brought before us as vacated by the loss of conspicuous talents and character,* it may be permitted to me, with my avowed and notorious opinions on the subject of Parliamentary Constitution, to state, without offence, that it is at least some consolation for the imputed theoretical defects of that constitution, that in practice it works so well. A system of representation cannot be wholly vicious, and altogether inadequate to its purposes, which sends to this House a succession of such men as those whom we have now in our remembrance, here to develop the talents with which God has endowed them, and to attain that eminence in the view of their country, from which they may be one day called to aid her counsels, and to sustain her greatness and her glory."

Mr MANNERS SUTTON.—"I know not whether I ought, even for a moment, to intrude myself on the House: I am utterly incapable of adding any thing to what has been so well, so feelingly, and so truly stated on this melancholy occasion; and yet I hope, without the appearance of presumption, I may be permitted to say, from the bottom of my heart, I share in every sentiment that has been expressed.

"It was my good fortune, some few years back, to live in habits of great intimacy and friendship with Mr Horner: change of circumstances, my quitting the profession to which we both belonged, broke in upon those habits of intercourse; but I hope and believe I may flatter myself the feeling was mutual. For myself, at least, I can most honestly say, that no change of circumstances—no difference of politics—no interruption to our habits of intercourse, even in the slightest degree diminished the respect, the regard, and the affection I most sincerely entertained for him.

"This House can well appreciate the heavy loss we have sustained in him, as a public man. In these times, indeed in all times, so perfect a combination of commanding talents, indefa-

tigable industry, and stern integrity, must be a severe public loss: but no man, who has not had the happiness—the blessing, I might say—to have known him as a friend; who has not witnessed the many virtues and endearing qualities that characterized him in the circle of his acquaintance, can adequately conceive the irreparable chasm in private life this lamentable event has made.

"In my conscience I believe, there never lived the man, of whom it could more truly be said, that, whenever he was found in public life, he was respected and admired—whenever he was known in private life, he was most affectionately beloved.

"I will no longer try the patience of the House: I was anxious, indeed, that they should bear with me for a few moments, whilst I endeavoured, not to add my tribute to the regard and veneration in which his memory ought, and assuredly will be held; but whilst I endeavoured, however feebly, to discharge a debt of gratitude, and do a justice to my own feelings."

Mr WYNN said, "that his Noble Friend (Lord Morpeth), and his Right Hon. Friend who had last spoken (Mr M. Sutton), had expressed themselves concerning their departed friend with that feeling of affection and esteem which did them so much honour, and which was heightened by their habits of intimacy, and their opportunities of observing his character; but the virtues by which he was distinguished were not confined within the circle of his acquaintance, or concealed from the view of the world. Every one who saw Mr Horner had the means of judging of his temper, his mildness, and his personal virtues; for they were seen by all. He carried with him to public life, and into the duties and the business of his public station, all that gentleness of disposition, all that amenity of feeling, which adorned his private life, and endeared him to his private friends. Amidst the heats and contests of the House, amidst the vehemence of political discussion, amidst the greatest conflicts of opinion and opposition of judgment, he maintained the same mildness and serenity of disposition and temper. No eagerness of debate, no warmth of feeling, no enthusiasm for his own opinions, or con-

* Mr Windham, who represented St Mawes in 1806, died member for Higham Ferrers in 1810.

viction of the errors of others, ever betrayed him into any uncandid construction of motives, or any asperity towards the conduct of his opponents. His loss was great, and would long be regretted."

Sir S. ROMILLY said, "that the long and most intimate friendship which he had enjoyed with the Honourable Member, whose loss the House had to deplore, might, he hoped, entitle him to the melancholy satisfaction of saying a few words on this distressing occasion. Though no person better knew, or more highly estimated, the private virtues of Mr Horner than himself, yet, as he was not sure that he should be able to utter what he felt on that subject, he would speak of him only as a public man.

"Of all the estimable qualities which distinguished his character, he considered as the most valuable, that independence of mind which in him was so remarkable. It was from a consciousness of that independence, and from a just sense of its importance, that, at the same time that he was storing his mind with the most various knowledge on all subjects connected with our internal economy and foreign politics, and that he was taking a conspicuous and most successful part in all the great questions which have lately been discussed in Parliament, he laboriously devoted himself to all the painful duties of his profession. Though his success at the bar was not at all adequate to his merits, he yet steadfastly persevered in his labours, and seemed to consider it as essential to his independence, that he should look forward to his profession alone for the honours and emoluments to which his extraordinary talents gave him so just a claim.

"In the course of the last twelve years the House had lost some of the most considerable men that ever had enlightened and adorned it: there was this, however, peculiar in their present loss. When those great and eminent men to whom he alluded were taken from them, the House knew the whole extent of the loss it had sustained, for they had arrived at the full maturity of their great powers and endowments. But no person could recollect—how, in every year, since his lamented friend had first taken part in their debates, his talents had been improving, his faculties had been developed, and his

commanding eloquence had been rising with the important subjects on which it had been employed—how every session he had spoken with still increasing weight and authority and effect, and had called forth new resources of his enlightened and comprehensive mind—and not be led to conjecture, that, notwithstanding the great excellence which, in the last session, he had attained, yet if he had been longer spared, he would have discovered powers not yet discovered to the House, and of which perhaps he was unconscious himself. He should very ill express what he felt upon this occasion, if he were to consider the extraordinary qualities which Mr Horner possessed apart from the ends and objects to which they were directed. The greatest eloquence was in itself only an object of vain and transient admiration; it was only when ennobled by the uses to which it was applied, when directed to great and virtuous ends, to the protection of the oppressed, to the enfranchisement of the enslaved, to the extension of knowledge, to dispelling the clouds of ignorance and superstition, to the advancement of the best interests of the country, and to enlarging the sphere of human happiness, that it became a national benefit and a public blessing; that it was because the powerful talents, of which they were now deprived, had been uniformly exerted in the pursuit and promoting of such objects, that he considered the loss which they had to lament as one of the greatest which, in the present state of this country, it could possibly have sustained."

Mr W. ELLIOT.—"Amongst his other friends, sir, I cannot refuse to myself the melancholy consolation of paying my humble tribute of esteem and affection to the memory of a person, of whose rich, cultivated, and enlightened mind I have so often profited, and whose exquisite talents—whose ardent zeal for truth—whose just, acute, and discriminating judgment—whose forcible, but chastened eloquence—and, above all, whose inflexible virtue and integrity rendered him one of the most distinguished members of this House, one of the brightest ornaments of the profession to which he belonged, and held him forth as a finished model for the imitation of the rising generation.

“ The full amount of such a loss, at such a conjuncture, and under all the various circumstances and considerations of the case, I dare not attempt to estimate. My Learned Friend (Sir S. Romilly) has well observed, that, if the present loss be great, the future is greater: for, by dispensations far above the reach of human scrutiny, he has been taken from us at a period when he was only in his progress towards those high stations in the state, in which, so far as human foresight could discern, his merits must have placed him, and which would have given to his country the full and ripened benefits of his rare and admirable qualities.”

Mr C. GRANT “ had known his lamented friend before he had distinguished himself so much as he had subsequently done, and could not be silent when such an opportunity occurred of paying a tribute to his memory. Whatever difference of opinion they might have on public questions, he could suspend that difference to admire his talents, his worth, and his virtues. It was not his talents alone that were developed in his eloquence. His eloquence displayed his heart: through it were seen his high-minded probity, his philanthropy, his benevolence, and all those qualities which not only exacted applause, but excited love. It was the mind that appeared in speeches that gave them character. He would not enter into the account of his private life, although his private virtues were at least on a level with his public merits. Amid all the cares and interests of public life, he never lost his relish for domestic society, or his attachment to his family. The last time that he (Mr G) conversed with him, he was anticipating with pleasure the arrival of a season of leisure, when he could spend a short time in the bosom of his family, and amid the endearments of his friends. When he looked at his public or private conduct, his virtues, or his talents, he would be allowed to have earned applause to which few other men ever entitled themselves.”

Lord LASCELLES “ hoped to be excused for adding a few words to what had been said, though he had not the honour of a private acquaintance with Mr Horner, whom he knew only in this House, where they had almost uniformly voted on opposite sides on

every great question. Notwithstanding these differences, he had often said in private, that Mr Horner was one of the greatest ornaments of his country; and he would now say in public, that the country could not have suffered a greater loss. The forms of Parliament allowed no means of expressing the collective opinion of the House on the honour due to his memory; but it must be consolatory to his friends to see that if it had been possible to have come to such a vote, it would certainly have been unanimous.”

The subject of this well-merited praise, and of all these sincere but ineffectual regrets, was born at Edinburgh, on the 12th of August 1778. In the month of October 1786, he entered the high school of that city; and having remained at this seminary for six years, during the four first of which he was the pupil of Mr Nicol, and the two last of the celebrated Dr Adam, he passed on to the university in October 1792. In November 1793, he was placed under the care of the Rev. Mr Hewlett in London, with whom he lived, and who superintended his education for a period of two years. He then returned to Edinburgh, and applied himself to the study of the law, and passed advocate in the year 1800. Soon after, he took up his residence in London, with the view of preparing himself for the English bar. In 1806, he was appointed by the East India Company one of the commissioners for the liquidation of the debts of the Nabob of Arcot; but resigned this laborious situation in little more than two years, finding that the duties which it imposed on him, were incompatible with the application due to his professional pursuits. In October 1806, he was returned Member of Parliament for St Ives. The following year, he was elected Member for Wendover, and was called to the English bar. In 1813, he was chosen to represent the borough of St Mawes in the present parliament.

The disease which proved fatal to Mr Horner was an induration and contraction of the lungs; a malady, the existence of which is not marked by any decided symptom; and which is wholly beyond the reach of medical aid. He died at Pisa on the 8th of February 1817, aged thirty-eight years and six months, and was interred in the Protestant burying-ground at Leghorn.

ON THE SCULPTURE OF THE GREEKS.

— Γίνομαι

Ἰὸ δάμα ἰσως πονη

Προβλαψ' ἀλλολεγον, δαρας

Ἰσως πλάσας ἴσως

Τας ἴσως ἰσως πονη

σους' ἢν Ἄλκας.

Sophocles Ajax, v. 1217.

For the last two thousand years, a few blocks of marble, cut in resemblance of the human body, have formed the almost solitary subject of uniform opinion among all men, and excited, without qualification, the universal admiration of the world. The Romans took them from the Greeks, and were not ashamed to confess themselves overcome by the artists of a nation which they had subdued. In the midst of wars and of triumphs, the nations of Modern Europe treat these marbles as they do cities and provinces—gain possession of them by victories, and cede them by treaties. The ancients who have written concerning them, speak of them, like ourselves, in hyperbolic expressions of enthusiasm; and by the general consent of Greeks, Romans, and Barbarians, these master-pieces of art have been raised to the rank of so many unfailling standards, by a comparison with which alone the excellencies of the productions of nature herself can be duly appreciated and admired. It is yet more wonderful, that though these admirable figures have for some centuries been made the subject of unceasing imitation, they maintain to this hour an undisputed superiority over all the productions of the moderns. We are never weary of asking, by what art they have been produced?—and this problem has never yet been entirely solved. In order to answer it in a satisfactory manner, it is not enough to shew wherein consists the perfection of the ancient statues, and by what rules of execution they have been rendered so perfect as they are; it is necessary to go deeper into the subject, and to examine what may have been the *causes* of this perfection; that is to say, by what train of actions and opinions the Greeks arrived at the formation and realization of those principles by which it has been produced. To do this well, we must forget our own habits and manners; we must transport ourselves into Greece herself—into the country of a people

in every thing which respects the fine arts very different from ourselves; and we must endeavour to determine the nature and the causes of *their* taste, without allowing ourselves to be seduced by the depravity of our *own*.

The character of the individual was every thing among the Greeks. They cultivated his moral part, and they perfected his physical part, because his physical and his moral qualities were alike necessary for the purposes of the state. The case is very different among modern nations. What signifies the *beauty*, or even the *virtue* of an individual, to the overgrown empires of the west? Removed, as we are, to an inconceivable distance from the Greeks in our appreciation of the model, it is no great wonder that we should have little in common with them on the principles of the imitation. Much difficulty might have been spared us, had the numerous writings of the Greek artists descended to our hands; *these*, however, have all perished in the lapse of centuries; and a few scattered notices, gathered from the allusions of their poets and philosophers, are all that we have in their room. Among the moderns, on the other hand, systems concerning the theory, as well as the practice of the arts,—on the essence of the beautiful, on the ideal, and on the principles of imitation,—have been so multiplied, that which ever side we take in any of these very difficult questions, we are sure to meet with abundance of celebrated writers with whom we must contend, and jealous opinions which we must either confute or reconcile.

Those authors who, in treating of the history of the arts, have recognised the superiority of the Greeks over their modern imitators, have generally attributed this superiority to the influences of climate, of religion, of political liberty, of the facility with which the naked figure was studied, and the recompenses with which their artists were distinguished. They have thought that the genius, the physical beauty, and a certain charm of character, which they regard as having been peculiar to the Greeks, were the product of the temperature of their climate. They have said, that the veneration of the Greeks for the statues of their gods, and the majestic ideas of religion, had elevated the imagination of artists above the sphere of

sense; that the entire liberty which the Greeks enjoyed (that constant source of all their revolutions and all their jealousies,) had spread abroad among them the seeds of noble and sublime sentiments; that the habit of seeing the naked figure, a habit derived not only from the nature of their public games, but even from the character of their ordinary costume, was of itself sufficient to lead many to the imitation of the human body; and that, in fine, the honours with which the artists were signalised, and, above all the rest, the noble use which was made of their works, by consecrating them as the recompense of illustrious actions, must have furnished to the enthusiasm of their youth, at once opportunity and impatience for distinction.

It is impossible to doubt that all these different causes have contributed to the perfection of the artists. These theories are, in many respects, full of justice and truth, but they involve, at the same time, many errors, and it is no difficult matter to detect the insufficiency of the systems which they would propose.

The history of the arts, in truth, whether we compare Greeks with Greeks, or Greeks with other nations, presents many phenomena which can only be explained by a great multiplicity of researches. In this study, as in that of the natural sciences, we must be not unfrequently content to make almost as many definitions as there are individuals.

1. The Greeks had received from the hand of nature a climate full of contrasts—a sky sometimes of the purest azure, sometimes surcharged with the most dark and the most tempestuous clouds—destructive winds—the extremities of heat and cold—delightful vallies, full of fertility and cultivation—and naked mountains, trod only by a few wandering goat-herds—caverns full of deep mephitic vapours—freezing springs and boiling fountains, all peopled with supernatural inhabitants, by the superstitious fancy of the heroic times. The natural effects of these circumstances were an extremely delicate and irritable organization—a spirit active and curious, but capable of every excess—a character changeable, turbulent, and passionate, alike disposed to love, to vanity, and to superstition.

But, first of all, it must strike us as

an astonishing circumstance, that with- in a territory by no means extensive, and under the influence of a climate almost every where the same, the different states of Greece by no means cultivated the arts with the same zeal or the same success. Despised in Crete, and proscribed at Sparta, they were never thought of in Arcadia, Achaia, Ætolia, Phocis, or Thessaly. In Bœotia (in the native country of Hesiod, Pindar, and Corinna) they were proverbially disregarded and contemned. In Corinth, they remained stationary in the second rank;—but attained, alike, the full consummation of their glory in Sicily and in Athens. It must moreover be evident, that the brilliant qualities which the Greeks derived from the influence of their climate, might have been as likely to lead them astray as to conduct them aright. The poetical genius which was habitual to them, was very far from resembling in every thing that which is the inspiration of painting and of sculpture. These Athenians, in every thing else so light, so imprudent, so irascible, who alternately crowned and exiled their great men, who slumbered during peace, and formed vast projects of empire in the midst of irreparable defeats,—showed, in their taste relative to the fine arts, a wisdom and a coolness which may be said to form the exact reverse of their natural disposition. Faithfully attached to the same principles, they avoided, during a long course of ages, all error and all novelty. Somewhere else, then, than in the mere heat and effervescence of the Athenian blood, must we seek for the causes of this firmness, and of the perfection to which it conducted.

2. Although there may be some ground for believing that the form of the human body were in general more beautiful among the ancient Greeks than they were among the greater part of modern nations, the difference between them and us, in this respect, could never have been so considerable, as to have had any great influence on the arts. The countries in which these arts had made the greatest progress were by no means those which abounded in the most beautiful models. "Quotus enim quisque formosus est?" says Cicero: "Athenis cum casera, e grege epheborum vix singuli reperiebantur." Phryne was of Thebes, Glycera of Thespis, Aspasia of

Miletus; and as we, to praise our fine women, call them Grecian beauties, the European Greeks were accustomed to call their mistresses *Ionian beauties*, *αἰὼν ἐκ Ιωνίας*. Besides, the difficulty would be by no means resolved by this difference of form, even were it granted in its fullest extent; for I imagine there are few who will deny, that the difference between our most handsome men and the most handsome Athenian, is much less considerable than the difference between our most beautiful statues and the masterpieces of the Greeks. Moreover, the Greeks had no models in nature for their architectural monuments: nevertheless, the same character,—the evident product of the very same principles,—is displayed in their temples as in their statues; and, equally as in them, it is to be seen in their vases,—in their furniture,—and in the most common of their utensils.

3. The same remarks may, with a very little variation, be applied to their religion, and to the facility of seeing the naked figure. It was the virgins of Sparta who were so much celebrated for displaying their charms in the public festivals, and yet the Spartans were no lovers of the arts. Shut up within the impenetrable walls of their apartments, the women of the other Grecian States did not appear even at the Olympic games, and courtesans were the only models of the artists. Our artists, on the other hand, who see every day, without restraint, heads and hands of the most exquisite elegance, well worthy of the finest days of Miletus or of Sparta, produce neither heads nor hands which can bear the most remote comparison with the antique. As for the spirit of religion, I confess I am greatly inclined to banish it altogether from the number of those influences which were favourable to the arts of Greece. Easily excited, and disposed for unquestioning admiration, it is little fitted for the exercise of a severe judgment; it becomes every day more and more attached to its ancient idols, and adores in them less that which it sees in reality than what it believes is to be seen. The devout Greek who bowed himself at Olympus before the Jupiter of Phidias, revered at Argos, at Thebes, and even in the bosom of Athens, figures of Juno, of Venus, of the Graces, and of Love, which were no-

thing more than rude masses of stone, or ill-fashioned pieces of timber. He adored at Mount Elaius a horse-headed Ceres; at Phygalia, an Eury-nome, who was half woman and half fish, like the idol of the barbarians of Gath; and at the temple of Ephesus itself, which was one of the seven wonders of the world, a gigantic or hieroglyphical monster, with nine or ten tiers of breasts. Civil usages and manners, and the general taste, had happily more effect on the religion of Greece than that religion had upon them. But for the revolution, which national genius, taste, and the arts themselves, operated in the creed of the Greeks, that people so celebrated for the beauty of their gods would have remained prostrate before the monsters of the Nile, under the despotism of their priests. The religion of the Greeks, moreover, is far from being the only one which has attributed to deities the forms of men. If this religion, by the poetical mystery which it involved, favoured the perfection of the arts, and lifted the imagination of the artists *above the sphere of the senses*, why is it that the Christian religion produces no similar effects? Did the poetry or the religion of the Greeks contain any thing more lofty and more imposing than the imagery of the scriptures? The beauty of Angels is all that imagination can represent as most admirable and most divine. Martyrs, Prophets, and Apostles, are at least equal in dignity with Philosophers, Fauns, and Pentathletes. The dying resignation of the holy Stephen is surely as good a subject as the expiring shudder of a hireling gladiator. Moses found lying among the bulrushes by the daughter of Pharaoh, is as picturesque an incident as the discovery of Œdipus by the shepherds of Cithæron. Sampson was as strong as Milo; and many beauties are recorded in the bible, who were at least as worthy of the chissel of a Phidias, as the Laïses and the Elpinices of an Athenian brothel.

4. With regard to political liberty, we see in Greece, as every where else, free people, who have rejected the arts; and others, ruled by despots, who have cultivated them with the greatest success. Did the arts languish at Sicyon, under Aristatus and the Cypselides; at Athens, under Hippias; at Samos, under Polycrates; at Syra-

cause, under Dionysius or Gelon? or were the Spartans enslaved at the time when they banished Timotheus? and was it not from a free republic that Plato proposed to exclude both Homer and Phidias? But there are other causes, concerning the power of which there can be less matter of dispute. The abundance and the beauty of the fruits of the earth are the reward of the labours and the wisdom of the cultivator, and the very same rule holds concerning the productions of genius.

5. It is an ancient maxim, written in every page of the history of the world, that honours are the food of the arts. But honours, properly so called, that is, recompenses accorded to artists, are far from being of themselves sufficient to conduct the arts to perfection. The arts require subjects of exertion capable of inspiring noble ideas, and a sane inflexible theory, which the general taste has sanctioned and protects, and which is above being altered or impaired by the fluctuation of individual opinion. In order to appreciate the causes of their progress and of their decline, and most of all, those of their absence, in climates the most favourable—in the midst of riches, of intelligence, and even of liberty itself,—we must principally examine whether, in the countries under our present observation, they were so honoured and protected, or altogether abandoned to their own exertions; whether they were enslaved or left at liberty; whether they were reduced to flatter the tastes of private frivolity, or directed by the government itself to the public utility, and the glory of the state. These causes are more powerful than climate, or riches, or peace, or liberty; but these causes are dependent on the will of legislatures. It becomes then matter of the highest interest, to examine by what motives certain legislatures of Greece were induced to make the arts the subject of their most anxious solicitude, while among so many of their neighbours they were altogether neglected or proscribed.

In the first place, the Greeks are not more celebrated for the masterpieces of art, than for the unequalled series of their political dissensions. That spirit of rivalry, which had so long agitated their petty hordes in the first ages of their history, lost nothing of

its energy in the midst of those numerous states which had succeeded them. Their legislators had wished to make use of this dangerous principle of emulation—none of them seems even to have endeavoured to destroy it. The laws of the different states were different. Their characters, determined by those laws, were, in many instances, little similar, except in the jealousy and hatred with which they were mutually agitated against each other. But this very spirit of rivalry, which entailed upon them so many calamities, gave birth at the same time to those prodigies of genius and art with which the world has so long been astonished. Every thing had a definite character—every thing was great in a little space,—because every human faculty was developed by the contending passions of the Greeks. We see wars by land and wars by sea—armies and fleets rapidly destroyed and incessantly renewed—victories at which we cannot too much wonder—and historians still more wonderful. It seems to us, in reading the history of Attica, Bœotia, and the Peloponnesus, that we are occupied with that of some immense territory, or rather of the whole world!

One great line of distinction among the Greeks was that, never altogether forgotten, of their various origination. The Dorians and the Ionians never ceased to regard each other as different people. The one were proud of their ancient conquest—the other of their yet more ancient liberty and civilization. Sparta was the patroness of the Doric states, and of oligarchy; Athens of the Ionians, and democracy. These unhappy divisions, fomented by internal ambition and external violence,—by Persia in the first instance; next by Macedon, and last of all by the treacherous policy and the overwhelming force of Rome,—seemed to increase in strength as Greece advanced in her decline, and never terminated but in her ruin. It is evident, that in this constant opposition of spirits and of interests, the arts could by no means be every where appreciated in the same manner. Aristotle reckons up no less than one hundred and fifty-eight various forms of government, which had existed, or which still existed, in Greece in his own days. It is evident, that the arts, not being equally neces-

ary in all these governments, could not possibly receive in them all the same degree of favour.

Again—the difference of local position divided the Greeks into two classes; those who applied themselves to commerce, and those who did not. The one honoured it because it was necessary to their existence; the other despised it as useless to themselves, and exaggerated the inconveniences which sometimes attend its extension. Commerce would never have been adapted for the haughty Thessalians, Bœotians, and Spartans. It was not the detail of commerce alone which these men conderuned, but commerce in its most general and liberal form—as the parent of factitious and dangerous wealth. The states whose territory was poor, looked on commerce as a mean of increasing their power; those, again, which were favoured by nature, could see in it only a principle of danger and destruction.

It seems to be a very general opinion, that commerce and the fine arts are inseparably connected: nevertheless, in reviewing the history of the most celebrated commercial cities, it is impossible not to observe, that these two sources of wealth have by no means been in every instance united. Commerce, in fact, when left to follow its own proper inclinations, is little attentive to the fine arts,—or rather appears to be wholly ignorant of the important benefits which may be derived from their cultivation. The interests which occupy the mind of the trader, are too important to admit of any such participation. Surrounded by his merchandise and his ledgers, it is not always an easy matter for him to lift his view towards the higher regions of taste and intellect. Who, besides, would be willing to devote himself to long and painful studies,—to labours which are little lucrative, and are little esteemed, when he has so many means of fortune in his power, and sees every day the comparative promptitude and facility, with which commercial wealth is realized? If the arts then prosper in commercial cities, they are far from doing so by the mere effect of the refinement of commercial men. The particular vigilance, on the contrary, and unremitting care of the legislature, are necessary; and these, not unfrequently, in total opposition to, the

general spirit of the people. Commerce is the parent of many evils, to which antidotes must be discovered. It instigates to luxury; it polishes the manners, and it corrupts them. Rich in moveable property, its tendency is to make all men cosmopolites. Such, at least, was the opinion of the Greek philosophers, and the severity of their doctrines on this head is well known. The arts, said they, are necessary in commercial countries, not only in respect to their manufactures, for the enlightening and direction of the taste,—but, in a moral point of view, for the animation of virtue and of patriotism. To decorate our native country with superb monuments of art—to embellish the public festivals—to immortalize illustrious actions—and to place before the eyes of the people the true and undegraded images of purity and beauty,—is at once to ennoble the ideas of men,—to excite and nourish national pride and enthusiasm,—and to plant the most generous of passions in the rooms of meanness and cupidity.

Plato rejected from his republic both commerce and the arts; but it was with a very important restriction. “If commerce must be introduced into our republic,” says he, “it is necessary that the arts come with it; that so, by beholding every day the masterpieces of painting, sculpture, and architecture, full of grace and purity in all their proportions, dispositions least inclined for the perception of elegance may be, as it were, removed into a purer and more healthy atmosphere,—and learn, by degrees, a taste for the beautiful—the becoming—and the delicate. They will learn to observe, with accuracy, what is lovely or defective in the works of art and of nature; and this happy rectitude of judgment will become a second nature to their souls.”* But in what regards governments, the same favour will be granted to the fine arts—there only where the same benefits are expected to accrue from their cultivation. Their object is to make men love their country by the attraction of honourable recompenses; how then can they be useful in an oligarchy? If they are there employed, it is always with regret. Immense edifices are sometimes built; but there are

* De Rep. L. viii.

few statues or pictures. The patriotism of the nobles is excited by interests too powerful to require any subordinate assistance. If the government be founded on justice and virtue, the danger of luxury is apprehended;—if it be tyrannical, the still greater danger of intelligence and discontent. Honours, in which the artist is partaker with the hero, if they become necessary in such a government as this, announce the feebleness of its laws, and give preface of its ruin. Cato refused the honour of a statue—this might perhaps be pride in him, but it was also the effect of his system;—in the opinion of Cato, he did no more in rejecting the statue than fulfil a duty incumbent on every patrician.

On the other hand, all the fine arts harmonize well with the monarchical form of government. The throne cannot be too much adorned. The power of the prince is increased by the splendour of the arts with which he is surrounded. What have they not done for the majesty of Francis, Leo, and Lewis? If the influence of particular tastes does not always permit them to enjoy durable success, it is nevertheless true, that the well-directed favours of a few princes have, at some remarkable periods, ensured to them the admiration of every succeeding age.

With regard to democracy—I mean those governments in which the democratical principle is predominant—the political liberty enjoyed by the artists under such a form of polity, has been too often confounded with the importance it sometimes attaches to the fine arts, with the occasion and the means which it affords for deliberate improvement, and maturity of excellence. A state governed in this manner, may be rich or poor, commercial, or without commerce. If it be poor,—of small extent,—far from the sea,—and happy in its simplicity, the inhabitants of this fortunate land will have no need of adventitious and embarrassing aids. But if, on the other hand, it is desired to unite commerce with liberty, and riches with morality,—the attempt is assuredly a bold one,—its success the masterpiece of legislative genius. It is necessary to inspire with love to his country, not the rich man alone, the noble, or the merchant, but him who knows not riches, but to feel

that he is deprived of them—nor honours, but in those which he accords to other men; who, far from public offices, but too easily forgets the public interest, and almost always considers it as something separated from his own; whose carelessness, in fine, is yet more dangerous, than either his errors or his impetuosity. The true objects for which the arts are fostered by such a government as this, is to impose on his imagination by majestic and imperishable monuments—to feed his enthusiasm by statues and pictures—by the commemoration of the illustrious deeds and the national grandeur, with the glory and the antiquity of the common ancestors of the people;—to immortalise for him the history of his country—to create magnificent public possessions for those who are poor in personal goods—to inspire and to nourish that national pride, which is one of the most unfailing signs of good laws, and one of the best omens of political endurance. The importance of their destination under such a government as this, calls down on the arts the anxious benevolence of the legislature. They find, moreover, yet another cause of perfection in the necessity of placing works intended for such purposes under the eyes of the public; and consequently, in order to save the glory of the whole nation,—they are obliged to follow no guide but the general taste. The union of these two causes in Athens, gave rise to the most brilliant and durable successes; and the motto at the head of this paper is a fair transcript of those feelings of romantic admiration with which every Athenian regarded the beauties and the magnificence of his native land.

But is it really true, that liberty would not be sufficient of herself alone to ensure the prosperity of the arts? The best way to answer this question is, to review the facts by which I conceive the theory I have laid down is to be supported. We have seen that the Greek people were divided into two classes, those who cultivated commerce, and those who did not. The arts followed the same division; in general, the commercial states were more favourable to the arts, and the uncommercial less. Among those which had no sort of application to commerce, whatever the form of government might be, the arts were ne-

glected, or even prohibited and banished. Among those trading states which were oligarchical in their government, the arts took little root, and never reached above the secondary rank of excellence. Among those commercial states again, which were governed by kings, and yet more constantly among those which were governed by a democracy, they attained the summit of perfection. Among these last, the masterpieces which excite our wonder were for the greatest part produced. From these facts we may, I apprehend, extract a proportional scale, by which we may measure the progress, not of the Greeks alone, but of all ancient nations—and even of the moderns themselves. To enter minutely into this part of the subject would require a volume. The justice of my general positions will, I trust, be sufficiently manifest to any one, who throws even a hasty glance over the names and the history of the ancient states;—of Achaia, ever poor and ever virtuous, but ever destitute of the arts;—of rude and mountainous Phocis, where even the presence of all the treasures, and all the masterpieces of Delphos, could not work any change on the natural habits of the people;—of Macedon,—of Sparta,—of Crete,—of Thebes;—and above all, of Corinth and of Carthage—two states which, as they were the most favourably situated for commercial speculations, so they gave themselves up with the least restriction to the influence of the pure commercial spirit,—whose legislatures, in short, at no time sought to superadd to their solid prosperity the embellishment and refinement of the arts.

Rome, in fine, which, in spite of the turbulence of her tribunes, was ever governed by the senate, whose proud and haughty spirit loaded the banks of the Tiber with edifices the most extensive and imposing, received with difficulty the painting and the sculpture of the Greeks. Towards the fall indeed of the republic, and under the emperors, these became a subject of amusement and ostentation; but that legislation which had done every thing for their victories, had by no means disposed the spirit of the Romans for the appropriation of the arts, and accordingly the habit of seeing them cultivated by conquered nations, made them view them at all times as the

occupation of slaves. Cicero himself found it proper to affect in public a contempt for the arts, as well as for philosophy*, although we well know that both formed the chief ornament and delight of his retirement. Sallust—the attic Sallust, in describing the corruption of the army led by Sylla into Greece, places the taste which the soldiers there acquired for the fine arts, in the same rank with their drunkenness and their debauchery.† Virgil told the Romans, that to animate brass and marble was an object little worthy their ambition; and Seneca (even in the days of Nero, himself an artist), inspired with some remnant of the spirit of a *vir consularis*, asks contemptuously by what right the unmanly arts of painting, sculpture, and fiddling, are entitled to the appellation of liberal?‡

If, on the other hand, we recall to our remembrance those states in which the arts have been carried to the summit of excellence, we shall find every where the confirmation of the same theory. Argos, constantly governed by a democracy, and sharing in the advantages of commerce much less than those states which were her rivals, was as much celebrated as any of them for the excellence of her artists, although far from being distinguished by the number of her monuments. The same was the case at Samos, Sicyon, Rhodes, Agrigentum, and Syracuse, as well as in Athens herself, and her colonies.—Every where we find the arts flourishing most in those commercial states which were governed in the most democratical manner, or where the democracy was scarcely ever interrupted, except by the short-lived reigns of a few princes, who owed their elevation altogether to the favour of the people.

Nothing was the product of chance. Every where the state of the arts corresponded to the will of the legislature. It would be in vain to trust to commerce, or even to liberty herself, for carrying them to perfection; commerce and liberty are of use to them, only because they tend to procure for them the particular favour of the legislature,—and it is to that favour alone, however obtained, that they always owe any thing which de-

* Cic. iii. Verr. passim.

† De bello Cat. c. ii.

serves the name of more than a mere temporary triumph. Such, as we have seen, is the picture every where presented to us by the history of the arts among the ancients; at Sparta, at Rome, at Marseilles, the republican austerity rejected them; at Carthage commercial ignorance neglected them; at Athens they were encouraged from motives of policy; and they prospered at Sicyon and Syracuse, by the wisdom and magnificence of enlightened princes. In all climates nature fits men for the enjoyment of the arts; in every climate, and under every form of government, their success is the result of public munificence, and the favour of the laws. Q.

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PRESENT STATE OF THE CITY OF
VENICE.

FOR the following particulars respecting the present state of the city of Venice, and especially for the description of its great mole or pier, we are indebted chiefly to the communication of a gentleman of this city, who lately visited that celebrated spot.

Venice, it is well known, is built on a cluster of islets, situated among the shallows which occur near the head of the Adriatic Gulf. The houses and spires seem to spring from the water; canals are substituted for paved streets, and long narrow boats, or gondolas, for coaches. Some parts of the city are elegant, exhibiting fine specimens of the architecture of Palladio; but the splendid Place of St Mark is no longer thronged by Venetian nobles; the casinos are comparatively deserted; and the famed Rialto bridge has ceased to be distinguished for its rich shops and their matchless brocades. The ancient brazen horses have returned from their travels to Paris; but Venice has not been suffered to resume its consequence as the capital of an independent state; the bucentaur is rotten, and there is no longer any Doge to wed the Adriatic.

The great *mole* is situated about seventeen miles to the south of Venice. It was begun so long ago as the year 1751, and it was not completed when the French revolution broke out. On one part of the wall were inscribed these words: "*Ut sacra aestuaria, urbis et libertatis sedes, perpetuo conservetur, colossas moles ex solido marmore contra mare posuere cura-*

tores aquarum." This truly colossal rampart passes through a morass, from l'Isle di Chiusa on the west, along l'Isle di Murassi, to the Bocca del Porto on the east, being an extent nearly of three miles. Towards the land side, it is terminated by a wall about ten feet high and four feet broad. If one stands on the top of this wall, the whole is seen slanting on the other side till it majestically dips into the Adriatic; and the magnitude of the undertaking forcibly strikes the spectator's mind. The slanting part of the work commences about two feet and a half below the top of the wall, and descends towards the water by two shelves or terraces.

A great part of the embankment is of close stone-work: this vast piece of solid masonry is about fifty feet broad, measuring from the top of the wall to the water's edge. The stones are squared masses of primitive limestone, or "solid marble;" they are very large, and are connected by Pussalana earth, brought from Mount Vesuvius. Beyond this pile of masonry many loose blocks of marble are placed, and extend a considerable way into the Adriatic. When very high tides occur, accompanied with wind, the waves break over the whole pier; and sometimes, on these occasions, part of the loose blocks are thrown up and lodged upon the level part of the rampart: it may be questioned, therefore, if this exterior range of loose masses of stone be not likely to prove rather detrimental than useful. Near to this pier, on the side next the sea, there is water for vessels of considerable size. The great object of the work is to guard the Lagoon on its south and most assailable point, "*contra mare,*" as the inscription bears; and but for it, Venice, it is thought, would by this time have been in ruins, from the gradual encroachments of the sea. It is kept in good order, and seems lately, during the dominion of the French, to have received extensive repairs. This magnificent work is said to have excited even the admiration of Napoleon, which he has marked by this inscription: "*Ausu Romæ, ære Veneto.*"

It may be noticed, that the part of the rampart next to the entrance of the harbour, was the scene of many combats between the French troops and the English sailors, during the blockade of Venice by our navy. The

rigour of this blockade is not generally known; so effectual did it prove, that numbers of the native inhabitants, particularly of the lower orders, such as gondoliers, absolutely perished through famine.

On the Isle di Murassi, already mentioned, are a number of houses, of a pretty enough appearance at a distance, but miserable on a nearer view: they are inhabited by fishermen, who, with their wretched and squalid wives and children, flock around a stranger, begging with deplorable looks and tones of penury and want. The great Laguna, or shallow lake, also already mentioned, varies in depth from half a foot to three and four feet and more. From the eastern termination of the pier at the Bocca del Porto, the course of the deeper channel, accessible to very large vessels to the port of Venice, is marked out by wooden stakes, or beacons, placed at short distances.

The long continued blockade of the English annihilated the commerce of the port, and proved very disastrous to the Venetian vessels, many of which became ruinous, and have been found incapable of repair. For some days during September last (1816), only two vessels cleared out at the custom-house—one for Constantinople, and another for Corfu. About half a dozen of small craft, Swedish, Danish, Dutch, and Italian, were then lying at the birchs, waiting for cargoes, but with little expectation of obtaining them. During the war, capital was wasted, and mercantile spirit extinguished; it is not surprising, therefore, to find the commerce of Venice at the lowest ebb. The merchants are now endeavouring to obtain from the Austrian government some advantages, at the expense of the rival ports of Leghorn and Trieste, but with slender hopes of success; and it is not perhaps without reason, that the Venetians have begun to despair of any signal revival of the commerce of this ancient and once celebratedemporium,—to which Europe, it may be remarked, was indebted for the invention of public banks.

OF THE CONSTITUTION AND MORAL EFFECTS OF BANKS FOR THE SAVINGS OF INDUSTRY.

BY HENRY B. WILKINSON,

AMONG the numerous modern discoveries, by which the limits of hu-

VOL. I.

man power have been extended, and the condition of the lower orders of society ameliorated, a very conspicuous place ought to be assigned to the establishment of Saving Banks. They have originated in a spirit of pure benevolence,—placed within the reach of the lowest and most helpless portion of the community the means of a secure and profitable deposit, of which they are now eagerly availing themselves,—and in proportion as they are multiplied and extended, so must necessarily be the industry, the frugality, the foresight, and the comparative independence of the lower classes. What is no small recommendation—no complicated or expensive machinery is required for either their formation or their management; the time of the contributors needs not be wasted in discussions and arrangements to which their knowledge and habits are but ill adapted; and no opportunity is afforded for combination. Every one may lodge and withdraw his little hoard according to his convenience, instead of the time and amount being prescribed and enforced by penalties, by which the savings of many years may, without any delinquency which it was in the contributor's power to avoid, be suddenly transferred to his less needy or more fortunate associates. To give facility and encouragement to the labourer to save a little when it is in his power to save, with the most perfect liberty to draw it back, with interest, when his occasions require it, is the primary object, and ought to be the sole object, of this institution. Much of the distress of the lower orders may thus come to be relieved from their own funds, instead of their having recourse to poor rates or private charity.

It does not seem necessary to enter into the details of these establishments, which are now sufficiently numerous to furnish room for selection, whatever may be the local circumstances in which it may be proposed to introduce them. Nor is it consistent with my present purpose, and the limits to which this letter must be confined, to examine the rules by which their business is conducted. Little, that is of real utility on this head, can be added to what has been already laid before the public, in the numerous pamphlets and reports which this interesting

novelty has produced, and in the periodical works in which their merits have been discussed. What is wanted, is not the knowledge of minute particulars regarding the plan and conduct of the establishment, which ought to be varied, perhaps, with any considerable difference in the number and character of the contributors, and in the tract of country over which it is expected to extend. I shall therefore content myself at present with a few remarks on the nature and purpose of Saving Banks in general, which, after all that has been written on the subject, do not seem to be well understood even by some of those who have made the most meritorious exertions in promoting them.

It cannot be too frequently recommended to those who may take the lead in establishing banks for savings, to study to combine simplicity with security, and to give to them such a constitution as may not contain within itself the seeds of dissension and party spirit. While the security of the funds is not impaired, a preference should always be given to what is simple, and promises to be permanent, over what is artificial, of a remote or doubtful tendency, or merely calculated for producing a temporary effect. Upon this principle I would venture to suggest, that a Saving Bank should approach as nearly as possible in its character to a Mercantile Bank,—that no inquiry into the character or conduct of the depositors should be tolerated for a moment,—that the choice of managers should not in general be vested in the depositors, nor the managers themselves taken from that body,—and that it should be kept entirely distinct from Benefit Societies, Annuity Schemes, Loan Banks; and its provisions strictly confined to its own proper object of safe custody and prompt payment with interest.

In hazarding this opinion, it is not necessary to deny the influence of great names on the list of honorary and extraordinary members, in giving a momentary éclat to a new institution, and in inspiring the public with confidence in its respectability. But it may well be doubted, whether, after the advantages of a Saving Bank have been generally understood, a parade of inefficient officers will contribute much to its permanency, and to its utility among the lower classes. My own opinion cer-

tainly is, that to place the Lord Lieutenant, the Members of Parliament, and the Sheriff of the county, for the time being, among the honorary members of so humble an institution as a bank for the savings of the labourers of a small district, is calculated to call down ridicule on the whole undertaking. But should these gentlemen, constituted members of the bank merely in virtue of their official situations, choose to interfere with the details of its business, either directly or indirectly, without having first acquired by their personal character, or the interest they may have taken in the prosperity of the institution, the confidence of the great body of the depositors, there is every reason to believe that the consequences would be most pernicious. The lower classes would be ready to suspect, whether with or without reason is of little consequence, that the knowledge of their circumstances, and the control over their funds, possessed by these official characters, might be employed in enforcing obnoxious measures of public policy. And on every occasion, when the popular feeling is opposed to the enactments of the legislature, how soon soever it may subside, we might expect to see such a run made upon our Saving Banks, as happens on a larger scale of business, whenever the creditors of individuals, of societies, or of the public, begin to lose confidence in the prudence or ability with which the affairs of their debtors are conducted. Add to this, the habitual jealousy which the lower classes have been taught to entertain of their rulers, so frequently kindled into phrensy by the arts of the disaffected; and it may be laid down as a rule, that in these simple institutions, which ought to have no other object than the ostensible one, every ground for suspecting the influence of government should be carefully excluded, as not only unnecessary, but likely to be injurious.

With this impression, it is impossible not to feel some degree of alarm at the Bill introduced into Parliament last session by Mr Rose. As I do not know the provisions of this Bill in its amended form, I shall only venture to observe, that the clause which requires the funds of the Saving Banks to be invested in government securities, ought on no account to be extended to Scotland, where banks of the most

undoubted responsibility are always ready to receive, and to pay four per cent. interest for money deposited; and some of which have displayed so much liberality, as to allow even five per cent. on the deposits of Saving Banks. It may be doubted, whether such a clause would be advisable even for England. The first and immediate advantage of such a provision, it is said, is greater security; and the next and most remote one, that it will give the lower classes a greater interest in the stability of the government. But its disadvantages are not less obvious, and to many may appear to preponderate in the scale. From every just view of the nature and object of Saving Banks, every thing that has the appearance of compulsion must be excluded. This is one fundamental principle which should not be lost sight of in any of its operations. Against this greater security, too, must be placed the perpetual and often, even to well informed people, the unaccountable fluctuation of the public funds, produced, as is well known, by means not always the most creditable, and therefore more likely to irritate the minds of the depositors than to attach them to their rulers. Besides, it may be asked, what is the amount of this security, in so far as individual contributors are concerned? They cannot go to the stock exchange to make the purchases themselves, but their money must pass through the hands of two or more individuals before it can be invested in the public funds, and through as many again when they choose to withdraw it; so that the responsibility of their own directors must, at least in the first instance, be their principal dependence; to say nothing of the delay that must occur in the payments of the bank, unless a considerable proportion of the deposits be retained by the treasurer, and consequently be unproductive. The Quarterly Reviewers observe, (No 31) that "the investment of money belonging to friendly banks should be left to the direction of their members, or to that of the trustee whom they may appoint, and from whom they may require security for its proper application;" an observation which implies, indeed, that the different characters of a creditor and of a member of a Saving Bank, must necessarily be identified in the plan of its constitu-

tion, but which is not the less just when this obvious distinction of character is, as I am inclined to think it should be, preserved, both in its original constitution and in the conduct of its affairs.

I have already expressed my conviction, that a Saving Bank, in its character, ought as nearly as possible to approach to a common trading bank, or to that branch of its business which consists in receiving and returning money deposited; and, as in Scotland, with interest for the time it has been under its care. Whatever departure from this principle, therefore, may be desirable in the commencement of a very limited local establishment, such as the parish bank of Ruthwell, in Dumfriesshire, the inconvenience and danger that must be felt from the popular election of the officers of a numerous and extensive association, composed, with few exceptions, of the least informed portion of the community, seem to outweigh all the advantages which have been ascribed to it. While the institution is in its infancy, and the zeal for its success, which in some measure supplies the want of experience in the managers, may be paramount to every other feeling in the minds of the depositors, there may be no great inconvenience in general meetings and periodical elections, which, at this early period, it cannot be difficult for its philanthropic founders and patrons to direct or control. But it is by no means probable that men, whose education and property entitle them to influence the proceedings of such associations, will always be found ready to undertake so difficult a task, and always successful in the attempt. There is certainly more reason to fear, after the zeal of novelty has subsided, and the founders have been removed by death, or otherwise, that the management of the concern may become the object of caballing and intrigue among the members themselves, or among others in a station very little higher, and be seized by men whose knowledge of business, or whose integrity, is far from being their chief recommendation. It would display little knowledge of human nature, to predict different consequences from the popular election of the officers of Saving Banks in a great town, where the association must contain a large portion of heterogeneous and repulsive materials.

It may naturally be asked, who shall be the officers of these banks, if they are not to be chosen by the contributors themselves, either out of their own body, or from the higher classes? To this I might answer, by referring to the highly respectable self-constituted banking companies in every part of Britain; but I am aware, that the analogy between these and Saving Banks is by no means complete. The object of the one is the profit of the partners, whereas that of the other ought to be to promote the welfare of the labouring classes; and, on this account, the services of its managers should be either altogether gratuitous, or paid for at so low a rate, as to hold out no inducement, in the shape of emolument, to such men as it would be safe to intrust with its funds. But if there be a want of benevolent individuals among the higher classes, of their own accord to incur the responsibility, and assume the direction of those Saving Banks, which by their constitution exclude popular elections, it does not readily appear, that the circumstance of being elected by the members, perhaps in the face of much opposition, will inspire benevolence, or ensure efficiency. For, let it be observed, that whether the officers be or be not named by the depositors, it is indispensable to the success of the establishment, that they should be men of property and education, much above the level of the depositors themselves. Even Mr Duncan, the founder of the Ruthwell Bank, and the advocate of the popular system, has confined the choice of its office-bearers, in the first instance, to the donors and annual benefactors of the society. It cannot well be doubted, that there are in almost every country parish, and certainly in every town, a few respectable individuals, able and willing to undertake the management of a Saving Bank, who might not, however, choose to attempt the far more arduous task of preserving order in a large assembly, or of appearing in it as a candidate for nomination, and mixing in the discussions, which, on such an occasion, can hardly fail to be introduced.

It may be said, however, that there can be no need for going out of the society itself for the necessary office-bearers; and the organization of Benefit Societies may be adduced in proof of the competency of the depositors in

a Saving Bank to the management of all its details; and the success of these Societies as a further proof of the advantages to be expected from the choice of their own functionaries by the depositors. But a Saving Bank and a Benefit Society are usually as different in the information and circumstances of their members, as in their objects. The frequent meeting of benefit societies, or of their committees, is necessary for the admission of new members, and for carrying into effect, as occasions require, the very purpose of their establishment. The cases of applicants must be speedily examined, and such allowances made to them, out of the funds, as they are entitled to receive by the rules of the society. The responsibility of the managers is not confined to the security of the funds, but extends also to the mode in which they are employed, and the receipts and disbursements must therefore be investigated at short intervals. Every member has an equal and undivided interest in the welfare of the concern, from which he cannot withdraw himself at pleasure, like the depositor in a Saving Bank. The partners of a company in which the members reciprocally ensure one another, are held together by a bond of connexion, which can terminate only with their lives, or the dissolution of the partnership. Every member must therefore be known to the great body of his associates, all of whom are nearly on the same level. But it is of importance to observe, that this level is placed somewhat higher than that of the great body of depositors in Saving Banks. The most numerous members of benefit societies are not of the class of common labourers, but men bred to trades, who have had the advantage of being educated in their youth, or have since acquired that knowledge of business which is necessary to success in their professions, in which many of them arrive at independence. From the very different object and materials of a benefit society, therefore, it cannot be inferred, that the principle of their organization is either necessary or suitable to that of a Bank for Savings.

If we are to look forward to the general establishment, and to the permanence of Saving Banks, some fears may be entertained for the constant and effective operation of that part of the ma-

chinery which is composed of the benevolence of the higher orders. It is not altogether improbable, when these banks have become very numerous, and stood so long and so firm, as to seem to require only that protection which the law confers on all the honest pursuits of private interest, that the zeal of that class, from which it is proposed, the managers should be drawn, may not always be found sufficient for the conduct of their affairs. Should this apprehension be realized, much stronger reasons than at present will then be felt for having recourse to the alternative of the popular system; and with much less danger of inconvenience, after all the details of management have become familiar by long practice. But though I am not so well acquainted with the local arrangements of England, as to suggest the mode of eventually supplying this desideratum, by means of the resident magistracy or clergy; yet, if Saving Banks shall be found in any considerable degree to operate favourably upon the habits and condition of the lower classes, and particularly in diminishing poor-rates, there is every reason to hope, that the voluntary and gratuitous services of men of property and education will always be supplied in abundance. In Scotland, there is perhaps still less reason to fear the want of such talents and disinterestedness. In every parish there are at least two respectable individuals, the clergyman and schoolmaster, who may be confidently expected to undertake the executive department; and the landed proprietors of this country, justly alarmed at the progress of poor-rates in England, and anxious to ward off the evil from themselves, certainly would not hesitate to give the most ample security for the faithful administration of all the affairs of the institution.

From these remarks on the object of Saving Banks, and the principle on which they should be formed and conducted, it will be seen that I am decidedly averse to the measure that has been recommended, of combining with them a scheme for converting the deposits into annuities. Those who, from the best motives, would thus hasten to rear the superstructure before the stability of the foundation has been proved, ought to consider, that the more complicated and laborious the duties of the managers may become,

the less probability there is of their being faithfully discharged by men who give their services without a pecuniary reward. The benefit to which the depositors would be entitled, if their stock were converted into an annuity, must depend upon a variety of circumstances, in particular upon their age; and the errors in calculation, which may justly be expected to occur, if an annuity scheme were ingrafted upon a Saving Bank in country parishes, would, in all probability, soon bring ruin upon the whole establishment. It may be doubted, indeed, how far it may be advisable to urge it as a duty in the lower classes, to save a part of that income which barely suffices for their own maintenance, or to excite a blind zeal for accumulation, even though, as in the case of Saving Banks, they be allowed to withdraw their deposits at pleasure. In proportion as the zeal of all concerned may at first be somewhat immoderate, so is the danger that disappointment may be succeeded by indifference. All that is really necessary, or perhaps expedient, is to afford to the labouring classes the opportunity of depositing their earnings under safe custody, and of drawing them out again with interest, when they are too small in amount to be received by mercantile banks; and if the advantages of the measure do not form a sufficient inducement to them to avail themselves of it, it were idle to expect success to Saving Banks, as it is unjustifiable to seek it, by any other means of excitement.

To obviate the objections which I am aware may be made to this exclusion of popular interference, I must beg leave to conclude this part of the subject with observing, that hitherto I have chiefly had in view the Saving Banks of Scotland, in which the depositors are understood to be, at least the far greater number of them, of the very lowest description of accumulators. It is for such people, principally, that there is felt a want of Saving Banks in this country; for all our mercantile banks are in the practice of receiving so small a sum as £10 in one payment, and returning it on demand with interest; and their agents are spread throughout almost every part of the country. But I can easily suppose, that a higher class of depositors may avail themselves of this institution in

England, where it is not customary for the mercantile banks to allow interest even upon the largest deposits. If associations of this kind, in that country, should, therefore, comprise a large proportion of men of information, and the number of their members be consequently very limited, they may certainly find their account in managing their own affairs; but the character of such societies has but a very slight affinity with that of Saving Banks.

Having been led to notice the remarkable difference in the conduct of English and Scottish banks, in regard to the advantage they allow to depositors, I cannot avoid observing, that the practice of the latter, in paying interest on deposits of so small an amount as £10, has materially contributed to diffuse among the lower orders of this country, that abstinence and foresight by which they are so favourably distinguished from the same class in England. The desire of accumulating a little capital is never, except among the very worst paid labourers, or such as have large families, repressed in this country, by the difficulty of finding for it a secure and profitable depository. Partly to this circumstance, perhaps, though it has been generally overlooked, it may be owing that so many Scotsmen have been enabled to rise from the class of labourers; and, by habits of application and economy, which are very generally combined, establish themselves in a few years in the learned professions, or arrive at independence through the more lucrative pursuits of commerce. In England, on the contrary, there is no such facility to the secure and profitable investment of small savings: monied men,—at least bankers, the most convenient and accessible of this description,—pay no interest; and landed proprietors cannot always be safe depositories, while the laws of England protect their estates from the just demands of their creditors.

On a future occasion I may probably offer you some remarks on the moral effects to be looked for from the introduction and increase of Saving Banks, when I shall venture to examine what I think is a most injudicious, and by no means impartial, article on this subject, in the Part of the Supplement to the Encyclopædia Britannica

recently published. It is written with so much ability, and with such an appearance of precision and of close reasoning, that those who take a deep interest in so promising an institution, cannot fail to be astonished, as well as somewhat alarmed, at the extraordinary opinion of its author, when, after a very imperfect, though an imposing view of their probable utility, he comes to this conclusion,—that, “taken by themselves, it is at least a doubt whether Saving Banks* may not produce as great a quantity of evil as good.” Hi.

20th February 1817.

TALES AND ANECDOTES OF THE
PASTORAL LIFE.

No I.

MR EDITOR,

LAST autumn, while I was staying a few weeks, with my friend Mr Grumple, minister of the extensive and celebrated parish of *Woolenhorn*, an incident occurred which hath afforded me a great deal of amusement; and as I think it may divert some of your readers, I shall, without further preface, begin the relation.

We had just finished a wearisome debate on the rights of teind, and the claims which every clergyman of the established church of Scotland has for

* It is a curious circumstance, that an appropriate term for those banks should still be wanting. “Savings Banks,” though the most common appellation by which they are known, seems to please nobody. The Edinburgh reviewers long since found fault with it as it was then printed. The writer of the article referred to in the text tells us, that some adjuncts is wanted to distinguish this from other species of banks, and no good one has yet been found. He rejects “Provident Institution,” and “Frugality Bank,” equally with “Saving Bank;” and thinks that “Poor’s Bank” would be the best, if it were not humiliating. Mr Duncan gave the Ruthwell Institution the ample title of “the Parish Bank Friendly Society of Ruthwell.” The Quarterly reviewers will not consent to this, and propose the term “Friendly Bank,” with the name of the place prefixed. But the Edinburgh and other banks, in which the depositors are strangers to each other, and do not interfere in the management, are not very aptly designated by this latest invention, unless it be understood to apply to the managers exclusively.—Be so good as insert this note for the purpose of exercising the ingenuity of your readers. Google Hi.

a grass glebe; the china cups were already arranged, and the savoury teapot stood basking on the ledge of the grate, when the servant maid entered, and told Mr Grumple that there was one at the door who wanted him.

We immediately heard a debate in the passage,—the parson pressing his guest to *come ben*, which the other stoutly resisted, declaring aloud that “it was a’ nonsense thegither, for he was eneuch to fley a’ the grand folk out o’ the room, an’ set the kivering o’ the floor a-swoomin.” The parlour door was however thrown open, and, to my astonishment, the first guests who presented themselves were two strong honest-looking colleys, or shepherd’s dogs, that came bouncing and capering into the room, with a great deal of seeming satisfaction. Their master was shortly after ushered in. He was a tall athletic figure, with a black beard, and dark raven hair hanging over his brow; wore clouted shoes, shod with iron, and faced up with copper; and there was altogether something in his appearance the most homely and uncouth of any exterior I had ever seen.

“This,” said the minister, “is Peter Plash, a parishioner of mine, who has brought me in an excellent salmon, and wants a good office at my hand, he says, in return.”—“The bit fish is naething, man,” said Peter, sleeking down the hair on his brow; “I wish he had been better for your sake—but gin ye had seen the sport that we had wi’ him at Pool-Midnight, ye wad hae leughen till ye had burstit.” Here the shepherd, observing his two dogs seated comfortably on the hearth-rug, and deeming it an instance of high presumption and very bad manners, broke out with—“Ay, White-foot, lad! an’ ye’re for being a gentleman too? My certy, man, but ye’re no blate!—I’m ill eneuch, to be sure, to come into a grand room this way, but yet I wadna set up my impudent nose an’ my muckle rough brisket afore the lowe, an’ tak a’ the fire to mysel—Get aff wi’ ye, sir! An’ you too, Trimmy, ye limmer! what’s your business here?”—So saying, he attempted with the fringe of his plaid to drive them out; but they only ran about the room, eyeing their master with astonishment and concern. They had never, it seemed, been wont to be separated from him either by night or

by day, and they could not understand why they should be driven from the parlour, or how they had not as good a right to be there as he. Of course, neither threats nor blows could make them leave him; and it being a scene of life quite new to me, and of which I was resolved to profit as much as possible, at my intercession matters were made up, and the two canine associates were suffered to remain where they were. They were soon seated, one on each side of their master, clinging fondly to his feet, and licking the wet from his dripping trowsers.

Having observed, that when the shepherd entered he had begun to speak with great zest about the sport they had in killing the salmon, I again brought on the subject, and made him describe the diversion to me.—“O man!” said he, and then indulged in a hearty laugh—(man was always the term he used in addressing either of us—*sir* seemed to be no word in his vocabulary)—“O man, I wish ye had been there! I’ll lay a plack ye wad hae said ye never saw sic sport sin’ ever ye war born. We gat twall fish a’ thegither the-day, an’ sair broostles we had wi’ some o’ them; but a’ was naething to the killin o’ that ane at Pool-Midnight. Geordie Otterson, Mathew Ford, an’ me, war a’ ovr the lugs after him. But ye’s hear:—When I cam on to the craigs at the weil o’ Pool-Midnight, the sun was shinin bright, the wind was lowne, an’ wi’ the pirl* being away, the pool was as clear as crystal. I soon saw by the bells coming up, that there was a fish in the auld hauld; an’ I keeks an’ I glimes about, till, faith! I sees his blue murt fin. My teeth war a’ waterin to be in him, but I kend the shank o’ my waster † wasna half length. Sae I cries to Geordie, “Geordie,” says I, “aigh man! here’s a great chap just lyin steeping like a aik clog.” Off comes Geordie, shaughle shaughlin a’ his pith; for the creature’s that greedy o’ fish, he wad venture his very saul for them. I kend brawly what wad be the upshot. “Now,” says I, “Geordie, man yoursel for this ae time. Aigh, man! he is a terrible ane for size—See, yonder he’s lying.” The sun was

* Ripple.

† Fish-speer.

shining see clear that the deepness o' the pool was a great cheat. Geordie bait his lip for perfect eagerness, an' his een war stelled in his head—he thought he had him safe i' the pat; but whenever he put the grains o' the leister into the water, I could speak nae mair, I kend see weel what was comin, for I kend the depth to an inch.—Weel, he aitches an' he vizes for a good while, an' at length made a push down at him wi' his whole might. Tut!—the leister didna gang to the grund by an ell—an' Geordie gaed into the deepest part o' Pool-Midnight wi' his head foremost! My sennins turned as supple as a dockan, an' I fell just down i' the bit wi' lauchin—ye might hae bund me wi' a strae. He wad hae drowned for aught that I could do; for when I saw his heels flingin up aboon the water as he had been dancin a hornpipe, I lost a' power thegither; but Mathew Ford harled him into the shallow wi' his leister.

“Weel, after that we cloddit the pool wi' great stanes, an' aff went the fish down the gullots, shinin like a rainbow. Then he ran, an' he ran! an' it was wha to be first in him. Geordie gat the first chance, an' I thought it was a' owr; but just when he thought he was sure o' him, down cam Mathew full drive, smashed his grains out through Geordie's, and gart him miss. It was my chance next; an' I took him neatly through the gills, though he gaed as fast as a skell-drake.

“But the sport grew aye better.—Geordie was see mad at Mathew for taigting him, an' garring him tine the fish (for he's a greedy dirt), that they had gane to grips in a moment; an' when I lookit back, they war just fightin like twae tarrriers in the mids o' the water. The witters o' the twa leisters were fankit in ane anither, an' they couldna get them sindry, else there had been a vast o' bludshed; but they were kneewillin, an' tryin to drown ane anither a' that they could; an' if they hadna been clean fore-foughten they wad hae don't; for they were aye gaun out o' sight an' comin howdin up again. Yet after a', when I gaed back to redd them, they were see inveterate that they wadna part till I was forced to haul them down through the water an' drown them baith.

“But I hope you have not indeed

drowned the men,” said I. “On na, only keepit them down till I took the power fairly frae them—till the bullers gae owr coming up; then I carried them to different sides o' the water, an' laid them down agroof wi' their heads at the inwith; an' after gluthering an' spurring a wee while, they came to again. We dinna count muckle o' a bit drowning match, us fishers. I wish I could get Geordie as weel doukit ilka day; it wad tak the smeddum frae him—for O, he is a greedy thing! But I fear it will be a while or I see sic glorious sport again.”

Mr Grumple remarked, that he thought, by his account, it could not be very good sport to all parties; and that, though he always encouraged these vigorous and healthful exercises among his parishioners, yet he regretted that they could so seldom be concluded in perfect good humour.

“They're nae the waur o' a wee bit splore,” said Peter; “they wad turn unco milk-an'-water things, an' doe away a' thegither wantin a broolsie. Ye might as weel think to keep a alevat workin wantin harm.”

“But, Peter, I hope you have not been breaking the laws of the country by your sport to-day?”

“Na, troth hae we no, man—close-time disna come in till the day after the-morn; but asteen you an' me, close-time's nae ill time for us. It merely ties up the grit folk's hands, an' throws a' the sport into our's thegither. Na, na, we's never complain o' close-time; if it warn for it there wad few fish fa' to poor folk's share.”

This was a light in which I had never viewed the laws of the fishing association before; but as this honest hind spoke from experience, I have no doubt that the statement is founded in truth, and that the sole effect of close-time, in all the branches of the principal river, is merely to tie up the hands of every respectable man, and throw the fishing into the hands of poachers. He told me, that in all the rivers of the extensive parish of *Woolenhorn*, the fish generally run up during one flood and went away the next; and as the gentlemen and farmers of those parts had no interest in the preservation of the breeding salmon themselves, nor cared a farthing about the fishing associations in the great river, whom they viewed as monopolizers of that to which they had no

right, the fish were wholly abandoned to the poachers, who generally contrived, by burning lights at the shallows, and spearing the fish by night, and netting the pools, to annihilate every shoal that came up. This is, however, a subject that would require an essay by itself.

Our conversation turned on various matters connected with the country; and I soon found, that though this hind had said something in his manner and address the most uncultivated I had ever seen, yet his conceptions of such matters as came within the sphere of his knowledge were pertinent and just. He sung old songs, told us strange stories of witches and apparitions, and related many anecdotes of the pastoral life, which I think extremely curious, and wholly unknown to the literary part of the community. But at every observation that he made, he took care to sleek down his black hair over his brow; as if it were of the utmost consequence to his making a respectable appearance, that it should be equally spread, and as close pressed down as possible. When desired to join us in drinking tea, he said "it was a nonsense together, for he hadna the least occasion;" and when pressed to take bread, he persisted in the declaration that "it was great nonsense." He loved to talk of sheep, of dogs, and of the *lasses*, as he called them; and conversed with his dogs in the same manner as he did with any of the other guests; nor did the former ever seem to misunderstand him, unless in his unprecedented and liberal attempt to expel them from the company.—"Whitefoot! haul off the woman's coat-tails, ye blockhead! Deil hae me gin ye hae the mense of a miller's horse, man." Whitefoot instantly obeyed.—"Trimmy! come back aff the fire, dame! Ye're see wat, ye raise a reek like a cottar wife's lum—come back, ye hinner!" Trimmy went behind his chair.

It came out at last that his business with Mr Grumble that day was to request of him to go over to *Strid-ki-toe* on the Friday following, and unite him, Peter Plash, in holy wedlock with his sweetheart and only Joe, Jim Windhistræ; and he said, if I "would accompany the minister, and take share of a haggis wi' them, I wad see some good lasses, and some good sport too, which was far better." You

may be sure I accepted of the invitation with great cordiality, nor had I any cause to repent it. I have, since that time, had many conversations with Peter, of which I have taken notes; but the description of a country wedding, together with the natural history of the Scottish sheep, the shepherd's dog, and some account of the country lasses, I must reserve for future communications. H.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE CULTURE OF THE SUGAR CANE IN THE UNITED STATES, AND ON OUR SYSTEM OF COLONIAL POLICY.

MR EDITOR,

WHILE the example of the successful efforts made by the negroes in Hispaniola for the recovery of their freedom and independence, and the recent commotions in our own West India colonies, have powerfully attracted the public attention, it seems to have entirely overlooked the rising competition which must, at no distant period, materially affect the demand for the staple commodity of these distant settlements. From a short statement given in Mr Pitkin's Statistical View of the Commerce, &c. of the United States, published last year, it appears, that in 1810 above TEN MILLIONS of pounds weight of sugar had been manufactured from the cane in the state of Louisiana;* and so rapidly has its cultivation extended, that in 1814, only four years afterwards, not less than FIFTEEN MILLIONS of pounds, or above 8,300 hogheads, were made in the same district. The culture of the cane has also been introduced into Georgia, and there seems little reason to doubt of its succeeding equally well as in Louisiana. "In 1808," says Mr Pitkin, "Thomas Spalding, Esq., a gentleman of wealth and enterprise, procured one hundred cane plants from the West Indies, for the purpose of trying them on his plantation, on an island near the sea coast of Georgia. After repeated trials, in which he was guided principally by his own judgment and experience, he completely succeeded. About three years since, he made a

* Hespéris, quoted by Labat, asserts, that the sugar cane is indigenous in Louisiana, and was found growing spontaneously near the mouth of the Mississippi on its first discovery.—Edwards' Hist. West India. Vol. ii. 308, 4to ed.

small quantity of sugar of a good quality; and in 1814, he had one hundred acres in cane, which produced *seventy-five thousand weight* of prime sugar, and four thousand gallons of molasses; and but for the want of boilers, which on account of the war could not be brought to his plantations, he would have produced one hundred thousand weight. The culture of the cane is found not to be more laborious than that of cotton, and is not liable to so many accidents. One thousand pounds per acre is not considered a great crop. This, at ten cents, (54d.) would be one hundred dollars. Almost every planter along the sea coast of Georgia is now turning his attention, more or less, to the culture of the sugar cane; and from experiments already made, the cane is found to grow luxuriantly as far north as the city of Charleston in South Carolina."

These facts render it nearly certain, that America will soon be in a situation to export sugar; and I confess that I contemplate the probability of that event without any feeling of regret, and am even convinced it will be much to the advantage of this country.—If the Americans cannot undersell our planters, the latter have nothing to fear from their competition; but if they can afford us a valuable necessary at a cheaper rate, very cogent reasons indeed would be required to shew, why we should not become their customers.—There is surely nothing so very attractive, or advantageous, in the possession of the West India islands, as to induce us to tax ourselves for their support,—for such, to the consumers, is the real effect of every monopoly. Sufficient employment for capital can still be found in this country, and it is not necessary to force it into the colony trade, by giving an undue preference to its products over those of other countries; and even if such employment could not be found, it would be impolitic in government to give any factitious encouragement to one department of industry, inasmuch as it is certain some other branch must be thereby proportionally depressed. No bad consequences have resulted to us from purchasing the cotton of the United States; on the contrary, it has been attended with the happiest effects.—The Americans have taken an equivalent in our manufactured goods, and it is always reckoned

good policy to import raw materials with a view to export them when wrought up. If we shall hereafter purchase sugar from America, it will enable her merchants to order still larger quantities of our manufactures. They will not, we may rest assured, send us their produce gratis, and they cannot take money in payment, the real value of gold and silver being greater here than on the opposite side of the Atlantic. But supposing them to receive payment in gold and silver, it would only shew, that we found it more advantageous to export manufactures to countries abounding in those metals, and then to pay them over to the Americans, rather than export directly to the latter.

The remarks I have just made, apply equally to the case of any other power who might come into competition with our own sugar colonies: and now that peace has been restored to the country, and the attention of the legislature is no longer attracted by the momentous discussions to which an arduous and long protracted contest gave rise, I do hope that our system of colonial policy will be thoroughly investigated.—I am not aware that it has been materially changed, since Dr Smith exposed its mischievous tendency; and I confess, I cannot see the utility of employing our soldiers and sailors at an infinite expense, to preserve a precarious authority over isles situated in an unhealthy and pestiferous climate, if we can purchase their products cheaper elsewhere.

No colonies were ever reckoned so important to this country, as those which now form the powerful republic of the United States. But has their independence had any bad effects on the wealth, commerce, or industry, of Great Britain? The reverse is decidedly the fact.—Without the expense of maintaining armaments to defend these distant and extensive territories, we have continued to enjoy every previous advantage resulting from their commercial intercourse.—As long as we can afford to sell manufactured goods to the Americans, cheaper than they can prepare them at home, and cheaper than they can purchase from any other power, we shall continue to supply their market to precisely the same extent we should have done had they still remained our colonies.—Surely no person ima-

gines, that had America been dependent on this country, we could have compelled her to purchase our merchandise, though really higher than that of other states.—Our colonial system was always more liberal than that of Spain; but did all the restrictions, regulations, and guarda-costas, of that power, prevent her colonies from being deluged with the commodities of England, France, and Germany? No custom-house regulations, however rigorously enforced, can ever command or preserve any market; it is solely by the comparative cheapness and quality of the goods offered for sale, that the demand is regulated.

The dread of being deprived of colonial produce, if we had no colonies, appears equally futile and unfounded.—What country can be mentioned, which, though it had no share in the colony trade, ever wanted its products, if disposed to pay for them? Countries possessing extensive colonies are frequently reduced to great difficulties by foreigners refusing to buy their commodities, but when did we hear of any people refusing to sell? This is altogether a visionary danger:—the

desire to sell has always been, and must always be, as strong as the inclination to purchase.

With the present colonial system the slave trade can only be considered as nominally abolished.—I do not imagine any such keen and determined opposition would have been made to the slave registration bill, if vast numbers of those wretched beings had not still found their way to our islands. But when the cultivation of the sugar cane shall become general in America, it is to be presumed that this infamous traffic will be really put an end to. A government residing on the spot, can see that the laws preventing fresh importations are rigorously executed; but the same thing cannot possibly be effected by a far distant government, whose agents must often be interested in a continuance of the traffic, which they are *officially* engaged to suppress.

The following table shews the quantity of sugar imported into the United States, and again exported, and, consequently; the quantity of *foreign* growth consumed in that republic from 1801 to 1812 both inclusive. It is extracted from Mr Pitkins' work, page 255.

Years.	Imported.	Exported.	Consumed.
1801,.....	143,611,596 lbs.	97,734,209 lbs.	45,877,387 lbs.
1802,.....	78,476,166	61,180,208	17,295,957
1803,.....	85,740,537	23,323,482	62,417,055
1804,.....	129,969,997	75,096,401	54,873,596
1805,.....	205,792,755	122,808,993	82,983,762
1806,.....	200,737,940	145,630,841	55,107,099
1807,.....	215,836,202	143,119,605	72,716,597
1808,.....	86,694,329	28,962,627	57,731,702
1809,.....	64,081,840	45,297,338	18,784,502
1810,.....	68,368,792	47,024,002	21,344,790
1811,.....	73,976,609	18,268,347	55,708,262
1812,.....	72,437,561	13,927,277	58,510,284

Average consumption of foreign sugar in the United States, during the twelve years ending with 1812, } 60,279,249 lbs.

M.

MEMORANDUMS OF A VIEW-HUNTER.

London, 5th Mar. 1817.

MR EDITOR,

If you can find room for some brief sketches of a view-hunter, who has a little enthusiasm in his line, and who; like not a few of his countrymen, has been a view-hunting lately in France, his memorandum book is very much at your service. The sketches have at least one merit—they are warm from the life.

No I.

To Dover.

—Preparing the race-ground for the races. This raised a train of ideas about the D—, S—, the fair M—, and all that, varied but pleasing.—Pretty clean-looking village of Bridge in the bottom. The country rich with gentlemen's houses and garden-like enclosures. The track was now new to me. This had been the boundary of my former trips on the

Dover road. The dale to the right, with hamlets, villages, churches, gentlemen's seats, appears peculiarly elegant, contrasted with the plainness on the left. The road is carried along the east side of a valley. This valley is narrow and rich—of the glen sort—and, as we approach Dover, it has several pleasing vista-openings in the Scottish stile.

We got a small peep of the channel, two or three miles from Dover. The town itself is scarcely seen till we enter. On descending to the bottom, in which it stands, we took up a little man about twenty, one of the most free and easy persons I have ever met with. He introduced himself to us in a moment, and gave us all the information we wanted; indeed, much more than my companion S—— seemed to want. But I was pleased with the rattle for the moment. He, however, did not lack either sense or discrimination. He pointed out the stream that creeps in the bottom, as being reckoned the richest in England of its size, for manufacturing returns. So he said. Saw several paper-manufactories and flour mills. One of the former, he said, was famous for fine paper; the scenery of its banks pleasing, and, from this account, it became more interesting. It seems to descend from a vista on the right, and to run only four or five miles.

Our attention was attracted by a group of young women promenading in a green field on its banks, near a very small rustic chapel and church-yard; the latter only about fifty feet square. The whole formed a fine rural picture. On descending to the level of the stream, we found both the footway and the road covered with walkers; for this was Sunday afternoon, and the weather was uncommonly fine. When we entered the town, we still found the footway—for it has a footway on each side, and this was one of the few we were to see for many a hundred mile—still crowded with promenaders. The people well dressed, particularly the women. The girls very pretty. Seldom have seen so many fine faces in a town of the same size; but it was Kent. A smile on every countenance. I like to see the evening of the Sabbath-day kept in this cheerful but decorous manner.

I shall compare this with what I see at Calais, said I to my companions of the top.

Dover.

At the Paris hotel. Very good house. Civil and attentive. Full of passengers to and from the Continent. Walked out with my companions, Dr B. and Mr S. to view-hunt a little on the heights on so fine an afternoon. The town built on a narrow slip of land at the bottom of steep chalky cliffs. Ascended a circular excavation in the chalk. Three winding stairs up it, of about 300 steps. Made some years ago. Sentinels both at the entry below and above. Part of the works of defence, on the top of the hill, a little to the right of this. Ascend it by ladder stairs on the outside. These have a fine effect, combined with the fortifications. The castle, also, has a venerable and picturesque appearance from this station.

I inquired about Shakespeare's cliff of the soldiers. A decent-looking militiaman, who was carrying a pretty child, while two more were playing round him, pointed it out to me—a mile or so off. A few halfpence made the little folks very happy, and the parent's fond eye gladden with delight. I cast a wishful look to this favourite cliff:—The declining day was so fine. But Dr B. said, he was so fatigued he could not think of it; and as I could not leave him so abruptly, I was obliged to give up the project, but not without regret that was constantly recurring. This is the inconvenience of a view-hunter entangling himself with any non-view-hunter as a travelling companion. He is prevented from seeing half of what he may see.—A word to view-hunters. I determined to give my companions the slip for the future, except at meals.

I then proposed ascending to the citadel. The way at first steep, and nearly on the edge of the precipice. Dr B. said to some of the soldiers who pointed out our way, as they were reclining on the declivity, that it looked like ascending to the skies. Nothing of that sort, said a drummer. I have climbed it often, and I never found I was a bit nearer heaven than before. The pert drummer might not be very far wrong with respect to himself.

The view of the harbour, which is a tide one, and very extensive, having gates between the outer and inner station, with the ships so far below us, formed an interesting picture. The sea was delightfully calm. The white

chiffs of France, whither we were going, had their effect. The sight set us a talking of the probability of the junction of Great Britain formerly with the continent. The sameness of the soil, and other geological phenomena, and the proximity, seemed to make a junction likely; the vast length of the British channel, and the wide German Ocean approaching so near, under a separation from the first as natural. In short, whether this part of the channel was once an isthmus, and Albion a peninsula, or not, will ever be a doubtful speculation. We have nothing but conjectural reasons, and these appear to be as strong on the one side as the other.

Two very bonny lasses, with a fine child, ascended at the same time with us, but still nearer the precipice. I begged them, for Heaven's sake, not to go so near. They laughed, and went still nearer; and sat down almost on the very edge of the tremendous precipice, which, even at the distance we were standing, made us shudder. Goodbye, my poor dears, said I to them; I shall see you no more. They gave me some jocular reply. Such is the effect of custom.

Went up to the citadel. Not allowed to enter. A nice-looking woman and her husband on the draw-bridge. She seemed quite frightened. On raising my eyes, I soon found the cause of her terror. They were going to fire the evening gun from the rampart. The picture was truly fine. The poor female was crouching down on the bridge, though the gun was full twelve feet above her, and stopping her ears; and the artillery men were standing in order by it, waiting till the gun, who was now going down, should sink under the hill. We were at unequal distances, watching the hand that held the lighted match. This was applied. The height seemed to shake under us. The thunder ran round the hills for some time and returned again. The varied and pleasing forms of these winding heights, with their picturesque ornaments,—the glens between them, which put me in mind of some of the glens of the Grampians, though in miniature,—and the brilliant tints which the sun had left behind him, received such an addition from this simple and familiar incident, that Dr B., who seemed to possess a very moderate share of view-hunting enthusiasm, exclaimed, 'Tis

truly grand and beautiful. I felt the justness of the observation home, and I echoed it with the most cordial assent.

As we marched off, highly delighted with this short evening view-hunt, we were assailed by a host of native enemies. These were hornets. I did not mind them, and they soon left me. But Dr B. was quite alarmed. In vain I advised him to let them alone. The more he laboured to chase these buzzers away, the more furious and numerous did they return to the attack. I have frequently found these insects near cannon and ordnance depts. I do not know why.

While we sat at tea, a little valetudinarian Jew, whom they called Moses, offered his services in the money-changing line. He said he followed this business merely for the sake of a little amusing employment. He charged a penny more for his Louises (of twenty francs) than I had paid in London, or 16s. 4d. He wanted very much to tempt me to part with some of the slips of paper I had received from Hammersley, for French gold,—no doubt by way of amusement also. But in vain he offered me a douceur, as I meant to keep my paper till I got to Paris. He loitered in the coffee-room, and again he attempted to bribe me to part with it. Pho! thought I, as I sipped my tea; and is the theory of our bullion committee come to this in practice. The notes of the Bank of England, alone, are now from eight to ten millions more than when this learned body, far above the prejudices of metal-money times no doubt, were theorizing; and yet here is a Jew (for the sake of mere amusement, it is granted) offers me more gold for my paper money, than even its mint price warrants. His urgency, also, certainly looks very much like his considering paper really more valuable than gold. 'Tis a pity, that facts will still be giving the negation flat to certain favourite theories. We shall, however, reach something like good sense on money at length, perhaps. I say good, and not common sense; for the common sense on the subject of money, as on many others, has a good deal of that negative kind of sense in it, which is styled nonsense.

All this, it is to be noticed, I thought, and not said. From some remark that had fallen from Dr B. I perceived he was an adherent of the metal money

party, and I was a decided partisan of paper. Now it is well known, that a regular argumentation on paper and metal money, unless abruptly terminated by a quarrel or a duel,—to say nothing of disturbing all around us with our noise,—seldom, on a moderate calculation, abates in its violence in less than two hours and a half. But I wished to retire to bed early, and therefore I did not offer battle.

My bed-room was just under a perpendicular cliff of chalk, say, from 160 to 200 feet high. Suppose now, thought I to myself, this cliff should tumble down in the night. However, thought I to myself again, this perpendicular cliff has stood during the nights of several thousand years, and why should it, of all nights, fall down on the very night that I sleep at Dover?—And sleep there I did, and very soundly too. In three minutes I was unconscious of existence, and dreamt neither of Jews changing money for mere amusement, metal nor paper, bullion committees, nor yet perpendicular cliffs of chalk.

And now, sir, with your permission, I shall postpone my invasion of France till next month.

ACCOUNT OF THE AMERICAN STEAM FRIGATE.

MR EDITOR,

As the following account of the steam frigate lately built in America, has, so far as I know, not yet been published in this country, I have taken the liberty of transmitting it for your Magazine. It was communicated to me some time ago by Samuel L. Mitchill, M. D. F. R. S. E. of New York, one of the commissioners who superintended its construction.—I am, Sir, yours, &c.

D. BREWSTER.

Edinburgh, March 4th, 1817.

Report of Henry Rutgers, Samuel L. Mitchill, and Thomas Morris, the commissioners superintending the construction of a Steam Vessel of War, to the secretary of the navy.

New York, December 28, 1815.

SIR,—The war which was terminated by the treaty of Ghent, afforded, during its short continuance, a glorious display of the valour of the United States by land and by sea—it made them better known to foreign nations, and, what is of much greater importance, it con-

tributed to make them better acquainted with themselves—it excited new enterprises—it educated latent talents—it stimulated to exertions unknown to our people before.

A long extent of coast was exposed to an enemy; powerful above every other on the ocean. His commanders threatened to lay waste our country with fire and sword, and, actually, in various instances, carried their menaces into execution. It became necessary, for our defence, to resist, by every practicable method, such a formidable foe.

It was conceived, by a most ingenious and enterprising citizen, that the power of steam could be employed to propel a floating battery, carrying heavy guns, to the destruction of any hostile force that should hover on the shores, or enter the ports of our Atlantic frontier. The perfect and admirable success of his project, for moving boats containing travellers and baggage by the same elastic agent, opened the way to its employment for carrying warriors and the apparatus for fighting.

The plan was submitted to the consideration of the executive of an enlightened government. Congress, influenced by the most liberal and patriotic spirit, appropriated money for the experiment; and the navy department, then conducted by the Honourable William Jones, appointed commissioners to superintend the construction of a convenient vessel under the direction of Robert Fulton, Esq. the inventor, as engineer, and of Messrs Adam and Noah Brown, as naval constructors. The enterprise, from its commencement, and during a considerable part of its preparatory operations, was aided by the zealous co-operation of major-general Dearborn, then holding his head-quarters at the city of New York, as the officer commanding the third military district. The loss of his valuable counsel, in conducting a work which he had maturely considered, and which he strongly recommended, was the consequence of his removal to another section of the union, where his professional talents were specially required.

The keels of this steam frigate were laid on the 20th day of June, 1814. The strictest blockade the enemy could enforce, interrupted the coasting trade,

and greatly enhanced the price of timber. The vigilance with which he guarded our coast against intercourse with foreign nations, rendered difficult the importation of copper and iron. The same impediment attended the supplies of coal, heretofore brought to New York from Richmond and Liverpool. Lead, in like manner, was procured under additional disadvantages. These attempts of the enemy to frustrate the design were vain and impotent. All the obstacles were surmounted. Scarcity of the necessary woods and metals was overcome by strenuous exertions; and all the blockading squadron could achieve, was not a disappointment in the undertaking, but merely an increase of the expense.

So, in respect to tradesmen and labourers, there was an extraordinary difficulty. Ship-wrights had repaired to the lakes for repelling the enemy, in such numbers, that comparatively speaking, few were left on the seaboard. A large portion of the men who had been engaged in daily work, had enlisted as soldiers, and had marched under the banners of the nation to the defence of its rights—yet, amidst the scarcity of hands, a sufficient number was procured for the purpose which the commissioners had in charge. An increase of wages was the chief impediment, and this they were enabled practically to overcome.

By the exemplary combination of diligence and skill, on the part of the engineer and the constructors, the business was so accelerated, that the vessel was launched on the 29th day of October, amidst the plaudits of an unusual number of citizens.

Measures were immediately taken to complete her equipment; the boiler, the engine, and the machinery, were put on board with all possible expedition. Their weight and size far surpassed any thing that had been witnessed before among us.

The stores of artillery in New York not furnishing the number and kind of cannon which she was destined to carry, it became necessary to transport guns from Philadelphia. A prize taken from the enemy, put some fit and excellent pieces at the disposition of the navy department. To avoid the danger of capture by the enemy's cruisers, these were carried over the miry roads of New Jersey. Twenty heavy cannon were thus conveyed by

the strength of horses. Carriages of the most approved model were constructed, and every thing done to bring her into prompt action, as an efficient instrument of war.

About this time, an officer, pre-eminent for bravery and discipline, was commissioned by the government to her command. Prior to this event, it had been intended by the commissioners to finish her conformably to the plan originally submitted to the executive. She was a structure resting upon two boats, and keels separated from end to end by a canal 15 feet wide, and 156 long. One boat contained the cauldrons of copper to prepare her steam. The vast cylinder of iron, with its piston, lever, and wheels, occupied a part of its fellow; the great water-wheel revolved in the space between them; the main or gun deck supported her armament, and was protected by a bulwark 4 feet 10 inches thick, of solid timber. This was pierced by 30 port holes, to enable as many 32 pounders to fire red hot balls; her upper or spar deck was plain, and she was to be propelled by her enginery alone.

It was the opinion of Captain Porter and Mr Fulton, that the upper deck ought to be surrounded with a bulwark and stanchions—that two stout masts should be erected to support sixteen sails—that there should be bowsprits for jibs, and that she should be rigged in a corresponding style. Under authorities so great, and with the expectation of being able to raise the blockade of New London, by destroying, taking, or routing the enemy's ships, all these additions were adopted, and incorporated with the vessel.

It must here be observed, that during the exhaustion of the treasury, and the temporary depression of public credit, the commissioners were exceedingly embarrassed;—their payments were made in treasury notes, which they were positively instructed to negotiate at par. On several occasions even these were so long withheld, that the persons who had advanced materials and labour were importunate for payment, or silently discontented. To a certain extent, the commissioners pledged their private credit. Notwithstanding all this, the men, at one time, actually broke off. The work was retarded, and her completion was unavoidably deferred, to

the great disappointment of the commissioners, until winter rendered it impossible for her to act.

Under all this pressure, they nevertheless persevered in the important object confided to them. But their exertions were further retarded, by the premature and unexpected death of the engineer. The world was deprived of his invaluable labours, before he had completed this favourite undertaking. We will not inquire, wherefore, in the dispensations of Divine Providence, he was not permitted to realize his grand conception. *His discoveries, however, survive for the benefit of mankind, and will extend to unborn generations.*

At length all matters were ready for a trial of the machinery to urge such a bulky vessel through the water. This essay was made on the first day of June, 1815. She proved herself capable of opposing the wind, and of stemming the tide, of crossing currents, and of being steered among vessels riding at anchor, though the weather was boisterous and the water rough. Her performance demonstrated, that the project was successful—no doubt remained that a floating battery, composed of heavy artillery, could be moved by steam. The commissioners returned from the exercise of the day, satisfied that the vessel would answer the intended purpose, and consoled themselves that their care had been bestowed upon a worthy object.

But it was discovered that various alterations were necessary. Guided by the light of experience, they caused some errors to be corrected, and some defects to be supplied. She was prepared for a second voyage with all practicable speed.

On the 4th day of July she was again put in action. She performed a trip to the ocean, eastward of Sandy-Hook, and back again, a distance of fifty-three miles, in eight hours and twenty minutes. A part of this time she had the tide against her, and had no assistance whatever from sails. Of the gentlemen who formed the company invited to witness the experiment, not one entertained a doubt of her fitness for the intended purpose.

Additional experiments were, notwithstanding, necessary to be sought, for quickening and directing her mo-

tion. These were devised and executed with all possible care.

Suitable arrangements having been made, a third trial of her powers was attempted on the 11th day of September, with the weight of twenty-six of her long and ponderous guns, and a considerable quantity of ammunition and stores on board; her draft of water was short of eleven feet. She changed her course, by inverting the motion of the wheels, without the necessity of putting about. She fired salutes as she passed the forts, and she overcame the resistance of wind and tide in her progress down the bay. She performed beautiful manœuvres around the United States frigate, *Java*, then at anchor near the light-house. She moved with remarkable celerity, and she was perfectly obedient to her double helm. It was observed, that the explosions of powder produced very little concussion.

The machinery was not affected by it in the smallest degree. Her progress, during the firing, was steady and uninterrupted. On the most accurate calculations, derived from heaving the log, her average velocity was five and one-half miles per hour. Notwithstanding the resistance of currents, she was found to make head way at the rate of two miles an hour against the ebb of the East River, running three and one-half knots. The day's exercise was satisfactory to the respectable company who attended, beyond their utmost expectations. It was universally agreed, that we now possessed a new auxiliary against every maritime invader. The city of New York, exposed as it is, was considered as having the means of rendering itself invulnerable. The Delaware, the Chesapeake, Long Island Sound, and every other bay and harbour in the nation, may be protected by the same tremendous power.

Among the inconveniencies observable during the experiment, was the heat endured by the men who attended the fires. To enable a correct judgment to be formed on this point, one of the commissioners (Dr Mitchell,) descended, and examined by a thermometer the temperature of the hold between the two boilers. The quicksilver, exposed to the radiant heat of the burning fuel, rose to one hundred and sixteen degrees of Fahrenheit's

scale. Though exposed thus to its intensity, he experienced no indisposition afterwards. The analogy of potteries, forges, glass-houses, kitchens, and other places where labourers are habitually exposed to high heats, is familiar to persons of business and of reflection. In all such occupations, the men, by proper relays, perform their services perfectly well.

The government, however, well understand, that the hold of the present vessel could be rendered cooler by other apertures for the admission of air, and that on building another steam frigate, the comfort of the firemen might be provided for, as in the ordinary steam-boats.

The commissioners congratulate the government and the nation on the event of this noble project. Honourable alike to its author and its patrons; it constitutes an era in warfare and the arts. The arrival of peace, indeed, has disappointed the expectations of conducting her to battle. That last and conclusive act, of showing her superiority in combat, it has not been in the power of the commissioners to make.

If a continuance of tranquillity should be our lot, and this steam vessel of war be not required for the public defence, the nation may rejoice that the fact we have ascertained is of incalculably greater value than the expenditure,—and that if the present structure should perish, we have the information never to perish, how, on a future emergency, another may be built. The requisite variations will be dictated by circumstances.

Owing to the cessation of hostilities, it has been deemed inexpedient to finish and equip her as for immediate and active employ. In a few weeks every thing that is incomplete could receive the proper adjustment.

After so much has been done, and with such encouraging results, it becomes the commissioners to recommend that the steam frigate be officered and manned for discipline and practice. A discreet commander, with a selected crew, could acquire experience in the mode of navigating this peculiar vessel. The supplies of fuel, the tending of the fire, the replenishing of the expended water, the management of the mechanism, the heating of shot, the exercise of the guns, and various other matters, can only become fa-

miliar by use. It is highly important that a portion of seamen and marines should be versed in the order and economy of the steam frigate. They will augment, diffuse, perpetuate knowledge. When, in process of time, another war shall call for more structures of this kind, men, regularly trained to her tactics, may be dispatched to the several stations where they may be wanted. If, on any such disposition, the government should desire a good and faithful agent, the commissioners recommend Captain Obed Smith to notice, as a person who has ably performed the duties of inspector from the beginning to the end of the concern.

Annexed to the report, you will find, sir, several statements explanatory of the subject. A separate report of our colleague, the Honourable Oliver Wolcott, whose removal from New York precluded him from attending to the latter part of the business with his accustomed zeal and fidelity, is herewith presented. A drawing of her form and appearance, by Mr Morgan, as being likely to give satisfaction to the department, is also subjoined, as are likewise an inventory of her furniture and effects, and an account of the timber and metals consolidated in her fabric.

It is hoped these communications will evince the pains taken by the commissioners to execute the honourable and responsible trust reposed in them by the government.

SAML. L. MITCHILL,
THOMAS MORRIS,
HENRY RUTGERS.

ON SITTING BELOW THE SALT. *

MR EDITOR,

It is very pleasing to observe with what care the most popular writers of this age are obliged to guard against introducing any circumstances, even in their works, of a nature entirely fictitious, which do not harmonise with the manners of the period wherein the scene of their story is hid. The example of such authors as Scott, Southey, and Byron, who display so much erudition even in the most trifling matters of costume, must soon put an end to the rage for historical poems and romances from the pens of such half-informed writers as Miss Porter, Miss Holford, and the like. The novels

'founded on fact,' as they are called, with which some of these female connoisseurs have thought fit to present the world, abound every where in violations of historical truth as gross, and in sins against costume as glaring, as ever astounded the reader of a romance of the thirteenth century. As in these productions of that dark age, Achilles and Hector are always painted like true knights of Languedoc or Armorica, with saltires and fesses on their shields, with mottos, merry-men, pennons, gonfalons, caps of maintenance, close visiers, tabarts, trumpeters, and all the trappings of Gothic chivalry,—so in the "Scottish chiefs," we find Sir William Wallace, "that stalwart knyght of Elderslee," metamorphosed into an interesting young colonel, making love to a delicate lady, with one arm in a sling, and a cambric handkerchief in his hand—quoting Ossian, warbling ballads, and recovered from a sentimental swoon by the application of a crystal smelling-bottle. It would have been cruel indeed to have brought so fine a gentleman to the block on Tower-hill; so Miss Porter contrives to smuggle Sir William out of the way on the fatal morning, and introduces a dead porter to have his head chopped off in his stead.

These observations were suggested to me, by hearing some persons, in a company where I was the other day, call in question the accuracy of the author of the 'Tales of my Landlord,' in respect to an antiquarian remark which he has introduced in two different parts of his work. The first occurs in the description of the feast, in page 251 of the 'Black Dwarf.'—"Beneath the salt-cellar," says he, "a massive piece of plate which occupied the middle of the table,) sate the *sine nomine turba*, men whose vanity was gratified by occupying even the subordinate space at the social board, while the distinction observed in ranking them, was a salvo to the pride of their superiors." In the same manner, in the tale of 'Old Mortality,' in the admirable picture of the Laird of Milnwood's dinner, the old butler, Cuddie, &c. sat "at a considerable distance from the Laird, and, of course, *below the salt*." The critics, whose remarks it was my fortune to hear, were of opinion, that this usage of placing guests above or below the salt, according to the degree of nobility in

their blood, was a mere invention of the facetious author, and entirely without any foundation in history,—or, as one of them expressed it, *totum merum sal*. It struck me at the time, that the usage was not so new to my ears as it seemed to be to theirs, and, on coming home, I looked into a volume of old English ballads, where I found the following verse:

"Thou art a carle mean of degre,
Ye salte yf doth stande twain me and thee;
But an thou hadst been of ane gentyl strayne,
I wold have bitten my gante^s againe."

An instance of the importance attached to the circumstance of being seated above the salt, occurs in a much later work—"The Memorie of the Somervilles," a curious book, edited last year by Mr Walter Scott.—"It was," says Lord Somerville, (who wrote about the year 1680) "as much out of peike as to give obedience to this act of the assemblies, that Walter Stewart of Allontoune, and Sir James his brother, both heretors in the parish of Cambusnethen, the first, from some antiquity, a few of the Earle of Tweddill's in Auchtermuire, whose predecessors, until this man, never came to sit above the salt-foot, when at the Laird of Cambusnethen's (Somerville's) table; which for ordinary every Sabbath they dyed at, as did most of the honest men of the parish of any account." Vol. II. p. 394.

The same author is indeed so familiar with this usage as one of every day observance, that he takes notice of it again in speaking of a provost of Edinburgh:—"He was a gentleman of very mean family upon Clyde, being brother german to the Goodman of Allentone, whose predecessors never came to sit above the salt-foot." P. 380, *ibid*.

I have observed, in several houses of distinction, certain very large and massy pieces of plate—of a globular form, and commonly with two handles, which, although they go by a different name, I have at times suspected to be no other than "salt-foots," or, as it should be written, *salt-vats*. To whatever uses these may be applied, I have always been inclined to say with Plautus;

"Nunquam ego te tum esse *Mutulam* credidi."

I shall endeavour to procure a draw-

ing of a very beautiful one, in the possession of an honourable person in this neighbourhood, and send it you, along with a few further remarks, if possible, before the publication of your second number. Yours respectfully,

J. M.

Stockbridge, March 17, 1817.

THE CRANIOLOGICAL CONTROVERSY.

Some Observations on the late Pamphlets of Dr Gordon and Dr Spurzheim.

MR EDITOR,

No speculations have engaged more attention, or have more frequently afforded a topic for conversation, since the time of Joanna Southcote, than those of Drs Gall and Spurzheim. Your readers, I presume, have heard of these gentlemen and their doctrines, and perhaps may be amused by a few remarks on the craniological controversy. One of these learned persons, who lately lectured in this city, has been remarkably active in the promulgation of his new system, and has devoted many years to its explanation, in all the principal cities and towns of Europe. Of this system it is unnecessary here to give any detailed account. Its outlines have been made so generally known by the unwearied eloquence of Dr Spurzheim, in his writings, and by his lectures, that I beg to refer *the very few persons* who have not heard the latter to the perusal of the former. I shall here offer only some general observations on a treatise lately published on the subject by Dr Gordon, and on a pamphlet by Dr Spurzheim, intended as a reply.

The craniological system of Drs Gall and Spurzheim has been very fully detailed and discussed in all the literary journals of this country, and they have been very unanimous in deciding on its merits. The Edinburgh Review stood foremost in opposition to this new system, and pointed out more fully and clearly than the rest, the anatomical errors on which it was founded. Dr Spurzheim, encouraged by his success in England,—relying, it may be also, on his personal address, and on the plausible sophistry with which he explained his system,—for its ready reception with the multitude of readers, who were of course incapable of detecting its errors,—resolved to visit Edinburgh;

and there to repress the voice of opposition by the influence that might accompany his immediate presence.

On concluding his lectures at Bath and Clifton, he there announced his intention of visiting this northern capital; at the same time exciting the sympathy of his audience, by declaring, “that he was going amongst his enemies.” At Clifton, particularly, he had gained many proselytes; and so occupied were the ladies there in settling the manifestations of mind from the bumps on each other’s skulls, that carefully to braid the hair in order to conceal wrong propensities, became a matter of very serious attention. The following fact, which actually occurred at a party in Clifton, will shew with what a nice accuracy Dr Spurzheim had taught his fair disciples to discover in their neighbours particular manifestations of mind;—and I give it as a short lesson of caution to their sister cranilogists in Edinburgh, of which there are not a few. A lady in a large party remarked pretty audibly, that on a certain head very near her, she perceived a suspicious bump. The lady to whom the head belonged, hearing this observation, turned to the informant, and, declaring that she would instantly remove this organ which had excited a suspicion of a wrong propensity, immediately took from her hair a small comb, which, lying concealed, had caused the manifestation.

Dr Spurzheim arrived in Edinburgh soon after the commencement of the last summer session at this university. He gave several demonstrations of a calf’s and sheep’s brain in Dr Barclay’s lecture-room; and as soon as he could procure a human brain, he began his demonstrations on that organ in the class-room of Professor Thomson and Dr Gordon. Here was a fair opportunity to put to shame the critics of Edinburgh, who had so severely ridiculed his system. This was the time to support his written discoveries by actual demonstration. His new and superior mode of dissecting the human brain, could now readily be made manifest by a public exhibition of his skill, before some of the most eminent professors and practitioners in the kingdom. A human brain was placed before him;—that organ on which his system was founded, and his alleged discoveries respect-

ing which had already gained him such celebrity. The interpreter of mind took up his scalpel, and the learned men of the city sat around in silent expectation. In such a situation, there was one course which, it might be imagined, Dr Spurzheim would certainly have pursued. As the colleague of Dr Gall, he had been accused, in no very ambiguous terms, by the *Edinburgh Review*, of wilful misrepresentation, and of gross ignorance in a science which he pretended to have enriched by new discoveries. These accusations, being anonymous, he certainly was not bound to notice. Convinced, however, as he must have been, that such heavy charges against him were well known to his audience, he surely must have felt peculiarly anxious to do away any bad impression they might have made, by a minute and clear exposition of his leading doctrines, and a decisive demonstration of the correctness of his anatomical views. Strong in his own integrity, and in the soundness of his system, we can conceive him gladly preparing to confound his enemies, by appealing to the testimony of their own senses, and claiming, for an actual exhibition of new anatomical facts, a belief in the theories which he had deduced from their existence. How Dr Spurzheim availed himself of such an opportunity is well known to all who witnessed his dissection. Far from establishing his claims to pretended discoveries by actual demonstration, it appears that he involved himself and his system in further discredit, by his visible inability to display the new structure he had so confidently described. He left very little doubt, I believe, on the minds of his audience, as to the merits of craniology. In order, however, still further to obviate misrepresentation, and to place the claims of Gall and Spurzheim in a proper light, Dr Gordon drew up a treatise, entitled, "Observations on the Structure of the Brain, comprising an estimate of the claims of Drs Gall and Spurzheim to discovery in the anatomy of that organ." On the title-page of this treatise he placed his name. This, let it be observed, was no anonymous attack which an individual could pass over without notice. It is a treatise in which the author personally brings forward accusations most direct and

pointed, and which, if well founded, go very far to affect the credit and character of Dr Spurzheim.

This gentleman and his colleague have asserted, that no anatomist before themselves believed that the brain was, throughout, of a fibrous structure. This, therefore, they claim as a discovery peculiarly their own, and considering it one of high importance they style it, "La premiere et la plus importante des decouvertes, celle sans la quelle toutes les autres seroient imparfaites." Dr Gordon proves very satisfactorily, that from the time of Malpighi in 1664, downwards, such a fibrous structure was believed to exist every where throughout the cerebral mass. To such proofs Dr Spurzheim, in his pamphlet, returns no answer. This first and most important of their discoveries turns out, therefore, to be no discovery at all,—and it will be seen that all the others are indeed "imparfaites."

Drs Gall and Spurzheim wished to appropriate to themselves the method of scraping the brain, as a mode of dissection peculiar to themselves, and best calculated to display its structure. Dr Gordon asserts that this method was not invented by them. To this assertion Dr Spurzheim assents by his silence.

One of the most important points in his and Dr Gall's anatomical discoveries, concerns, as we are told by Dr Spurzheim, the two orders of fibres, viz. diverging, and converging or uniting. It is in fact upon the existence of these peculiarly arranged fibres, and upon the proof of a statement which has been positively advanced, that the brown matter secretes the white, that the whole system of Drs Gall and Spurzheim depends. I beg your readers particularly to notice, that it is upon the communication between the brown matter and the white medullary substance, to which it serves as a covering, that the doctrines of craniology depend for their chief support. Imagine no such communication to exist, and the brown capsule of the brain, and cerebellum, is nothing more than an unconnected covering to the white substance beneath. Now, in this case, if mind can be manifested by external signs on the head, these signs being caused by swellings, or a peculiar conformation of some substance within the cranium,—that substance must

be the brown matter, and the brown matter alone. The white medullary substance, with all its curious cavities and arrangements, has nothing to do in such mental manifestations, and the whole nervous system is alike excluded. Dr Spurzheim, however, maintains, that the whole medullary substance is secreted by the brown, and that a communication *can be shewn* to exist between them by a system of diverging and converging fibres. Surely he must have discovered these fibres by an actual dissection—his writings assert this;—their existence is a *sine-qua-non* to his whole system. Now Dr Gordon distinctly states that Spurzheim never did demonstrate such communication between the brown and nervous matter—he did not demonstrate these diverging and converging fibres when called upon to do so; and moreover, Dr Gordon positively denies that any such arrangement can be shewn to exist in the cerebral mass. How does Dr Spurzheim attempt to parry this home thrust, which goes to terminate his craniological existence? very simply, by an exclamation of "Hey ho! is it so?"

In another part of his pamphlet, indeed, p. 27, he offers to shew converging fibres to any one who shall procure "a fresh brain;" and at p. 38, mentioning the "reinforcing fibres," which Dr Gordon denies are susceptible of demonstration, he offers "to demonstrate all these statements to any one who shall procure a fresh brain." Every one who knows the very great difficulty there is in procuring a recent brain, will easily perceive that Dr Spurzheim is making merry with his readers. He was provided at his demonstration with a brain in the most recent state,—why did he not *then* "demonstrate all these facts?"—he did not do so—he was unable to do so,—and his whole system falls to the ground.

"Upon every occasion," says Dr Gordon, "where he was called upon to make good those affirmations which constitute the leading features of his system, he endeavoured to excuse himself from the task, by denying that he had ever maintained any such structure to be demonstrable."—P. 114.

As a reply to such serious accusations, Dr Spurzheim produced a pamphlet, professing to be "An Ex-

amination of the Objections made in Britain against the Doctrines of himself and Colleague." We sat down to a perusal of it with a considerable degree of curiosity, and we closed it, quite satisfied as to the merits of these far-famed cranilogists.

Never was there a more evident attempt to evade the overwhelming force of unwelcome facts, than has been made by Dr Spurzheim on this "examination." Instead of meeting fairly and decisively the objections so strongly urged against him;—instead of a clear refutation, or a manly confession of mistake and error,—there is little else in this pamphlet but a most general and unconnected repetition of his former theories and assertions.—We see in it only the signs of an imbecile irritability,—evidently sensible to reproach;—conscious that it is but too well founded,—but unwilling to confess its justice, and unable to avoid its sting.

At p. 37, Dr Spurzheim wishes to "amuse" his readers by an anecdote, which we must not forget to notice. It is an account of a dissection which took place in the royal infirmary last December, and it will be seen how slyly a very formidable accusation is brought forward against Dr Gordon. We know that this gentleman was present at this dissection; but, it happened not to be the week in which his official duty as one of the surgeons to the infirmary would have given him the superintendence. This duty belonged to one of his colleagues, the next in seniority. Dr Gordon had therefore no necessary concern with this dissection,—it was a point of etiquette not to interfere with it. We can assert, that the presence of Dr Spurzheim in the theatre was known neither to Dr Gordon nor to the surgeon who presided: no intentional obstruction could therefore be offered to his views by either of these gentlemen. We regret with Dr Spurzheim, that a dissection so interesting as this really was, afforded, as we are compelled to acknowledge, so little gratification or improvement to the students who crowded the anatomical theatre. Why were the whole posse-comitatus of the hospital,—clinical and surgical clerks,—assistant-surgeons, apothecaries, and dressers,—permitted to stand round the dissecting-table, and totally to prevent the students from seeing the body?

The lower seat which surrounds the area is particularly for the accommodation of this medical suite, but on this occasion it was unoccupied; and with heads and bodies, forming a pretty opaque circle over and around the table, the view of several hundred students was completely intercepted.

Since the brain has had its day as the basis of a system, we see no reason why that organ in the human body, which is popularly supposed to be the seat of passion, shall not in its turn serve to amuse the credulity of mankind. Why may not the human heart be registered in a good sized quarto volume, with plates and references, and be made the basis to a system of CORDIOLOGY? Some enquirer may arise, who is fond enough of travelling, and sufficiently anxious for a transient reputation to run over Europe, and give lectures on its fibres and emotions. He may surely discover such a difference in the twisting of these fibres;—in the curvature of its valves;—the sweeping of its arteries;—or the arrangement of its nerves; as may afford a very amusing explanation of human passion. The heart, indeed, is not just as open to examination in the living subject as the skull; and we doubt whether any lady could be found sufficiently in love with science, and a new system, to expose her heart for the sake of either, to the manipulation of a cardiologist. But comparative anatomy will supply us with data, and there needs but a little inference, a little reasoning from analogy, and a great deal of supposition, to help us out. From the form of the chest we may presume the structure of the heart within it;—we might have some good manifestations of passion by the jugular vein; and a great many mysteries commonly referred to the human heart, may probably be explained by peculiarities of palpitation, caused by a modification in the shape or bumpiness of its apex; or in the arrangement of its transverse fibres.

Such patch-work systems of conjecture and speculation are fortunately destined by the immutable and eternal laws of truth, to last but for a season. Craniology has almost "lived its little hour." In this city we are certain, that, with the absence of Dr Spurzheim, and the introduction of some other novelty, as a French dance or a

new beauty, it will be very soon forgotten. There is nothing indeed which can make us regret the fall of this ill-fated system. It seems to have been a mere exhalation of human thought, which has risen, and is passing away before us, in all its native duskiness; with no rainbow tinge to allure our gaze by its beauty—not one celestial hue to lighten the dull materiality of its aspect. A. M.

Edinburgh, March 3, 1817.

ON THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT
OF A FOUNDLING HOSPITAL IN
EDINBURGH.

MR EDITOR,

MANY of your readers must be aware that Mr John Watson, Writer to the Signet, bequeathed a sum of money to trustees, to be applied, "at the sight of the Magistrates of the city of Edinburgh, to such pious and charitable uses within the said city," as the trustees should think proper; and that the trustees, after announcing it to be their final and unalterable resolution to apply this bequest to the establishment of a Foundling Hospital, declared, That upon their decease, the management of the charity should devolve upon the keepers and commissioners of the Writers to the Signet. Mr Watson died in 1762, and his widow in 1779. The Writers to the Signet became possessed of the trust-funds, according to the destination of the testator's trustees; and after much litigation with the Magistrates of Edinburgh, their right to the management was confirmed by our Supreme Court. These funds, originally small, have been so well employed that they are said now to amount to more than £60,000.

Now, my object is to know whether this sum is to be applied to the establishment of a foundling hospital? and if it be, when it is intended so to employ it; or whether it be in contemplation to apply to Parliament to authorise its appropriation to such charitable purposes as may be thought, in the present circumstances of society and of public opinion, to be more worthy of encouragement?

From the litigation to which this part of Mr Watson's testamentary deed has given rise, and the very different opinions entertained as to the

merits of this destination of his property, as well as from many other instances of a similar description, it is impossible not to perceive how little encouragement is held out to such charitable, or it may be ostentatious, donations. In the progress of society, as in that of the age and fortune of individuals, that which at one stage appears most interesting and praise-worthy, is beheld at another with indifference or aversion. I.

March 1817.

REMARKS ON GREEK TRAGEDY.

No I.

(Æschyli Prometheus.)

THE drama has formed an interesting and important part of the literature of every nation into which it has been introduced, and no nation that has cultivated literature at all is entirely without it. Among the Athenians, scenical representations were frequented with a degree of enthusiasm of which we cannot easily form an adequate notion. A successful play was the most certain and the shortest road to literary fame, and even to fortune and preferment in the state. The dramatic poets were men of eminent genius, and not more remarkable for the qualities of mind that form the poet than for those that constitute the philosopher. Euripides was the disciple and the friend of Socrates, who saw the important moral purposes to which the drama might be applied, and the divine philosopher did not think it beneath him to aid the poet in the correction of his pieces. In the Greek theatre, not only was the taste of the people formed to a simple and natural style of composition, and their minds inspired with a love of virtue, but their piety and their imagination were equally improved by the unfolding of the beauties of a poetical mythology. It was not merely a place of public amusement, but rather a temple for the purification of the national manners, and the worship of the gods,—more moral in its tendency than their sacrifices and festivals. It is to be understood, that these observations apply only to tragedy, for the Greek comedy was often licentious and immoral.

It was fortunate for the Greeks that in their literature they had no mo-

odels to copy. It was the growth of their own soil, rooted in their usages, laws, legends, mythology, and peculiar modes of thinking and conformation of character, and was native to Greece as the vine to her mountains. It was drawn directly from nature, and the likeness was pleasing, because it was the faithful copy of a fair original; not, as too frequently happens among the ancient Romans and the modern nations of Europe,—a servile imitation—a tame copy of a copy;—it was like nature herself, fresh, and rich, and vigorous, and unconstrained, ever varying and ever graceful.

On a first view of the Greek tragedy, what strikes the reader, if he is at all conversant in the drama of the moderns, is its simplicity. The characters are few, and the fable neither intricate nor the incidents surprising. Its whole interest arises out of the simple expression of natural feeling in situations of suffering and sorrow; yet scanty as the materials are, by their judicious arrangement a beautiful superstructure is raised. It may be likened to a fine painting, in which the figures are correctly drawn and skilfully grouped,—the costume appropriate,—the drapery easy and graceful,—the expression of the passions such as naturally flow from the circumstances of the actors,—the story perspicuous,—and the lights and shades disposed with such art as to give to the whole the most pleasing effect.

It has been often repeated, and as often acknowledged, that the composition of a tragedy is one of the most difficult of all the efforts of human intellect. It requires a knowledge of the nature of man, and of those general laws by which he is governed in every stage of society, which is the portion only of a gifted few,—of those main springs of thought, and feeling, and action, that are universal, and of all the varieties of their modification produced by his moral, physical, and political state,—the temperature or severity of climate,—the purity of religion, or the grossness of superstition,—the exaltation of liberty, or the degradation of slavery. The dramatic writer must be endowed with the eye that can unveil the human heart, detect the passions in their source, and trace them in their intricate windings, and give to all fit utterance. He must be possessed of a pliancy of mind, by which he may

place himself almost simultaneously in the situation of all his characters,—of a sympathy with the beings of his own imagination, which will enable him to think with their minds, to feel with their hearts, and speak with their tongues, as if they were real characters,—to become at once a Shylock and a Portia,—a Hamlet and the Queen Mother. So to conceive and to paint character, as to clothe it in the garb of nature, to model it to symmetry, and to inspire it with the animation of life, not merely in description, but in representation,—so to invent a fable as to make it at once probable and interesting, to lead us into the society of men and women in the moment of suffering or heroism, and to light the whole with a radiant atmosphere of poetry,—from the frequency of the failure, must be concluded to be one of the most arduous of the enterprises of genius. Hence the miscarriages of men, even of great poetical talents; of whom some have brought upon the stage characters so cold and so correct, so stiff and so formal, so unlike the men and women with whom we mingle in real life, that we have no more sympathy with them than with the inhabitants of the moon. They are mere puppets, through which their authors pour forth their declamations on stale morality, and without the smallest regard to propriety; every thing is spoken in the same tone, and with the same emphasis. With these writers, every breeze is a whirlwind, and every feeling an extacy. They do not suit the language to the sentiment, nor study the processes of Nature, who never errs in fitness, but gives to every stream its own particular key sound, according to the weight of its waters and the rapidity of its descent. These hints, crude and indigested as they are, will be of practical application in my remarks on Greek Tragedy.

Æschylus, in a glorious age, had perhaps a fairer claim to originality than any of his contemporaries. He did not improve, but create tragedy. He not only paved the way in which Shæpeare was afterwards to move with a splendour that should eclipse his own and every other name, but he gave to the acting manager the mechanism of scenery that was to represent the beauties of the landscape, not merely to delight the eye of the spectator, but to give a fit place for the action.

The claims of this writer to the

high reputation which he has obtained among the poets of Greece, is now to be examined; and I shall begin with a short analysis of the play of Prometheus. It is founded on a well-known fable. In the wars of the gods, Prometheus had joined the party of Jupiter, to whom he gave important aid in the unnatural expulsion of his father, Saturn, from the throne of heaven. Jupiter, however, forgetful of past services and of solemn oaths, was no sooner seated on the throne, than he began to exercise his authority in acts of the most abominable tyranny over gods and men. His amusement was in insulting the subject gods, but men he determined to exterminate, by at once depriving them of food and fire. Prometheus was not like the submissive throng of courtier gods, so far corrupted by the contagion of sevility, as not to feel pity for the distresses of mankind. In defiance of the tyrant, he interposed to save them from the threatened destruction, and not only gave them fire and food, but instructed them in many of the useful and ornamental arts. Jupiter, enraged at this act of disobedience to his despotic mandates, condemned him to be chained to a rock on Mount Caucasus, there to remain till he should expiate his crime, and offer submission; and this sentence was carried into execution with many circumstances of cruelty and insult. This preface was necessary to the right understanding of the play.

The main object of Æschylus in writing this tragedy, was to exhibit to his countrymen, in Jupiter, a ferocious tyrant, stained with every crime; and in Prometheus, a suffering patriot. Among the Athenians, such a subject could not fail to awaken the deepest interest. Never was an altar erected to freedom in any country on earth where her flame burnt purer than in that city; and this drama was an offering worthy of such a shrine.

The fable is more than commonly simple, and all the characters mythological or allegorical except one. They are, Prometheus—a Chorus of ocean nymphs—Io, the daughter of Inachus—Ocean—Vulcan—Force, and Violence;—of whom the two latter, under the direction of Vulcan, bind Prometheus to a rock with chains of adamant. In their presence, neither pain, nor the insults of Force, who is a well painted executioner,—nor the sympathy of Vulcan, who is his kinsman,—

draws from him a single word ; but as soon as they retire, he apostrophizes the rivers, the ocean, the earth, the air, and the sun ; and calls upon them to witness the injustice of his punishment. The sound of his lamentations draws to the scene of his sufferings a company of ocean nymphs, who form the Chorus, and consequently never leave the stage.* They come as friends, to sooth and to sympathise ; and to them he explains, that by his counsels Jupiter had succeeded in his designs on his father's throne, and that in him they may see what reward they have to expect who serve a tyrant. To them he likewise narrates, at full length, the favours he had conferred on man. With Ocean, who was also attracted to the place by his complaints, he holds a dialogue on the same subject,—who, after having reasoned with him in vain on the inutility of resistance, and advised submission, quits the stage. Io then enters. She, like Prometheus, was the victim of the cruelty and the crimes of Jupiter, and was wandering over the earth in solitary wretchedness, goaded on by the jealousy of Juno. Prometheus foretells her future wanderings, and gives a short but rapid and poetical description of the countries which she is to

traverse. In the last scene, Mercury appears, commissioned by Jupiter to extort from Prometheus a secret at which he had hinted in his conversation with Io,—that it was in the decrees of fate that the tyrant himself should be dethroned, and that he alone knew the means by which the danger might be averted. On the sight of this minion of the despot, he addresses him in the language of sarcasm and defiance, confessing his knowledge of the secrets of fate, and his resolution never to reveal them till his bonds should be loosed.—The rock to which he is fixed is struck with thunder, and he descends to the infernal regions amid the convulsions of nature.

Such, divested of all poetical ornament, is an abstract of this singular play. Here there is none of the interest that arises from the hurry of incident, and the unexpected change of fortune. From the conclusion of the first scene to the beginning of the last, the action stands still—the intermediate scenes being merely conversational, and in nowise forwarding the plot. The only thing like business is in the first scene, where Prometheus is chained ; and in the last, when he sinks amid the thunder. Nor are the subordinate characters more interesting than the incidents, displaying none of those fine creations in which the charm of dramatic poetry consists, nor of the language well imagined, yet suitable to the situation of the speaker. They do nothing more than utter common places of sympathy and submission to the powers that be ; and what is said by one, may, with equal propriety, be put into the mouth of any other. In what then, it may be asked, does the merit of this tragedy consist ? In the character of Prometheus alone ;—in the benevolence that refines, and in the sublimity that elevates, the soul of man ;—in the consciousness of rectitude, that reposes on itself, independent of fortune ;—in the glorious energy of spirit, that resists oppression, though armed with omnipotence ;—and in the fortitude that rises superior to unmerited sufferings. It was the love of independence, and the hatred of tyranny, and the unquenchable daring of a lofty mind, that rendered it the delight of the Athenians. It was the bright reflection of their own souls, and the fair image returned to them again with all

* The most remarkable feature of difference between the ancient and modern dramas was the Chorus, a company of persons who might naturally be supposed present on the occasion, and interested in the events which were going on. The number of the chorus was at first indefinite. *Æschylus*, in his *Æumenides*, brought no fewer than fifty on the stage, but was obliged by the civil authority to reduce them to twelve. *Sophocles* was afterwards permitted to add three ; and after that time fifteen seems to have been the number to which the chorus was restricted. This company was constantly on the stage. One of them, who was called *Choragus*, or *Coryphæus*, the leader or president of the chorus, generally spoke for the rest ; but their odes were sung by the whole band, accompanied with music and dancing. It was the office of the chorus to deduce from the events represented those moral reflections which the principal actors were too busy, or too impassioned, to make ; to direct the leading characters with their counsel ; and, during the intervals of the action, to sing their odes, in which they prayed to the gods for success to the virtuous, lamented their misfortunes, and took occasion, from the events, to enforce upon their audience the lessons of religion and morality.

the joy of self-exaltation. This was the halo that shone from heaven, and shed over the tragedy a lustre by which it was sanctified in the eye of freedom.

I have brought heavy charges against this performance as a drama, and it is only justice that I should bring forward some of its beauties in detail: and here enough of matter will be found to soften the rigour of criticism. However wide the tragedies of Æschylus may be of the standard of excellence established in the land that gave Shakespeare birth, yet in all ages and in all countries he must be considered an eminent poet. In the eye that kindles as it rolls over the beauties of nature, and in the imagination that teems with great conceptions, he is inferior to few poets. There is a grandeur and loftiness of soul about him, generated by the elevation of freedom, that is blazing forth on every fit occasion,—a mysterious sublimity that cannot be understood, much less felt, by the slaves of a despot.

The following is a feeble attempt to render the meaning of the beautiful passage in which Prometheus describes the degraded state in which he found man, and by what means he had raised him from it; and it will be well if the meaning is given—the inspiration of poetry evaporates at the touch of translation.

“ Eyes had they, but they saw not; they had ears,

But heard not: Like the shadows of a dream,
For ages did they flit upon the earth,
Rising and vanishing, and left no trace
Of wisdom or of forethought. Their abodes
Were not of wood nor stone, nor did the sun
Warm them; for then they dwelt in lightless caves.

The season's change they knew not; when the Spring

Should shed its roses, or the Summer pour
Its golden fruits, or icy Winter breathe
In barrenness and bleakness on the year.

To heaven I rais'd their eyes, and bade them mark

The time the constellations rose and set,
By which their labours they might regulate.
I taught them numbers: letters were my gift,
By which the poet's genius might preserve
The memory of glorious events.

I to the plough bound the submissive ox,
And laid the panniers on the ass's back,
That they might mankind in their labours aid.
I to the chariot train'd the willing steed,
The luxury and glory of the wealthy.

I to the tall mast hung the flaxen pinions,
To bear the vessel bounding o'er the billows.
In sickness, man, without a remedy,
Was left to perish, till my pity taught

The herbs' sweet influences, and the balm
That wak'd the bloom upon the faded cheek,
And strung the nerveless arm with strength
again.

I was man's saviour, but have now no power
From these degrading bonds myself to save.”

The most sublime passage in this sublime poem is that in which Prometheus replies to Mercury, when, in the name of Jupiter, he denounces a terrible vengeance if he refuse to reveal the secrets of fate touching the dethronement of the thunderer.

“ P. To be a slave, thy words sound wondrous well,

The words of wisdom and authority.
The tyrant is but young in power, and deems
His palace inaccessible to sorrow.

But bear him this defiance: I have seen
Two hated despots hur'd from the same throne,

And in him I shall soon behold a third,
Plung'd thence in an irreparable ruin.
Think not that I do fear thy upstart gods,
Beings of yesterday; but hie thee hence,
Go, tell him that his thunders have no power
To humble me or wrest my secret from me.

M. It was thy proud rebellion brought thee here,

Else hadst thou from calamity been free.

P. Think'st thou that I would change these galling bonds

For slavery, and be the thing that thou art?
No! I would rather hang upon this rock
For aye, than be the slave of Jupiter.

Thus I return his insults—thus defy him.
Yet must he fall; but he shall never learn
From me whose hand shall strike the whelming blow:

There is no pang by which he may prevail.
No! let him launch at me the flaming bolt,
Load with the white-wing'd snow the weary earth,

And to its centre rock it by the earthquake,
He shall not shake me from my firm resolve.”

There is so striking a resemblance between this passage and Satan's address to Infernal Horrors in the first book of *Paradise Lost*, that there is reason to believe that Milton's famous line,

“ Better to reign in hell than serve in heaven,”
might have been suggested by this:

“ No! I would rather hang upon this rock
For aye, than be the slave of Jupiter.”

It would be easy, were not this article already swelled too much in length, to draw such a parallel betwixt the two characters, as to give strong reason to suspect that Milton took his first idea of that of Satan from Prometheus. Yet this is to detract little from the glory of one of the greatest of our poets. An accidental spark is sufficient to kindle the fires of a volcano.

NOTICES CONCERNING THE SCOTTISH GYPSIES.

“HAST thou not noted on the bye-way side,
 Where aged saughs lean o'er the lazy tide,
 A vagrant crew, far struggled through the glade,
 With trifles busied, or in slumber laid;
 Their children lolling round them on the grass,
 Or pestering with their sports the patient ass?
 —The wrinkled beldame there you may espy,
 And ripe young maiden with the glossy eye,—
 Men in their prime,—and striplings dark and dun,—
 Scathed by the storm and freckled with the sun:
 Their swarthy hue and mantle's flowing fold,
 Bespeak the remnant of a race of old:
 Strange are their annals!—list, and mark them well—
 For thou hast much to hear and I to tell.” HOGG.

THAT an Asiatic people should have resided four hundred years in the heart of Europe, subject to its civilized polity and commingled with its varied population, and yet have retained almost unaltered their distinct oriental character, customs, and language,—is a phenomenon so singular as only to be equalled, perhaps, by the unaccountable indifference with which, till very lately, this remarkable fact appears to have been regarded. Men of letters, while eagerly investigating the customs of *Otaheite* or *Kamschatka*, and losing their tempers in endless disputes about Gothic and Celtic antiquities, have witnessed with apathy and contempt the striking spectacle of a *Gypsy camp*,—pitched, perhaps, amidst the mouldering entrenchments of their favourite Picts and Romans. The rest of the community, familiar from infancy with the general character and appearance of these vagrant hordes, have probably never regarded them with any deeper interest than what springs from the recollected terrors of a nursery tale, or the finer associations of poetical and picturesque description. It may, indeed, be reckoned as one of the many remarkable circumstances in the history of this singular race, that the best and almost the only accounts of them that have hitherto appeared in this country, are to be found in works of fiction. Disregarded by philosophers and literati,—the strange, picturesque, and sometimes terrific features of the gypsy character, have afforded to our poets and novelists a favourite subject for delineation; and they have executed the task so well, that we have little more to ask of the historian, than merely to extend the canvass, and to affix the stamp of authenticity to the striking representations which they

have furnished. In presenting to the public the following desultory notices, we are very far from any thoughts of aspiring to this grave office—nor indeed is it our province. Our duty is rather to collect and store up (if we may so express it,) the *raw materials* of literature—to gather into our repository scattered facts, hints, and observations,—which more elaborate and learned authors may afterwards work up into the dignified tissue of history or science. With this idea, and with the hope of affording to general readers something both of information and amusement on a subject so curious and so indistinctly known, we have collected some particulars respecting the Gypsies in Scotland, both from public records and popular tradition; and, in order to render the picture more complete, we shall introduce these by a rapid view of their earlier history—reserving to a future occasion our observations on their present state, and on the mysterious subject of their national language and origin.

That this wandering people attracted considerable attention on their first arrival in Christendom in the beginning of the fifteenth century, is sufficiently evident, both from the notices of contemporary authors, and from the various edicts respecting them still existing in the archives of every state in Europe. Their first appearance and pretensions were indeed somewhat imposing. They entered Hungary and Bohemia from the east, travelling in numerous hordes, under leaders who assumed the titles of *Kings, Dukes, Counts,* or *Lords of Lesser Egypt*, and they gave themselves out for *Christian Pilgrims*, who had been expelled from that country by the Saracens for their adherence to the true religion. However

doubtful may now appear their claims to this sacred character, they had the address to pass themselves on some of the principal sovereigns of Europe, and, as German historians relate, even on the Pope himself, for real pilgrims; and obtained, under the seals of these potentates, various privileges and passports, empowering them to travel through all christian countries under their patronage, for the space of seven years.—Having once gained this footing, however, the Egyptian pilgrims were at no great loss in finding pretences for prolonging their stay; and though it was soon discovered that their manners and conduct corresponded but little to the sanctity of their first pretensions, yet so strong was the delusion respecting them, and so dexterous were they in the arts of imposition, that they seem to have been either legally protected or silently endured by most of the European governments for the greater part of a century.*

When their true character became at length fully understood, and they were found to be in reality a race of profligate and thievish impostors,—who from their numbers and audacity had now become a grievous and intolerable nuisance to the various countries that they had inundated,—severe measures were adopted by different states to expel them from their territories. Decrees of expulsion were issued against them by Spain in 1492, by the German empire in 1600, and by France in 1561 and 1612. Whether it was owing, however, to the inefficient systems of police at that time in use, or, that the common people among whom they were mingled favoured their evasion of the public edicts, it is certain, that notwithstanding many long and bloody persecutions, no country that had once admitted “these unknown and uninvited guests,” has ever again been able to get rid of them. When rigorously prosecuted by any government on account of their crimes and depredations, they generally withdrew for a time to the remote parts of the country, or crossed the frontiers to a neighbouring jurisdiction—only to return to their accustomed haunts and habits as soon as the storm passed over. Though their numbers may perhaps have since

been somewhat diminished in particular states by the progress of civilization, it seems to be generally allowed that their distinctive character and modes of life have nowhere undergone any material alteration. In Germany, Hungary, Poland,—in Italy, Spain, France, and England, this singular people, by whatever appellation they may be distinguished,—*Cingari*, *Zigeuners*, *Trigany*, *Bohemians*, *Gitanos*, or *Gypsies*,—still remain uncombined with the various nations among whom they are dispersed,—and still continue the same dark, deceitful, and disorderly race as when their wandering hordes first emigrated from Egypt or from India. They are still every where characterized by the same strolling and pilfering propensities,—the same peculiarity of aspect,—and the same pretensions to fortune-telling and ‘warlockry’.

The estimate of their present numbers, by the best informed continental writers on the subject, is almost incredible.—“Independently,” says Grellmann, “of the multitudes of gypsies in Egypt and some parts of Asia, could we obtain an exact estimate of them in the countries of Europe, the immense number would probably greatly exceed what we have any idea of. At a moderate calculation, and without being extravagant, they might be reckoned at between seven and eight hundred thousand.”

The gypsies do not appear to have found their way to this Island till about 100 years after they were first known in Europe. Henry VIII. and his immediate successors, by several severe enactments, and by re-exporting numbers of them at the public expense, endeavoured to expel from their dominions “this outlandish people calling themselves Egupeians;”—but apparently with little better success than their brother sovereigns in other countries; for in the reign of Elizabeth the number of them in England is stated to have exceeded 10,000, and they afterwards became still more numerous. If they made any pretension to the character of pilgrims, on their arrival among our southern neighbours, it is evident at least that neither Henry nor

* Grellmann.—See also Hume on Criminal Law of Scotland, vol. ii. p. 344.—Mackenzie's Obs. on Stat. p. 333.

* Grellmann.

Elizabeth were deceived by their impostures. Both these monarchs, indeed, (particularly the former), were too much accustomed to use religion, as well as law, for a cloak to cover their own violent and criminal conduct, to be easily imposed upon by the like artifices in others. We find them accordingly using very little ceremony with the 'Egyptian pilgrims,' who, in several of their statutes, are described by such designations as the following:—'Sturdy roags,' 'rascalls, vacabonds,' 'masterless men, ydle, vagrante, loyteringe, lewde, and yll-disposed persons, going aboute usinge subtiltie and unlawful games or plaie,'—'such as faynt themselves to have knowledge in physiognomye, palmestrie, or other abused sciences'—'tellers of destinies, deaths, or fortunes, and such lyke fantastieall imaginatiouns.'—

In king Edward's journal we find them mentioned along with other 'masterless men.' The following association of persons seems curious:—"June 22, 1549. There was a pryvy search made through Suffolk for all vagabonds, gipsies, conspirators, prophesiers, all players, and such like."

A more distinct account of the English gypsies, on their first arrival, is to be found in a work quoted by Mr Hoyland, which was published in the year 1612, to detect and expose the art of juggling and legerdemain. "This kind of people," says the author, "about a hundred years ago, beganne to gather on heed, at the first heere, about the southerne parts. And this as I am informed, and can gather, was their beginning: Certain Egyptians banished their country, (belike not for their good conditions,) arrived here in England, who for quaint tricks and devices not known heere at that time among us, were esteemed and had in great admiration; insomuch, that many of our English loyterers joined with them, and in time learned their crafty cozening." "The speach which they used was the right Egyptian speach, with whom our Englishmen conversing, at last learned their language. These people, continuing about the country, and practising their cozening art, purchased themselves great credit among the country people, and got much by pal-

mistry and telling of fortunes; insomuch, they pitifully cozened poor country girls both of money, silver spoons, and the best of their apparelle, or any goods they could make." "They had a leader of the name of *Gilas Hather*, who was termed their king; and a woman of the name of *Calot* was called queen. These riding through the country on horseback, and in strange attire, had a prettie traine after them." After mentioning some of the laws passed against them, this writer adds:—"But what numbers were executed on these statutes you would wonder; yet, notwithstanding, all would not prevail, but they wandered as before uppe and downe, and meeting once in a yeare at a place appointed; sometimes at the *Peake's Hole* in *Derbyshire*, and other whiles by *Retbroak* at *Blackheath*."*

It is probable that the gypsies entered Scotland about the same period in which they are stated by these accounts to have first pitched their tents in the sister kingdom. The earliest notice of them, however, that we have been able to discover in our national records, is contained in the celebrated writ of *Privy Seal*, passed in the 28th year of *James V.* (1540), in favour of "*Johanne Faw, Lord and Erle of Litill Egypt*." A complete copy of this document, which has been carefully collated with the original record in the *Register House*, will be found in another department of our Magazine. This writ was renewed by the *Earl of Arran* as *Regent of Scotland* in 1553, nearly in the same words.† It appears from these very curious edicts, that *John Faw*, under the character of '*Lord and Erle of Litill Egypt*,' had formerly obtained letters under the *Great Seal*, enjoining all magistrates, &c. to support his authority "in execution of justice vpon his company and folkis, conforme to the laws of *Egypt*, and in punishing of all thaim that rebellis aganis him." He complains that certain of his followers had, nevertheless, revolted from his jurisdiction, robbed and left him, and were supported in their contumacious rebellion by some of the king's lieges;—"Sua that he (the said *Johanne*, their lord and maister) on na wyse can apprehend nor get thame, to have thame

* Appendix to *Burnet's Hist. of Reformation*, vol. 2.

* *Hoyland's Historical Survey*.

† *Registrum Secreti Signati*; vol. xxv, fol. 62.

hame agane within their awin cuntre," "howbeit he has biddin and remanit of lang tyne vpon thame, and is bundin and obliat to bring hame with him all thame of his company that ar on live, and ane testimoniaie of thame that ar deid;"—the non-fulfilment of which obligation, he pretends, will subject him to "*hevy dampnage and skaith, and grete perill of tynsell (loss) of his heretage.*"—The names of these rebellious Egyptians are exactly the same in both edicts, and having been given in to the Scottish government by the chieftain himself, may be supposed to be *correctly reported*. We shall be glad if any of our learned readers can help us to trace their etymology.

It affords a striking evidence of the address of these audacious vagrants, and of the ignorance of the times, to find two of our sovereigns imposed upon by this gypsey chieftain's story about his 'band' and 'heretage.' This was at least 120 years after the first arrival of these hordes in Europe.—We hear no more of the return of Earl John and his company to 'their awin cuntre.'

In the following year (1554), "*Andro Faw, capitane of the Egyptianis,*" and twelve of his gang, specified by name, obtained a remission for "the slauchter of Niniane Smail, comittit within the toune of Lyntoune, in the month of March last bypast, vpona suddantie."^o

The gypsies appear to have kept their quarters in the country without further molestation for the next twenty-five years; and their enormities, as well as their numbers, it would seem, had greatly increased during the long political and religious struggles that occupied the greater part of Mary's disastrous reign. At length, in 1579, the government found it necessary to adopt the most rigorous methods to repress the innumerable swarm of strolling vagabonds of every description, who had overspread the kingdom. A new statute was enacted by parliament, "For pwnishment of the strang and ydle beggaris, and relief of the pair and impotent." In the comprehensive provisions of this act, we find *bards, minstrels, and vagabond scholars*, (lachrymabile dictu!) conjoined in ignominious fellowship with the Egyptian

jugglers. The following passages, precribing the mode of pwnishment, and specifying some of the various sorts of vagrants against whom it is denounced, are particularly curious:—"That sic as makis thame selfis fullis, and ar *baridis*, or vtheris siclike rynnaris about, being apprehendit, salbe put in the kingis ward and yrnis, sa lang as they have ony guidis of their awin to leif on; and fra they haue not quhair-upoun to leif of their awin, that thair earis be nailit to the trone, or to ane vther trie, and thair earis cattit of, and banist the cuntre; and gif thairefter that they be found agane that they be hangit."—"And that it may be knowin quhat maner of personis ar meemit to be strang and idle beggaris, and vagaboundis, and worthe of the pwnishment beibre specifit, it is declarit, that all ydle personis ganging about in ony cuntre of this realme, vsing subtiltill, crafty, and valauefull playis, as *juglarie, fast and louis*, and sic vther; *the idle people calling thame selfis Egyptianis*, or ony vtheris that fensies thame selfis to have *knowledge of prophetic, charmeing, or vtheris absurd sciences*, quhairby they perswad the people that they can tell their weardis, deathis, and fortunes, and sic vther fantasticall imaginations;"—"and all *menstrallis, sangsters, and scitellaris*, not avouit in speciall service be sura of the lordis of parliament, or greit baronis, or be the held burrowis and cities, for their common mens-trallis;"—"all *vagabond vcharis* of the vniversities of Sanctandrou, Glasgw, and Abirdene, not licencit be the rector and deane of saultie to ask almous," &c. &c.^o

This statute was repeatedly renewed, and strengthened with additional clauses, during the twenty-five years ensuing, "anent the counterfeit Egyptianis;"[†]—all which, however, proved so utterly ineffectual in restraining the crimes and depredations of these banditti, that in 1603, the Lords of Privy Council judged it expedient to issue a decree and proclamation, banishing the whole race out of Scotland for ever, under the severest penalties. This edict is not extant, (that part of the record which contained it being lost), but it was ratified and enforced in 1609,

^o Acta Parl. vol. iii. p. 136.

[†] Acta Parl. vol. iii. p. 576. vol. iv. pp. 140, 232.

^o Regist. Secreti Sigilli, vol. xxvii. fol. 3, 36.

by an act of parliament to the same effect—"Commanding the vagaboundis, sorneris, and common theiffis, commonlie callit Egypitianis, to pas furth of this realme, and never to returne within the samyn, vnder the paine of death,"—and declaring it lawful to all his Majesty's subjects, to apprehend and execute any of them that might be found in the country after a certain day, "as notorious and condemned theiffis—by one assyse only to be tryed that they are callit, knawin, repait, and haldin Egypitianis."*

It appears, that not only the lower classes, but also many persons of note, either out of compassion, or from less reputable motives, still continued, after the promulgation of this law, and in spite of repeated reprehensions from the Privy Council, to afford shelter and protection to the proscribed Egyptians. In February 1615, we find a remission under the Privy Seal, granted to William Auchterlony of Cayrnie, for resetting† of John Faw and his followers. On the 4th July 1616, the Sheriff of Forfar is severely reprimanded for delaying to execute some gypsies who had been taken within his jurisdiction, and for troubling the Council with petitions in their behalf.‡ In November following, appears a "proclamaition aganis Egypitianis and thair resettaris;"§—in December 1619, we find another proclamation against 'resettars' of them;||—in April 1620, another proclamation of the same kind;¶—and in July 1620, a commission against 'resettars;' all with

very severe penalties.* The nature of these acts will be better understood from the following extract from that of 4th July 1616, which also very well explains the way in which the gypsies contrived to maintain their footing in the country, in defiance of all the efforts of the legislature to extirpate them.—"It is of treuthe, that the theivis and lymmaris foirsaidis, haueing for some shorte space after the said act of parliament (1609), dispersit thame selffis in certane darne and obscure places of the cuntrey, they wer not knawne to wander abroad in troups and companies, according to thair accustomed maner; yitt shorthie thairafter, finding that the said act of parliament wes neglectit, and that no inquirie nor wes maid for thame, thay begane to tak new breth and courage, and vnite thame selffis in infamous companies and societies vnder commanderis, and continuallie sensyne hes remanit within the cuntrey, committing alswill oppin and avowed reiffis in all partis murtheris, as pleine stourthe and pykarie, quahir thay may not be maisterit; and thay do shamefullie and meschantlie abuse the simple and ignorant people, by telling of fortunes, and vsing of charmes, and a number of jugling trikis and falssettis, vnworthie to be hard of in a cuntrey subject to religioun, law, and justice; and thay ar encouraget to remane within the cuntrey, and to continew in thair theivish and jugling trickes and falssettis, not onlie throw default of the executioun of the said act of parliament, bot whilk is worse, that gritt numberis of his Majesty's subjects, of whome some outwardlie pretendis to be famous and vnsported gentilmen, hes gevin and gevis oppin and avowed protectioun, ressett, supplie, and maintenance vpon thair ground and landis, to the saidis vagaboundis, sorneris, and condampned theivis and lymmaris, and sufferis thame to remane dayis, oulks, and monethis togidder thairvpon, without controlement and with connivence and oversicht," &c.—"So thay do leave a foul, infamous, and ignominious spott vpon thame, thair houses, and posteritie, that thay ar patronis to theivis and lymmaris," &c. &c.

There is still, however, sufficient evi-

* Acta Parl. vol. iv. p. 440.

† The nature of this crime, in Scotch Law, is fully explained in the following extract from the original, which also appears curious in other respects: The pardon is granted—"pro receptatione, supportatione, et detentione supra terras suas de Balmadie, et infra eius habitacionis domum, aliaq. edificia eiusdem, Joannis Full, Ethipis, lie Egypcian, eiusq. vxoris, puerorum, servorum, et associatorum; Necnon pro ministrando ipsis cibum, potum, pecunias, hospitium, aliaq. necessaria, quotcumq. tempore vel occasione preterita, contra acta nostri Padimentij vel Secreti Concilij, vel contra quecumq. leges, alia acta, aut constitutiones huius nostri regni Scotie in contrarium facta."—Regist. Secreti Sigilli, vol. lxxxiii, fol. 291.

‡ Regist. Secreti Concilij, Jul. 4. 1616.

§ Ibid. Nov. 9. 1616.

|| Ibid. Dec. 21. 1619.

¶ Ibid. Apr. 19. 1620.

* Ibid. Jul. 6. 1620.

dence on record, of the summary root-and-branch justice that was frequently executed upon this unhappy race, in terms of the above statute. The following may serve for specimens:—In July 1611, four Faas were sentenced to be hanged—as *Egyptians*. They pleaded a special license from the Privy Council, to abide within the country;—but they were held (from failure of their surety,) to have infringed the terms of their protection, and were executed accordingly.—In July 1616, two Faas and a Baillie were capitally convicted on the same principle.—In January 1624, Captain John Faa and seven of his gang (five of whom were Faas,) were doomed to death on the statute—and hanged.—A few days after, Helen Faa, relict of the captain, Lucretia Faa, and other women, to the number of eleven, were in like manner convicted, and condemned to be drowned.*—A similar case occurs in 1636.† This we have inserted at length in another department of our present Number, as a fair specimen of these sanguinary proceedings. In later times, the statute began to be interpreted with a more merciful spirit towards these wretched outcasts, and they were hanged only when convicted (as happened, however, pretty frequently,) of theft, murder, and other violent offenses against public order.

Instead of carrying forward, in this manner, our own desultory sketch, we shall place at once before our readers, the accurate and striking account given of the Scottish gypsies, by a celebrated anonymous author of the present day, and by the distinguished person whose authority he has quoted. Considering how very unnecessary, and how difficult it would be to convey the same information in other words,—and allowing due attention to the convenience of those who may not have the book at hand to refer to,—we do not apprehend that any apology is necessary for availing ourselves of the following passage from the well-known pages of Guy Mannering.

“It is well known,” says the author, “that the gypsies were, at an early period, acknowledged as a separate and independent race by one of the Scottish monarchs, and that they were less favourably distinguished by a subse-

quent law, which rendered the character of gypsy equal, in the judicial balance, to that of common and habitual thief, and proscribed his punishment accordingly. Notwithstanding the severity of this and other statutes, the fraternity prospered amid the distresses of the country, and received large accessions from among those whose famine, oppression, or the sword of war, had deprived of the ordinary means of subsistence. They lost, in a great measure, by this intermixture, the national character of Egyptians, and became a mingled race, having all the idleness and predatory habits of their eastern ancestors, with a ferocity which they probably borrowed from the men of the north who joined their society. They travelled in different bands, and had rules among themselves, by which each tribe was confined to its own district. The slightest invasion of the precincts which had been assigned to another tribe, produced desperate skirmishes, in which there was often much blood shed.

“The patriotic Fletcher of Saltoun drew a picture of these banditti about a century ago, which my readers will peruse with astonishment.

‘There are, at this day, in Scotland (besides a great many poor families, very meanly provided for by the church boxes, with others, who, by living upon bad food, fall into various diseases) two hundred thousand people begging from door to door. These are not only no way advantageous, but a very grievous burden to so poor a country. And though the number of them be perhaps double to what it was formerly, by reason of this present great distress, yet in all times there have been about one hundred thousand of these vagabonds, who have lived without any regard or subjection either to the laws of the land, or even those of God and nature; * * * * *. No magistrate could ever discover, or be informed, which way one in a hundred of these wretches died, or that ever they were baptized. Many murders have been discovered among them; and they are not only a most unspeakable oppression to poor tenants (who, if they give not bread, or some kind of provision to perhaps forty such villains in one day, are sure to be insulted by them), but they rob many poor people who live in houses distant from any neighbour-

* Hume on Crim. Law, vol. ii. p. 339.

† Regist. Secreti Concilii, Nov. 10. 1636.

hood. In years of plenty, many thousands of them meet together in the mountains, where they feast and riot for many days; and at country weddings, markets, burials, and other the like public occasions; they are to be seen, both man and woman, perpetually drunk, cursing, blaspheming, and fighting together.

“Notwithstanding the deplorable picture presented in this extract, and which Fletcher himself, though the energetic and eloquent friend of freedom, saw no better mode of correcting than by introducing a system of domestic slavery, the progress of time, and increase both of the means of life and of the power of the laws, gradually reduced this dreadful evil within more narrow bounds: The tribes of gypsies, jockies, or vairs,—for by all these denominations such banditti were known,—became few in number, and many were entirely rooted out. Still, however, enough remained to give occasional alarm and constant vexation. Some rude handicrafts were entirely assigned to these itinerants, particularly the art of trencher-making, of manufacturing horn-spoons, and the whole mystery of the tinker. To these they added a petty trade in the coarser sorts of earthen-ware. Such were their ostensible means of livelihood. Each tribe had usually some fixed place of rendezvous, which they occasionally occupied and considered as their standing camp, and in the vicinity of which they generally obtained from deputation. They had even talents and accomplishments, which made them occasionally useful and entertaining. Many cultivated music with success; and the favourite fiddler or piper of a district was often to be found in a gypsy town. They understood all out-of-door sports, especially otter-hunting, fishing, or finding game. In winter the women told fortunes, the men showed tricks of legerdemain; and these accomplishments often helped away a weary or a stormy evening in the circle of the “farmer’s ha’.” The wildness of their character, and the inadmissible guide with which they despised all regular labour, commanded a certain awe, which was not diminished by the consideration, that these strollers were a vindictive race, and were restrained by no check, either of fear or conscience, from taking desperate vengeance upon those who had

offended them. These tribes were in short the *Parias* of Scotland, living like wild Indians among European settlers, and, like them, judged of rather by their own customs, habits, and opinions, than as if they had been members of the civilized part of the community. Some hordes of them yet remain, chiefly in such situations as afford a ready escape either into a waste country, or into another jurisdiction. Nor are the features of their character much softened. Their numbers, however, are so greatly diminished, that, instead of one hundred thousand, as calculated by Fletcher, it would now perhaps be impossible to collect above five hundred throughout all Scotland.”

Having in the preceding pages endeavoured to give our readers a general outline of what may be termed the *public annals* of our Scottish Gypsies, we now proceed to detail some of those more *private and personal anecdotes* concerning them, with which we have been furnished chiefly from local traditions, or the observation of intelligent individuals. These we shall relate without much regard to arrangement, and, for the present, without any further remarks of our own than may be requisite merely for connecting or explaining them. It may be proper generally to mention, that though we deem it unnecessary to quote our authorities *by name* in every particular case or for every little anecdote, yet we can very confidently pledge ourselves, in every instance, for the personal credibility of our informers.

The intrigue of the celebrated Johnnie Faa with the Earl of Cassilis’ lady, rests on ballad and popular authority. Tradition points out an old tower in Maybole, as the place where the frail Countess was confined. The portrait shown as hers in the Abbey of Holyroodhouse, however, is not genuine.—Of this affair of gypsy galantry, Mr Finlay, in his notes to the old ballad of the Gypsy Laddie, gives the following account, as the result of his inquiries regarding the truth of the traditionary stories on the subject:—“The Earl of Cassilis had married a nobleman’s daughter contrary to her wishes, she having been previously engaged to another; but the persuasion and importunity of her friends at last brought her to consent. Sir

John Faw of Dunbar, her former lover, seizing the opportunity of the earl's absence on a foreign embassy, disguised himself and a number of his retainers as gypsies, and carried off the lady, 'nothing loth.' The earl having returned opportunely at the time of the commission of the act, and nowise inclined to participate in his consort's ideas on the subject, collected his vassals, and pursued the lady and her paramour to the borders of England, where, having overtaken them, a battle ensued, in which Faw and his followers were all killed or taken prisoners, excepting one,

———— the meanest of them all,
Who lives to weep, and sing their fall.

It is by this survivor that the ballad is supposed to have been written. The earl, on bringing back the fair fugitive, banished her *a menas et thoro*, and, it is said, confined her for life in a tower at the village of Maybole, in Ayrshire, built for the purpose; and that nothing might remain about this tower unappropriated to its original destination, eight heads, carved in stone, below one of the turrets, are said to be the effigies of so many of the gypsies. The lady herself, as well as the survivor of Faw's followers, contributed to perpetuate the remembrance of the transaction; for if he wrote a song about it, she wrought it in tapestry; and this piece of workmanship is still preserved at Culzean Castle. It remains to be mentioned, that the ford, by which the lady and her lover crossed the river Doon from a wood near Cassilis House, is still denominated the Gypsy Steps.*

Mr Finlay is of opinion, that there are no good grounds for identifying the hero of this adventure with Johnnie Faw, who was king or captain of the gypsies about the year 1590, and he supposes that the whole story may have been the invention of some feudal or political rival to injure the character, and hurt the feelings, of an opponent. As Mr F. however, has not brought forward any authority to support this opinion, we are inclined still to adhere to the popular tradition, which, on the present occasion, is very uniform and consistent. We do not know any thing about the Sir John Faw of Dunbar, whom he supposes to have

been the disguised knight, but we know for certain, that the present gypsy family of Faw in Yetholm have been long accustomed to boast of their descent from the same stock with a very respectable family of the name of Faw, or Fall, in East Lothian, which we believe is now extinct.

The transformation of Johnnie Faw into a knight and gentleman, is not the only occasion on which the disguise of a gypsy is supposed to have been assumed for the purpose of intrigue. The old song of '*Clout the Countess*' is founded upon such a metamorphosis, as may be seen from the words in Allan Ramsay's *Tea-table Miscellany*; but an older copy preserves the name of the disguised lover:—

"Yestreen I was a gentleman,
This night I am a tinkler;
Gae tell the lady o' this house,
Come down to Sir John Stickle."

Notwithstanding the severe laws frequently enacted by the Scottish legislature against this vagrant race, and, as we have seen, often rigorously enforced, they still continued grievously to molest the country about the end of the seventeenth and beginning of the eighteenth century. They traversed the whole mountainous districts of the south, particularly Roxburghshire, Selkirkshire, and Tweeddale, and committed great and daring depredations. A gang of them once broke into the House of Pennycook, while the greater part of the family were at church. Sir John Clerke, the proprietor, barricaded himself in his own apartment, where he sustained a sort of siege—firing from the windows upon the robbers, who fired in return. By an odd accident, one of them, while they strayed through the house in quest of plate and other portable articles, began to ascend the stair of a very narrow turret. When he had got to some height, his foot slipped; and to save himself in falling, the gypsy caught hold of what was rather an uncinuous means of assistance—a rope, namely, which hung conveniently for the purpose. It proved to be the bell-rope, and the fellow's weight, in falling, set the alarm-bell a-ringing, and startled the congregation who were assembled in the parish church. They instantly came to rescue the laird, and succeeded, it is said, in apprehending some of the gypsies, who were executed. There is a written account of

* Finlay's *Scottish Ballads*, vol. ii. p. 39.

this daring assault kept in the records of the family.

Tweeddale was very much infested by these banditti, as appears from Dr Pennycuik's history of that county, who mentions the numerous executions to which their depredations gave occasion. He also gives the following account of a bloody skirmish which was fought between two clans of gypsies near his own house of Romanno, "Upon the 1st of October 1677, there happened at Romanno, in the very spot where now the dovecoat is built, a memorable polymachy betwixt two clans of gypsies, the *Fawes* and *Shawes*, who had come from Haddington fair, and were going to Harestains to meet with two other clans of those rogues, the *Baillies* and *Browns*, with a resolution to fight them; they fell out at Romanno amongst themselves, about dividing the spoil they had got at Haddington, and fought it manfully; of the *Fawes* were four brethren and a brother's son; of the *Shawes*, the father with three sons, with several women on both sides: Old Sandie Faw, a bold and proper fellow, with his wife then with child, were both kill'd dead upon the place, and his brother George very dangerously wounded. February 1678, old Robin Shaw the gipsie, with his three sons, were hang'd at the Grass-mercat for the above-mentioned murder committed at Romanno, and John Faw was hang'd the Wednesday following for another murder. Sir Archbald Primrose was justice-general at the time, and Sir George M'Kenzie king's advocat."* Dr Pennycuik built a dove-cote upon the spot where this affray took place, which he adorned with the following inscription:

"A. D. 1668.

The field of Gipsie blood which here you see,
A shelter for the harmless Dove shall be."

Such skirmishes among the gypsies are still common, and were formerly still more so. There was a story current in Teviotdale,—but we cannot give place and date,—that a gang of them came to a solitary farmhouse, and, as is usual, took possession of some waste out-house. The family went to church on Sunday, and expecting no harm from their visitors,

left only one female to look after the house. She was presently alarmed by the noise of shouts, oaths, blows, and all the tumult of a gypsy battle. It seems another clan had arrived, and the earlier settlers instantly gave them battle. The poor woman shut the door, and remained in the house in great apprehension, until the door being suddenly forced open, one of the combatants rushed into the apartment, and she perceived with horror that his left hand had been struck off. Without speaking to or looking at her, he thrust the bloody stump, with desperate resolution, against the glowing bars of the grate; and having staunch'd the blood by actual caustery, seized a knife, used for killing sheep, which lay on the shelf, and rushed out again to join the combat.—All was over before the family returned from church, and both gangs had decamped, carrying probably their dead and wounded along with them; for the place where they fought was absolutely soaked with blood, and exhibited, among other reliques of the fray, the amputated hand of the wretch whose desperate conduct the maid-servant had witnessed.

The village of Denholm upon Teviot was, in former times, partly occupied by gypsies. The late Dr John Leyden, who was a native of that parish, used to mention a skirmish which he had witnessed there between two clans, where the more desperate champions fought with clubs, having harrow teeth driven transversely through the end of them.

About ten years ago, one John Young, a tinker chief, punished with instant death a brother tinker of inferior consequence who intruded on his *walk*. This happened in Aberdeenshire, and was remarked at the time chiefly from the strength and agility with which Young, constantly and closely pursued, and frequently in view, maintained a flight of nearly thirty miles. As he was chased by the Highlanders on foot, and by the late General Gordon of Cairnfield and others on horseback, the affair much resembled a fox chase. The pursuers were most of them gamekeepers; and that active race of men were so much exhausted, that they were lying by the springs lapping water with their tongues like dogs. It is scarce necessary to add, that the laws of the country were executed on Young without regard to the consid-

* Pennycuik's Description of Tweeddale.—*Edit. Edin.* 1715, p. 14.

eration that he was only enforcing the gypsy subordination.

The crimes that were committed among this hapless race were often atrocious. Incest and murder were frequent among them. In our recollection, an individual was tried for a theft of considerable magnitude, and acquitted, owing to the absence of one witness, a girl, belonging to the gang, who had spoken freely out at the recognition. This young woman was afterwards found in a well near Cornhill with her head downwards, and there was little doubt that she had been murdered by her companions.

We extract the following anecdotes from an interesting communication on this subject, with which we have been favoured by Mr Hogg, author of 'The Queen's Wake.'—"It was in the month of May that a gang of gypsies came up Ettrick;—one party of them lodged at a farm house called Scobcleugh, and the rest went forward to Cossarhill, another farm about a mile farther on. Among the latter was one who played on the pipes and violin, delighting all that heard him; and the gang, principally on his account, were very civilly treated. Next day the two parties again joined, and proceeded westward in a body. There were about thirty souls in all, and they had five horses. On a sloping grassy spot, which I know very well, on the farm of Brockhoprig, they halted to rest. Here the hapless musician quarrelled with another of the tribe about a girl, who, I think, was sister to the latter. Weapons were instantly drawn, and the piper losing courage, or knowing that he was not a match for his antagonist, fled—the other pursuing close at his heels. For a full mile and a half they continued to strain most violently,—the one running for life, and the other thirsting for blood,—until they came again to Cossarhill, the place they had left. The family were all gone out, either to the sheep or the peats, save one servant girl, who was baking bread at the kitchen table, when the piper rushed breathless into the house. She screamed, and asked what was the matter? He answered, "Nae skaith to you—nae skaith to you—for God in heaven's sake hide me!"—With that he essayed to hide himself behind a salt barrel that stood in a corner—but his ruthless pursuer instantly entering, his panting betrayed him. The ruff-

an pulled him out by the hair, dragged him into the middle of the floor, and ran him through the body with his dirk. The piper never asked for mercy, but cursed the other as long as he had breath. The girl was struck motionless with horror, but the murderer told her never to heed or regard it, for no ill should happen to her. It was this woman's daughter, Isabel Scott, who told me the story, which she had often heard related with all the minute particulars. If she had been still alive, I think she would have been bordering upon ninety years of age;—her mother, when this happened, was a young unmarried woman—fit, it seems, to be a kitchen-maid in a farm-house,—so that this must have taken place about 100 years ago.—By the time the breath was well out of the unfortunate musician, some more of the gang arrived, bringing with them a horse, on which they carried back the body, and buried it on the spot where they first quarrelled. His grave is marked by one stone at the head, and another at the foot, which the gypsies themselves placed; and it is still looked upon by the rustics as a dangerous place for a walking ghost to this day. There was no cognizance taken of the affair, that any of the old people ever heard of—but God forbid that every amorous minstrel should be so sharply taken to task in these days!

"There is a similar story, of later date, of a murder committed at Lorie's-den, on Soutra-Hill, by one gypsy on another; but I do not remember the particulars farther than that it was before many witnesses;—that they fought for a considerable time most furiously with their fists, till at last one getting the other down, drew a knife, and stabbed him to the heart—when he pulled the weapon out, the blood sprung to the ceiling, where it remained as long as that house stood;—and that though there were many of the gang present, none of them offered to separate the combatants, or made any observation on the issue, farther than one saying—"Gude faith, ye hae done for him now, Rob!" The story bears, that the assassin fled, but was pursued by some travellers who came up at the time, and after a hot chase, was taken, and afterwards hanged."

The travellers here mentioned, we happen to know, were the late Mr

Walter Scott, Writer to the Signet, then a very young man, and Mr Fairbairn, long afterwards innkeeper at Blackshields, who chanced to pass about the time this murder was committed, and being shocked at the indifference with which the bystanders seemed to regard what had passed, pursued, and with the assistance of a neighbouring blacksmith, who joined in the chase, succeeded in apprehending the murderer, whose name, it is believed, was Robert Keith. The blacksmith judged it prudent, however, to emigrate soon after to another part of the country, in order to escape the threatened vengeance of the murderer's clan.

"In my parents' early years," continues Mr Hogg, "the Faas and the Baileys used to traverse the country in bodies of from twenty to thirty in number, among whom were many stout, handsome, and athletic men. They generally cleared the waters and burns of fish, the farmers out-houses of poultry and eggs, and the *lams* of all superfluous and moveable stuff, such as hams, &c. that hung there for the purpose of *reising*. It was likewise well known, that they never scrupled killing a lamb or a wether occasionally, but they always managed matters so dexterously, that no one could ever ascertain from whom these were taken. The gypsies were otherwise civil, full of humour and merriment, and the country people did not dislike them. They fought desperately with one another, but were seldom the aggressors in any dispute or quarrel with others.—Old Will of Phaup, a well-known character at the head of Btrisk, was wont to shelter them for many years;—they asked nothing but house-room and grass for their horses, and though they sometimes remained for several days, he could have left every chest and press about the house open, with the certainty that nothing would be missing; for he said, 'he aye kend fu' weel that the tod wad keep his ain hole clean.' But times altered sadly with honest Will—which happened as follows:—The gypsies (or *stinklers*, as they then began to be called), were lodged at a place called Potburn, and the farmer either having bad grass about his house, or not choosing to have it eaten up, had made the gypsies turn their horses over the water to Phaup ground. One morning about break of day, Will found the stoutest man of the gang,

Ellick Kennedy, feeding six horses on the Coomb-loan, the best piece of grass on the farm, and which he was carefully *haining* for winter fodder. A desperate combat ensued—but there was no man a match for Will—he threshed the tinkler to his heart's content, cut the girthing and sunks off the horses, and hunted them out of the country.—A warfare of five years duration ensued between Will and the gypsies. They nearly ruined him; and at the end of that period he was glad to make up matters with his old friends, and shelter them as formerly. He said, 'He could maistly hae hauden his ain wi' them an' it hadna been for their *warlockry*, but the deil-be-lickit he could keep fra their kenning—they aince fand out his purse, though he had gart Meg dibble't into the kail-yaird.' Lochmaben is now one of their great resorts—being nearly stocked with them. The redoubted Rachel Bailey, noted for her high honour, is viewed as the queen of the tribe."

A woman of the name of Rachel Bailey, (but not the same person, we believe, that our correspondent alludes to), a few years ago, in Selkirkshire, afforded a remarkable evidence of the force of her gypsy habits and propensities. This woman having been guilty of repeated acts of theft, was condemned by Mr W. Scott, sheriff of that county, to imprisonment in the bridewell there, on hard labour for six months. She became so excessively wearied of the confinement, to which she had not been accustomed, and so impatient of the labour of spinning, although she span well, that she attempted suicide, by opening her veins with the point of a pair of scissors. In compassion for her state of mind, she was set at liberty by the magistrate, but had not travelled farther than Yair Bridge-end, being about four miles from Selkirk, when she thought proper to steal a watch from a cottage, and being taken with it in her possession, was restored to her place of confinement just about four hours after she had been dismissed from it. She was afterwards banished the county.

The unabashed hardihood of the gypsies in the face of suspicion, or even of open conviction, is not less characteristic than the facility with which they commit crimes, or their address in concealing them. A gypsy of note, still alive, (an acquaintance of ours), was, about twenty years ago, tried for a

theft of a considerable sum of money at a Dalkeith market. The proof seemed to the judge fully sufficient, but the jury being of a different opinion, brought in the verdict *Not Proven*; on which occasion, the presiding judge, when he dismissed the prisoner from the bar, informed him in his own characteristic language, "That he had rubb'd his shoulders wi' the gallows that morning;" and warned him not again to appear there with a similar body of proof against him, as it seemed scarce possible he should meet with another jury who would construe it as favourably. Upon the same occasion, the prisoner's counsel, a gentleman now deceased, thought it proper also to say something to his client on the risk he had run, and the necessity of future propriety of conduct; to which the gypsy replied, to the great entertainment of all around, "That he was *proven an innocent man*, and that naebody had any right to use siccan language to him."

We have much satisfaction in being enabled to relate the following characteristic anecdotes, in the words of another correspondent of the highest respectability:—

"A gang, of the name of Winters, long inhabited the wastes of Northumberland, and committed many crimes; among others, a murder upon a poor woman, with singular atrocity, for which one of them was hung in chains, near *Tone-pitt*, in *Reedsdale*. His mortal reliques having decayed, the lord of the manor has replaced them by a wooden effigy, and still maintains the gibbet. The remnant of this gang came to Scotland about fifteen years ago, and assumed the Roxburghshire name of *Winterip*, as they found their own something odious. They settled at a cottage within about four miles of *Earlstoun*, and became great plagues to the country, until they were secured, after a tight battle, tried before the circuit court at *Jedburgh*, and banished back to their native country of *England*. The dalesmen of *Reedwater* shewed great reluctance to receive these returned emigrants. After the Sunday service at a little chapel near *Otterbourne*, one of the squires rose, and addressing the congregation, told them they would be accounted no longer *Reedsdale* men, but *Reedsdale* women, if they permitted this marked and atrocious family to enter their district. The people answered, that they would not permit them to come that

way; and the proscribed family hearing of the unanimous resolution to oppose their passage, went more cheerily by the heads of *Tyne*, and I never heard more of them, but have little doubt they are all hanged.

"Will Allan, mentioned by the *Reedwater Minstrel*,* I did not know, but was well acquainted with his son *Jamie*, a most excellent piper, and at one time in the household of the *Northumberland* family; but being an utterly unprincipled vagabond, he wearied the benevolence of all his protectors, who were numerous and powerful, and saved him from the gallows more than once. Upon one occasion, being closely pursued, when surprised in some villany, he dropped from the top of a very high wall, not without receiving a severe cut upon the fingers with a hanger from one of his pursuers, who came up at the moment he hung suspended for descent. Allan, exclaimed with minstrel pride, 'Ye hae spik'ed the best pipe hand in *Britain*.' Latterly, he became an absolute mendicant, and I saw him refused quarters at the house of my uncle, Mr ——— at ——— (himself a most excellent border piper). I begged hard to have him let in, but my uncle was inexorable, alleging his deprecations on former occasions. He died, I believe, in jail at *Morpeth*.

"My father remembered old *Jean Gordon* of *Yetholm*, who had great sway among her tribe. She was quite a *Meg Merrilias*, and possessed the savage virtue of *fidelity* in the same perfection. Having been often hospitably received at the *farr-house* of

* "A stalwart Fiddler wight was he,
And weel could mend a pot or pan;
An' deftly Wull could throw a flae,
An' neatly weave the willow wan'";

"An' sweetly wild were Allan's strains;
An' mny a jig an' reel he blew;
Wi' merry lilt he charm'd the swains,
Wi' barbed spear the otter slew," &c.

Lay of the Reedwater Minstrel,
Newcastle, 1809.

In a note upon a preceding passage of the same poem, the author (whose name was *George Rokeby*) says—

"Here was the rendezvous of the vagrant train of *Faas*, *tinklers*, &c. The celebrated *Wull Allan* frequently sojourned here, in the progress of his fishing and otter-hunting expeditions; and here often resounded the strains of his no less celebrated son, *Jamie Allan*, the *Northumberland* piper."

Lockside, near Yetholm, she had carefully abstained from committing any depredations on the farmer's property. But her sons (nine in number) had not, it seems, the same delicacy, and stole a brood-sow from their kind entertainer. Jean was so much mortified at this ungrateful conduct, and so much ashamed of it, that she absented herself from Lockside for several years. At length, in consequence of some temporary pecuniary necessity, the Goodman of Lockside was obliged to go to Newcastle to get some money to pay his rent. Returning through the mountains of Cheviot, he was benighted, and lost his way. A light, glimmering through the window of a large waste barn, which had survived the firm-house to which it had once belonged, guided him to a place of shelter; and when he knocked at the door, it was opened by Jean Gordon. Her very remarkable figure, for she was nearly six feet high, and her equally remarkable features and dress, rendered it impossible to mistake her for a moment; and to meet with such a character in so solitary a place, and probably at no great distance from her clan, was a terrible surprise to the poor man, whose rent (to lose which would have been ruin to him) was about his person. Jean set up a loud shout of joyful recognition—“Eh, sirs! the winsome gudeman of Lockside! Light down, light down; for ye maunna gang farther the night, and a friend's house we see near.” The farmer was obliged to dismount, and accept of the gypsy's offer of supper and a bed. There was plenty of meat in the barn, however it might be come by, and preparations were going on for a plentiful supper, which the farmer, to the great increase of his anxiety, observed, was calculated for ten or twelve guests, of the same description no doubt with his landlady. Jean left him in no doubt on the subject. She brought up the story of the stolen sow, and noticed how much pain and vexation it had given her. Like other philosophers, she remarked that the world grows worse daily; and like other parents, that the bairns got out of her guiding, and neglected the old gypsy regulations, which commanded them to respect, in their depredations, the property of their benefactors. The end of all this was, an inquiry what money the farmer had about him,

and an urgent request, that he would make her his purse-keeper, as the bairns, as she called her sons, would be soon home. The poor farmer made a virtue of necessity, told his story, and surrendered his gold to Jean's custody. She made him put a few shillings in his pocket, observing it would excite suspicion should he be found travelling altogether penniless. This arrangement being made, the farmer lay down on a sort of *shake-down*, as the Scotch call it, upon some straw, but as will easily be believed, slept not. About midnight the gang returned with various articles of plunder, and talked over their exploits in language which made the farmer tremble. They were not long in discovering their guest, and demanded of Jean whom she had got there.—“E'en the winsome gudeman of Lockside, poor body,” replied Jean, “he's been at Newcastle seeking for siller to pay his rent, honest man, but deil-be-liecht he's been able to gather in, and see he's gawn e'en hame wi' a tean purse and a sair heart.”—“That may be, Jean,” replied one of the banditti, “but we maun ripe his pouches a bit, and see if it be true or no.” Jean set up her throat in exclamations against this breach of hospitality, but without producing any change of their determination. The farmer soon heard their stifled whispers and light steps by his bedside, and understood they were rummaging his clothes. When they found the money which the providence of Jean Gordon had made him retain, they held a consultation if they should take it or no, but the smallness of the booty, and the vehemence of Jean's remonstrances determined them in the negative. They caroused and went to rest. So soon as day dawned, Jean roused her guest, produced his horse, which she had accumulated behind the *hollan*, and guided him for some miles till he was on the high road to Lockside. She then restored his whole property, nor could his earnest intreaties prevail on her to accept so much as a single guinea.

“I have heard the old people at Jedburgh say, that all Jean's sons were condemned to die there on the same day. It is said the jury were equally divided, but that a friend to justice, who had slept during the whole discussion, waked suddenly and gave his vote for condemnation, in the emphatic

tie words, "*Hang them a'.*" Jean was present, and only said, "The Lord help the innocent in a day like this!" Her own death was accompanied with circumstances of brutal outrage, of which poor Jean was in many respects wholly undeserving. Jean had among other demerits, or merits, as you may choose to rank it, that of being a staunch Jacobite. She chanced to be at Carlisle upon a fair or market day, soon after the year 1746, where she gave vent to her political partiality, to the great offence of the rabble of that city. Being zealous in their loyalty when there was no danger, in proportion to the tameness with which they had surrendered to the Highlanders in 1746, they inflicted upon poor Jean Gordon no slighter penalty than that of ducking her to death in the Eden. It was an operation of some time, for Jean was a stout woman, and struggling with her murderers, often got her head above water; and while she had voice left, continued to exclaim at such intervals, "*Charlie yet! Charlie yet!*"—When a child, and among the scenes which she frequented, I have often heard these stories, and cried piteously for poor Jean Gordon.

"Before quitting the border gypsies, I may mention, that my grandfather riding over Charterhouse-moor, then a very extensive common, fell suddenly among a large band of them, who were carousing in a hollow of the moor surrounded by bushes. They instantly seized on his horse's bridle with many shouts of welcome, exclaiming (for he was well known to most of them) that they had often dined at his expense, and he must now stay and share their good cheer. My ancestor was a little alarmed, for, like the Goodman of Lochside, he had more money about his person than he cared to venture with into such society. However, being naturally a bold lively man, he entered into the humour of the thing, and sat down to the feast, which consisted of all the varieties of game, poultry, pigs, and so forth, that could be collected by a wide and indiscriminate system of plunder. The feast was a very merry one, but my relative got a hint from some of the older gypsies to retire just when—

'The mirth and fun grew fast and furious,' and mounting his horse accordingly, he took a French leave of his entertainers, but without experiencing the least breach of hospitality. I believe

Jean Gordon was at this festival.—To the admirers of good eating, gypsy cookery seems to have little to recommend it. I can assure you, however, that the cook of a nobleman of high distinction, a person who never reads even a novel without an eye to the enlargement of the culinary science, has added to the *Almanach des Gourmands*, a certain *Potage a la Meg Merrilies de Dernclough*, consisting of game and poultry of all kinds, stewed with vegetables into a soup, which rivals in savour and richness the gallant messes of Comacho's wedding; and which the Baron of Bradwardine would certainly have reckoned among the *Epuiz lautiores*.

"The principal settlements of the gypsies, in my time, have been the two villages of Easter and Wester Gordon, and what is called Kirk-Yetholm,

Making good the proverb odd,
Near the church, and far from God.

A list of their surnames would be very desirable. The following are among the principal clans: Fens, Baileys, Gordons, Shaws, Browns, Keiths, Kennedies, Ruthvens, Youngs, Taites, Douglasses, Blythes, Allans, Montgomeries."

Many of the preceding stories were familiar to us in our schoolboy days, and we well remember the peculiar feelings of curiosity and apprehension with which we sometimes encountered the formidable bands of this roving people, in our rambles among the Border hills, or when fishing for perch in the picturesque little lake at Lockside. The late Madge Gordon was at that time accounted the queen of the Yetholm clans. She was, we believe, a granddaughter of the celebrated Jean Gordon, and was said to have much resembled her in appearance. The following account of her is extracted from the letter of a friend, who for many years enjoyed frequent and favourable opportunities of observing the characteristic peculiarities of the Yetholm tribes.—"Madge Gordon was descended from the Fens by the mother's side, and was married to a Young. She was rather a remarkable personage—of a very commanding presence, and high stature, being nearly six feet high. She had a large aquiline nose,—penetrating eyes, even in her old age—bushy hair that hung around her shoulders from beneath a gypsy bonnet of straw—a short cloak of a

peculiar fashion, and a long staff nearly as tall as herself. I remember her well;—every week she paid my father a visit for her *almous*, when I was a little boy, and I looked upon Madge with no common degree of awe and terror. When she spoke vehemently (for she had many complaints) she used to strike her staff upon the floor, and throw herself into an attitude which it was impossible to regard with indifference. She used to say that she could bring from the remotest parts of the island, friends to revenge her quarrel, while she sat motionless in her cottage; and she frequently boasted that there was a time when she was of considerable importance, for there were at her wedding fifty saddled asses, and unsaddled asses without number. If Jean Gordon was the prototype of the character of Meg Merrilies, I imagine Madge must have sat to the unknown author as the representative of her person.

"I have ever understood," says the same correspondent, speaking of the Yetholm gypsies, "that they are extremely superstitious—carefully noticing the formation of the clouds, the flight of particular birds, and the *soughing* of the winds, before attempting any enterprise. They have been known six several successive days to turn back with their loaded carts, asses, and children, upon meeting with persons whom they considered of un-*lucky* aspect; nor do they ever proceed upon their summer peregrinations without some propitious omen of their fortunate return. They also burn the clothes of their dead, not so much from any apprehension of infection being communicated by them, as the conviction that the very circumstance of wearing them would shorten the days of the living. They likewise carefully watch the corpse by night and day till the time of interment, and conceive that 'the deal tinkles at the tykewake' of those who felt in their *dead throes* the agonies and terrors of remorse.—I am rather uncertain about the nature of their separate language. They certainly do frequently converse in such a way as completely to conceal their meaning from other people; but it seems doubtful whether the jargon they use, on such occasions, be not a mere slang invented for very obvious purposes. I recollect of having heard them conversing in

this manner,—and whether it was an imaginary resemblance I know not,—but the first time I listened to *Hindhustanee* spoken fluently, it reminded me of the colloquies of the Yetholm gypsies."

On the subject of the gypsy language, our readers will remark a curious coincidence between the observation just quoted, and the first of the following anecdotes, which we are enabled to state upon the authority and in the words of Mr Walter Scott—a gentleman to whose distinguished assistance and advice we have been on the present occasion very peculiarly indebted, and who has not only furnished us with many interesting particulars himself, but has also obligingly directed us to other sources of curious information:—

"Whether the Yetholm gypsies have a separate language or not I imagine might be ascertained, though those vagrants always reckon this among their *arcana majora*. A lady who had been in India addressed some gypsies in the *Hindhustanee* language, from the received opinion that it is similar to their own. They did not apparently understand her, but were extremely incensed at what they conceived a mockery; so it is probable the sound of the language had an affinity to that of their own.

"Of the Highland gypsies I had the following account from a person of observation, and highly worthy of credit. There are many settled in Kintyre, who travel through the highlands and lowlands annually. They frequently take their route through the passes of Loch Katrine, where they are often to be met with. They certainly speak among themselves a language totally distinct from either Gaelic or Lowland Scotch. A family having settled near my informer for a few days, he wormed some of the words out of a boy of about twelve years old, who communicated them with the utmost reluctance, saying, his grandfather would kill him if he knew of his teaching any one their speech. One of the sentences my informer remembered—it sounded like no language I ever heard, and I am certain it has no affinity with any branch of the Gothic or Celtic dialects. I omitted to write the words down, but they signified, 'I will stick my knife into you, you black son of a devil'—a gypsey-like exclamation. My

informer believed that many crimes and even murders were committed among them, which escaped the cognizance of the ordinary police; the seclusion of their habits and the solitary paths which they chose, as well as the insignificance of their persons, withdrawing them from the ordinary inspection and attention of the magistrate.

"The Scottish lowland gypsies have not in general so atrocious a character, but are always poachers, robbers of hen-roosts, black-fishers, stealers of wood, &c. and in that respect inconvenient neighbours. A gang of them, Fass and Baillies, lately fought a skirmish with the Duke of Buccleuch's people and some officers of mine, in which a fish spear was driven into the thigh of one of the game-keepers.

"A lady of rank, who has resided some time in India, lately informed me, that the gypsies are to be found there in the same way as in England, and practise the same arts of posture-making and tumbling, fortune-telling, stealing, and so forth. The Indian gypsies are called Nuts, or Bazeegurs, and are believed by many to be the remains of an original race, prior even to the Hindhus, and who have never adopted the worship of Bramah. They are entirely different from the Parias, who are Hindhus that have lost caste, and so become degraded."

There is a very curious essay concerning the *Nuts* in the seventh volume of the Asiatic Researches, which contains some interesting observations on the origin and language of the European gypsies. But we have been tempted to extend this article already far beyond the limits we propose usually to allot to any subject in the course of a single Number; and though we have still many curious particulars to detail, we find these must necessarily be delayed till our next appearance. We cannot, however, quit this subject for the present without noticing with particular approbation a little work lately published by Mr Hoyland of Sheffield, entitled, "A Historical Survey of the Customs, Habits, and present State of the Gypsies; designed to develop the origin of this singular people, and to promote the amelioration of their condition."—The author has industriously collected the substance of what previous historians or

travellers have related of them, from their first appearance in Europe down to our own times. He has also taken great pains to procure information respecting their present state in Britain, —by sending circular queries to the chief provincial magistrates, and by personally visiting several of their encampments,—for the purpose of setting on foot some plan for their improvement and civilization. Mr Hoyland, we understand, is a member of the respectable society of Friends or Quakers, —whose disinterested and unwearied exertions in the cause of injured humanity are above all praise. It is enough to say of the present object, that it is not unworthy of that christian philanthropy which accomplished the abolition of the slave trade. We shall account ourselves peculiarly happy, should our humble endeavours in any degree tend to promote Mr H.'s benevolent purpose, by attracting public attention to this degraded race of outcasts—the *Parias* of Europe—thousands of whom still exist in Britain, in a state of barbarism and wretchedness scarcely equalled by that of their brethren in India.—From such of our readers as may have had opportunities of observing the manners, or investigating the origin and peculiar dialect of this singular people, we respectfully invite communications. Even solitary or seemingly trivial notices on such a subject ought not to be neglected: though singly unimportant, they may lead collectively to valuable results. But we need not multiply observations on this point—since our idea is already so well expressed in the following extract from the same valuable communication which we last quoted.—"I have always considered," says Mr Scott, "as a very curious phenomenon in society, the existence of those wandering tribes, having nearly the same manners and habits in all the nations of Europe, and mingling everywhere with civil society without ever becoming amalgamated with it. It has been hitherto found difficult to trace their origin, perhaps because there is not a sufficient number of facts to go upon. I have not spared you such as I have heard or observed, though many are trivial: if others who have better opportunities would do the same, some general conclusions might result from the whole."

(To be continued.)

SELECT EXTRACTS.

ACCOUNT OF COLONEL BEAUFOY'S
JOURNEY TO THE SUMMIT OF
MOUNT BLANC.

COLONEL BEAUFOY, a philosopher of considerable eminence, has lately published, in the *Annals of Philosophy* (No 50, Feb. 1817), an interesting account of a journey which he made to the summit of Mount Blanc in the month of August of the year 1787.—From about the year 1776, various unsuccessful attempts had been made, by different adventurers, to reach the summit of this stupendous mountain.—The first of these attempts was made in that year by M. Couteran, accompanied by three guides from the neighbouring valley. After travelling fourteen hours, during which they had made their way over many of the most hazardous and fatiguing parts of the ascent, they arrived at the eminence next to Mount Blanc, at about 13,000 feet above the Mediterranean; but perceiving that four hours would still be necessary to accomplish their enterprise, that the day was far advanced, and that clouds were beginning to envelope the summit, they were obliged, with much regret, to give up the project they had so nearly accomplished.—The next attempt was made in September of the year 1784, by M. Bourrit, accompanied by six guides; but he was so affected by the intensity of the cold, when he had very nearly accomplished the object of his journey, that he found it to be a matter of absolute necessity to relinquish any hope of making farther progress.—In the following year, 1785, Marie Coutet and James Balma reached a sheltered place at a very considerable elevation, where they passed the night, and were afterwards proceeding towards the summit of the mountain, when a violent storm of hail obliged them to desist.—On the 13th of the same month, Saussure and Bourrit, with twelve guides, after having advanced about 7808 feet above the level of the sea, were also prevented by a fall of snow from accomplishing their design.—At last, on the 8th of August of the year 1786, Dr Paccard, a physician of Cha-

mouni, accompanied by a guide who was skilled in the passes, and availing himself of the knowledge of the route which had been acquired by the attempts of former travellers, succeeded, after many discouraging accidents, in actually gaining the summit of the mountain.—The travellers remained about half an hour on a spot which had never probably been trod by any human foot, and where the cold was so intense as not only to freeze the provisions and ink which they carried along with them, but also to affect their own bodies with several very unpleasant and dangerous symptoms.

The success of this expedition of Dr Paccard appears to have encouraged Saussure to a second attempt; and, accordingly, on the 14th of August 1787, he succeeded in conveying to the top of the mountain a pretty large assortment of philosophical instruments, and of other conveniences for the success of the expedition. He remained on the summit of the mountain four hours, enjoying the satisfaction of a most extensive prospect, and diligently employing this favourable opportunity in the performance of several interesting and instructive experiments. At this vast elevation of something more than 15,000 feet above the level of the sea, respiration was very sensibly affected—a burning thirst seemed almost to parch the skin, and a particular aversion was at the same time felt for every kind of spirituous liquors—the only alleviation which the sensations of the travellers admitted, being that derived from copious and repeated draughts of fresh water. It will be seen in the sequel, that precisely the same effects were experienced in the subsequent ascent which we are about to consider.

The expedition of Col. Beaufoy was the third successful attempt to gain the summit of the mountain. It was undertaken only five days after that of M. Saussure, which we have now related; and to a few extracts from the Colonel's paper, comprehending what seems most remarkable in the journey, we shall now direct the attention of our readers.

After detailing the preparations he had made for the successful prosecution of his journey, and giving an account of his progress during the first five hours after his departure, by which time he had arrived at the second glacier, called the *Glaciere de la Cote*, the Colonel thus continues his narrative: "Our dinner being finished, we fixed our cramp irons to our shoes, and began to cross the glacier; but we had not proceeded far, when we discovered that the frozen snow which lay in the ridges between the waves of ice, often concealed, with a covering of uncertain strength, the fathomless chasms which traverse this solid sea; yet the danger was soon in a great degree removed, by the expedient of tying ourselves together with our long rope, which, being fastened at proper distances to our waists, secured from the principal hazard such as might fall within the opening of the gulf. Trusting to the same precaution, we also crossed upon our ladder, without apprehension, such of the chasms as were exposed to view; and sometimes stopping in the middle of the ladder, looked down in safety upon an abyss which baffled the reach of vision, and from which the sound of the masses of ice, that we repeatedly let fall, in no instance ascended to the ear. In some places we were obliged to cut footsteps with our hatchet; yet on the whole the difficulties were far from great, for in two hours and a half we had passed the glacier. We now with more ease, and much more expedition, pursued our way, having only snow to cross; and in two hours arrived at a hut, which had been erected in the year 1786 by the order and at the expense of M. De Saussure."

At this hut the travellers slept; and the following is a very striking account of the night scene which was observed at this elevated station: "At two o'clock I threw aside my blankets, and went out of the hut to observe the appearance of the heavens. The stars shone with a lustre that far exceeded the brightness which they exhibit when seen from the usual level; and had so little tremor in their light, as to leave no doubt on my mind, that if viewed from the summit of the mountain, they would have appeared as fixed points. Now improved in those altitudes would be the aids which the telescope gives to vision!—indeed

the clearness of the air was such, as led me to think that Jupiter's satellites might be distinguished by the naked eye; and had he not been in the neighbourhood of the moon, I might possibly have succeeded. He continued distinctly visible for several hours after the sun was risen, and did not wholly disappear till almost eight."

With the morning dawn the company proceeded on their expedition: and the following passage will convey a very distinct idea of the dangers and horrors to which this journey is exposed. "Our route was across the snow; but the chasms which the ice beneath had formed, though less numerous than those that we had passed on the preceding day, embarrassed our ascent. One in particular had opened so much in the few days that intervened between M. De Saussure's expedition and our own, as for the time to bar the hope of any further progress; but at length, after having wandered with much anxiety along its bank, I found a place which I hoped the ladder was sufficiently long to cross. The ladder was accordingly laid down, and was seen to rest upon the opposite edge, but its bearing did not exceed an inch on either side. We now considered, that should we pass the chasm, and should its opening, which had enlarged so much in the course of a few preceding days, increase in the least degree before the time of our descent, no chance of return remained. We also considered, that if the clouds, which so often envelope the hill, should rise, the hope of finding, amidst the thick fog, our way back to this only place in which the gulf, even in its present state, was passable, was little less than desperate. Yet after a moment's pause the guides consented to go with me, and we crossed the chasm. We had not proceeded far, when the thirst, which, since our arrival in the upper regions of the air, had been always troublesome, became almost intolerable. No sooner had I drank than the thirst returned, and in a few minutes my throat became perfectly dry. Again I had recourse to the water, and again my throat was parched. The air itself was thirsty: its extreme dryness had robbed my body of its moisture."

After surmounting a succession of similar dangers, and continuing to experience the same disheartening sensa-

tions, the company at length arrived at about 150 fathoms below the level of the summit. Their feelings at this moment are well depicted in the following passage. "The pernicious effects of the thinness of the air were now evident on us all: a desire, almost irresistible, of sleep came on. My spirits had left me: sometimes, indifferent as to the event, I wished to lie down; at others I blamed myself for the expedition; and, though just at the summit, had thoughts of turning back without accomplishing my purpose. Of my guides many were in a worse situation; for, exhausted by excessive vomiting, they seemed to have lost all strength, both of mind and body. But shame at length came to our relief. I drank the last pint of water that was left, and found myself amazingly refreshed.—My lungs with difficulty performed their office, and my heart was affected with violent palpitation. At last, however, but with a sort of apathy which scarcely admitted the sense of joy, we reached the summit of the mountain; when six of my guides, and with them my servant, threw themselves on their faces, and were immediately asleep."

We have only room for one other extract, in which an account is given of the effect produced upon the mind of the spectator by the view from the vast height to which the travellers had attained. "When the spectator begins to look round him from this elevated height, a confused impression of immensity is the first effect produced upon his mind; but the blue colour, deep almost to blackness, of the canopy above him, soon arrests his attention. He next surveys the mountains, many of which, from the clearness of the air, are to his eye within a stone's throw from him; and even those of Lombardy seem to approach his neighbourhood: while, on the other side, the vale of Chamouni, glittering with the sun-beam, is to the view directly below his feet, and affects his head with giddiness. On the other hand, all objects of which the distance is great and the level low, are hid from his eye by the blue vapour which intervenes, and through which I could not discern the Lake of Geneva, though, at the height of 15,700 English feet, which, according to Saussure, was the level on which I stood; and the Mediterranean sea must have been within the line of vision. The sky was still, and the day

so remarkably fine, that I could not discover in any part of the heavens the appearance of a single cloud."

In this expedition the latitude of Mount Blanc was very accurately determined, and some experiments were also made respecting the power of a burning-glass at the summit of the mountain, compared with its effect in the vale of Chamouni. The chief interest of the narrative, however, is derived from the information which it communicates respecting the dangers of the journey itself, and from the corroboration it has given to the testimony of other travellers respecting the effect produced upon the human body in such elevated situations. We do not know that any account has yet been published of the attempts which have been made, subsequent to that of Colonel Beaufoy, to accomplish the same journey,—but we have reason to believe, that of late years the summit of the mountain has been frequently gained.

ACCOUNT OF THE REMARKABLE CASE
OF MARGARET LYALL,

*Who continued in a State of Sleep
nearly Six Weeks.*

By the Rev. JAMES BREWSTER, Minister of Craig.

(From the Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Read Feb. 19, 1816.)

Manse of Craig, Feb. 16, 1816.

MY DEAR BROTHER,

THE enclosed account was drawn up at the request of Robert Graeme, Esq. when all the circumstances were fresh in my own recollection, and that of all with whom I had occasion to confer on the subject. Since you requested me to send you a correct copy of the whole case, I have renewed my inquiries among the friends of the young woman, and submitted my account to several persons, who were most capable of supplying any omissions, or correcting any mistakes. I can confidently vouch for the general accuracy of the statement, but would not wish its credibility to rest entirely on my single testimony. I have therefore procured the signature of the young woman's father, and of several gentlemen, with whom you are more or less acquainted, and who frequently saw her during her illness. The account of her recovery, on the 8th of

August, indeed, rests wholly on the testimony of the father, which there is not the smallest reason to doubt. I am sensible that many of the circumstances which I have mentioned may appear to be unnecessarily minute, or even altogether unimportant; but, in detailing so remarkable a case, I did not think myself qualified or entitled to select according to my own judgment; and considered it to be my business, as a reporter, merely to relate, as clearly and correctly as possible, whatever was observable in the situation of the patient. I have noted, also, her previous employment, the places where she resided, and some of the individuals who attended to her case, partly to render the account more intelligible, and partly to enable others to make farther inquiries for themselves. I may mention farther, in case you may not be aware of the circumstance, that there is a similar case recorded in the *Transactions of the Royal Society of London for 1705*, vol. xxiv. p. 2177. Yours, &c.

JAS. BREWSTER.

To Dr Brewster.

MARGARET LYALL, a young woman about twenty-one years of age, daughter of John Lyall, shoemaker in the parish of Marytown, served, during the winter half-year preceding Whitsunday 1815, in the family of Peter Arkley, Esq. of Dunninald, in the parish of Craig. At the last-mentioned term, she went as servant to the Rev. Mr Foote of Logie; but, in a few days after entering her place, was seized with a slow fever, which confined her to bed rather more than a fortnight. During the latter part of her illness she was conveyed to her father's house; and, on the 23d of June, about eight days after she had been able to leave her bed, she resumed her situation with Mrs Foote, who had, in the mean time, removed to Budden, in the parish of Craig, for the benefit of sea-bathing. She was observed, after her return, to do her work rather in a hurried manner; and, when sent upon any errand, to run or walk very quickly, as if impatient to finish whatever she had in hand. Her health, however, appeared to be perfectly restored, except that her menses were obstructed. On Tuesday morning, June 27th, about four days after her return to service, she was found in bed in a deep sleep, with the appearance of blood having

flowed from her nose; and about half a Scotch pint of blood was perceived on the floor, at her bed-side. All attempts to awaken her were utterly ineffectual; and she was conveyed in a cart to her father's house, about half a mile distant from Budden. Dr Gibson, physician in Montrose, having been called, a pound of blood was taken from her arm; but she still remained in the same lethargic state, without making the slightest motion, or taking any nourishment, or having any kind of evacuation, till the afternoon of Friday, the 30th day of June, when she awoke of her own accord, and asked for food. At this period she possessed all her mental and bodily faculties; mentioned distinctly, that she recollected her having been awakened on Tuesday morning at two o'clock, by a bleeding at her nose, which flowed very rapidly; said, that she held her head over the bed-side till the bleeding stopped; but declared, that, from that moment, she had no feeling or remembrance of any thing, and felt only as if she had taken a very long sleep. An injection was administered with good effect, and she went to sleep as usual; but, next morning, (Saturday, July 1,) she was found in the same state of profound sleep as before. Her breathing was so gentle as to be scarcely perceptible; her countenance remarkably placid, and free from any expression of distress; but her jaws were so firmly locked, that no kind of food or liquid could be introduced into her mouth. In this situation she continued for the space of seven days, without any m^otion, food, or evacuation either of urine or feces. At the end of seven d^s she began to move her left hand; and, by pointing it to her mouth, signified a wish for food. She took readily whatever was given to her, and shew^d an inclination to eat more than was thought advisable by the med^l attendants. Still, however, sh^d discovered no symptoms of hear^k, and made no other kind of bod^y movement than that of her left h^d. Her right hand and arm, particular^{ly}, appeared completely dead and devoid of feeling, and even when pr^oved with a pin, so as to draw blood, ver^y shrunk in the smallest degree, or did not have the slightest sense of pain. At the same time, she instantly dr^e back the left arm, whenever it was act^d by the point of the pin. She continued to take

food, whenever it was offered to her; and when the bread was put into her left hand, and the hand raised by another person to her mouth, she immediately began to eat slowly, but unremittingly, munching like a rabbit, till it was finished. It was remarked, that, if it happened to be a slice of loaf which she was eating, she turned the crust, when she came to it, so as to introduce it more easily into her mouth, as if she had been fully sensible of what she was doing. But when she had ceased to eat, her hand dropped upon her chin or under lip, and rested there, till it was replaced by her side, or upon her breast. She took medicine, when it was administered, as readily as food, without any indication of disgust; and, in this way, by means of castor oil and aloetic pills, her bowels were kept open; but no evacuation ever took place without the use of a laxative. It was observed, that she always gave a signal, by pushing down the bed-clothes, when she had occasion to make any evacuation. The eye-lids were uniformly shut, and, when forced open, the ball of the eye appeared turned upwards, so as to shew only the white part of it. Her friends shewed considerable reluctance to allow any medical means to be used for her recovery; but, about the middle of July, her head was shaved, and a large blister applied, which remained nineteen hours, and produced an abundant issue, yet without exciting the smallest symptom of uneasiness in the patient. Sinapisms were also applied to her feet, and her legs were moved from hot water into cold, and *vice versa*, without any appearance of sensation. In this state she remained, without any apparent alteration, till Tuesday the 8th day of August, precisely six weeks from the time when she was first seized with her lethargy, and without ever appearing to be awake, except, as mentioned, on the afternoon of Friday the 30th of June. During the whole of this period, her colour was generally that of health; but her complexion rather more delicate than usual, and occasionally changing, sometimes to paleness, and at other times to a feverish flush. The heat of her body was natural; but, when lifted out of bed, she generally became remarkably cold. The state of her pulse was not regularly marked; but, during the first two weeks, it was generally at 40; du-

ring the third and fourth week, about 60; and, on the day before her recovery, at 70 or 72; whether its increase was gradual was not ascertained. She continued, during the whole period, to breathe in the same soft and almost imperceptible manner as at first; but was observed occasionally, during the night time, to draw her breath more strongly, like a person who had fallen asleep. She discovered no symptoms of hearing, till about four days before her recovery, when, upon being requested (as she had often been before, without effect) to give a sign if she heard what was said to her, she made a slight motion with her left hand, but soon ceased again to shew any sense of hearing. On Tuesday forenoon, the day of her recovery, she shewed evident signs of hearing; and by moving her left hand, intimated her assent or dissent in a tolerably intelligent manner; yet, in the afternoon of the same day, she seemed to have again entirely lost all sense of hearing. About eight o'clock on Tuesday evening, her father, a shrewd intelligent man, and of a most respectable character, anxious to avail himself of her recovered sense of hearing, and hoping to rouse her faculties by alarming her fears,* sat down at her bed-side, and told her that he had now given consent, (as was in fact the case,) that she should be removed to the Montrose Infirmary; that, as her case was remarkable, the doctors would naturally try every kind of experiment for her recovery; that he was very much distressed, by being obliged to put her entirely into their hands; and would "fain hope," that this measure might still be rendered unnecessary, by her getting better before the time fixed for her removal. She gave evident signs of hearing him, and assented to his proposal of having the usual family-worship in her bedroom. After this was over, she was lifted into a chair till her bed should be

* Lest it might be supposed, that this procedure of the father implied a suspicion on his part of some deception being practised by the young woman, it may be proper to state, that it was suggested by his own experience in the case of another daughter, who had been affected many years before in a very extraordinary degree, with St Vitus's dance, or, as it is termed in this country, "The louping ague;" and who was almost instantaneously cured by the application of terroc.

made; and her father, taking hold of her right hand, urged her to make an exertion to move it. She began to move first the thumb, then the rest of the fingers in succession, and next her toes in like manner. He then opened her eye-lids, and presenting a candle, desired her to look at it, and asked, whether she saw it. She answered, "Yes," in a low and feeble voice. She now proceeded gradually, and in a very few minutes, to regain all her faculties; but was so weak as scarcely to be able to move. Upon being interrogated respecting her extraordinary state, she mentioned, that she had no knowledge of any thing that had happened; that she remembered, indeed, having conversed with her friends at her former awakening, (Friday afternoon, 30th of June) but felt it a great exertion then to speak to them; that she recollected also having heard the voice of Mr Cowie, minister in Montrose, (the person who spoke to her on the forenoon of Tuesday the 8th of August,) but did not hear the persons who spoke to her on the afternoon of the same day; that she had never been conscious of having either needed or received food, of having been lifted to make evacuations, or of any other circumstance in her case. She had no idea of her having been blistered; and expressed great surprise, upon discovering, that her head was shaved. She continued in a very feeble state for a few days, but took her food nearly as usual, and improved in strength so rapidly, that on the last day of August she began to work as a reaper in the service of Mr Arkley of Dunninald; and continued to perform the regular labour of the harvest for three weeks, without any inconvenience, except being extremely fatigued the first day.

After the conclusion of the harvest, she went into Mr Arkley's family, as a servant; and on the 27th day of September, was found in the morning by her fellow-servants, in her former state of profound sleep, from which they were unable to rouse her. She was conveyed immediately to her father's house, (little more than a quarter of a mile distant,) and remained exactly fifty hours in a gentle, but deep sleep, without making any kind of evacuation, or taking any kind of nourishment. Upon awakening, she arose apparently in perfect health,

took her breakfast, and resumed her work as usual at Dunninald. On the 11th of October, she was again found in the morning in the same lethargic state; was removed to the house of her father, where she awoke as before, after the same period of fifty hours sleep; and returned to her service, without seeming to have experienced any inconvenience. At both of these times her menses were obstructed. Dr Henderson, physician in Dundee, who happened to be on a visit to his friends at Dunninald, prescribed some medicines suited to that complaint; and she has ever since been in good health, and able to continue in service.*

(Signed) JAS BREWSTER,
Minister of Craig.

I hereby certify the preceding account of my daughter Margaret's illness and recovery to be correct in every circumstance, according to the best of my recollection.

(Signed) JOHN LYAL.

We hereby attest, That the above-mentioned particulars in the extraordinary case of Margaret Lyall, are either consistent with our personal knowledge, or agreeable to all that we have heard from the most creditable testimony.

PETER ARKLEY of Dunninald.

A. FERGUSSON, Minister, Maryton.
WM GIBSON, Physician, Montrose.

* On the morning of September 21, 1816, Margaret Lyall, whose case is described above, was found in an out-house at Dunninald, hanged by her own hands. No cause could be assigned for this unhappy act. Her health had been good since the month of October 1815; and she had been comfortable in her situation. It was thought by the family, that a day or two preceding her death, her eyes had the appearance of rolling rather wildly; but she had assisted the day before in serving the table, and been in good spirits that evening. On the following morning, she was seen to bring in the milk, as usual, and was heard to say in passing rather hurriedly through a room, where the other maids were at work, that something had gone wrong about her dairy; but was not seen again till she was found dead about half an hour after. She is known to have had a strong abhorrence of the idea of her former distress recurring; and to have occasionally manifested, especially before her first long sleep, the greatest depression of spirits, and even disgust of life.

ANTIQUARIAN REPERTORY.

GRANT OF THE LANDS OF KYRKENES

To the Culdees of Lochleven, by Macbeth son of Finlach, and Gruoch daughter of Bodhe, King and Queen of Scotland.

[This ancient document, which we have extracted from the chartulary of St Andrews, may be regarded as a curiosity not only as relating to the history of the Culdees and the far-famed Macbeth, but also on account of the savage story of the "Saxum Hibernensium."]

Qualiter Macbeth filius Finlach et Gruoch dederunt Sancto Servano Kyrkenes.

MACHBET filius Finlach contulit pro suffragiis orationum, et Gruoch filia Bodhe, Rex et Regina Scottorum, Kyrkenes, Deo Omnipotenti et Keledets pœnæ insule Lochleuine, cum suis finibus et terminis. Hii enim sunt fines et termini de Kyrkenes, et uillule que dicitur Parthmokane: de loco Monacoodhan neque ad assiam qui dicitur Lenine; et hoc in latitudine: Item, a publica strata que dicitur apud Hinhirkeahy, usque ad Saxum Hibernensium; et hoc in longitudine.

Et dicitur Saxum Hibernensium, quia Malcolmus Rex, filius Duncani, occidit eis, salinagium quod scotice dicitur Ghonnac. Et venerunt Hibernenses ad Kyrkenes, ad domum cæjardæ viri nomine Mechan, qui tunc fuit abens; et abutimodo mulieres erant in domo, quas oppresserunt violentè Hibernenses; non tamen sine rubore et verecundia: rei etiam eventu ad aures prefati Mochan peruento, iter quæse citius domi festinavit, et invenit ibi Hibernenses in eadem domo cum matre sua. Exhortatione etiam matris sue sepius facta ut extra domum veniret, (quæ nullatenus usavit, sed Hibernenses voluit protegere, et eis pacem dare); quos omnes prefatus vir, in ultione tanti facinoris, ut oppressores mulierum et barbaros et sacrilegos, in medio flame ignis, vna cum matre sua, viriliter combussit; et ex hoc usque dicitur locus ille Saxum Hibernensium.

(Ex Registro Prioratus Sancti Andree, fol. 51, a.)

WRIT OF PRIVY SEAL

In favour of 'Johne Faw, Lord and Erle of Litill Egypt,' granted by King James the Fifth, Feb. 15th 1540. (Referred to at page 46.)

JAMES be the grace of God, King of Scottis: To oure Shereffis of Edinburgh principall and within the constabularie of Hadingtoun, Berwick, Roxburgh, &c. &c. provestis, aldermen, and baillies of our burrowis and cisteis of Edinburgh, &c. &c. greting:—Forsamekill as it is humillienit and schewin to ws, be oure louit Johnne Faw, Lord and Erle of Litill Egypt, That quhair he obtenit oure lettres vnder our grete seile, direct to yow all and sindry oure saidis shereffis, stewardis, baillies, prouestis, aldermen, and baillies of burrois; and to all and sindry vthairis havand autorite within oure reialme, to assist to him in execution of justice vpon his company and folkis conforme to the lawis of Egypt, and in punisshing of all thaim that rebellis aganis him: Neuirtheles, as we ar informyt, Sebastiane Lalow, Egyp-tiane, one of the said Johnis company, with his complices and part takeris vndir writtin, that is to say, Antean Domea, Satona Fingo, Nona Finco, Phillip Hateyggaw, Towla Bailow, Grata Neyn, Geleyr Bailow, Bernard Beige, Demeo Matakalla (or Macakalla), Notfaw Lawlowr, Martyn Feme, * rebellis and conspiris aganis the said Johnne Faw, and hes removit thame alluterly out of his company, and takin fra him diuerse soumes of money, jowellis, claithis, and vtheris gudis, to the quantite of ane grete soume of money; and on na wyæ will pass hame with him, howbeit he hes biddin and remanit of lang tyme vpon

* The names of the thirteen Egyptians referred to at page 46, who obtained a remission for the slaughter of Ninian Smellie, in 1553-4, are as follows:—"Andro Faw, capitane of the Egyp-tians, George Faw, Robert Faw, and Anthony Faw, his sonis"—"Johne Faw, Andro George Nichoah, George Sebastiane Colyne, George Colyne, Julie Colyne, Johnne Colyne, James Haw, Johnne Browne, and George Browne, egyp-tianis."

thame, and is bundin and oblist to bring hame with him all thame of his cumpany that ar on live, and ane testimoniale of thame that ar deid ; And als the said Johnne hes the said Sebastianis obligatioun, maid in Dunfermling befor oure Maister Houssald, that he and his cumpany suld remane with him, and on na wyse depart fra him, as the samyn beris ; In contrar the tenour of the quhilk, the said Sebastiane, be sinister and wrang informatioun, fals relatioun, and circumvention of ws, hes purchest our writings, dischargeing him, and the remanent of the personis abone written, his complices and part takeris of the said Johnis cumpany, and with his gudis takin be thame fra him, causis certane our liegis assist to thame and thair opinionis, and to fortify and tak thair part aganis the said Johnne, thair lord and maister ; Sua that he on na wyse can apprehend nor get thame, to haue thame hame agane within thair awin cuntre, eftir the tenour of his said band, to his hevvy dampnage and skaith, and in grete perrell of tynsell of his heretage, and expres aganis justice : OURE will is heirfor, and we charge yow straitlie, and commandis, that incontynent, thir our lettres sene, ye, and ilkane of yow, within the boundis of your offices, command and charge all our liegis, that nane of thame tak upon hand to resset, assist, fortify, supplie, mainteine, defend, or tak part with the said Sebastiane and his complices abone written, for na buddis, nor uthir way, aganis the said Johnne Faw, thair lord and maister ; Bot that thai, and ye, in likwyse, tak and lay handis upoun thame quhairuir thay may be apprehendit, and bring thaim to him, to be punist for thair demeritis, conforme to his lawis ; and help and fortify him to puniss and do justice upoun thame for thair trespasses ; and to that effect, len to him youre presonis, stokis, fetteris, and all uthir thingis necessar thereto, as ye and ilk ane of yow, and all utheris owre liegis, will ansuer to ws thairupoun, and under all hieast pane and charge that efter may follow ; Sua that the said Johnne haue na caus of complaynt herupoun in tyme cuming, nor to resort agane to us to that effect, notwithstanding ony our writings, sinisterly purchest, or to be purchest, be the said Sebastiane in the contrar ; And als charge all oure liegis, that nane of thaim molest, vex, in-

quiet, or trouble the said Johnne Faw and his cumpany, in doing of thair leffull besynes, or utherwayes, within oure realme, and in thair passing, remanyng, or away-ganging furth of the samyn, under the pane abone written ; And siclike, that ye command and charge all skipperis, maisteris, and marinaris, of all schippis within our realme, at all portis and havynnis quhair the said Johnne and his cumpany sall happen to resort and cum, to ressave him and thame thairin, upoun thair expensis, for furing of thame furth of oure realme to the partis beyon sey ; as yow, and ilk ane of thame siclike, will ansuer to ws thairupoun, and under the pane forsaide. Subscriuit with oure hand, and under oure privie seile, at Falkland, the fivetene day of Februar, and of oure regne the xxviii yeir. Subscript. per Regem. (*Ex Registro Secreti Sigilli*, vol. xiv. fol. 59.)

ACT OF PRIVY COUNCIL

'Anent some Egyptianis.'
(*Referred to at page 48.*)

Apud Ed. 10 Novembris 1636.

FORSAMEIKLE as Sir Arthure Douglas of Quhittinghame haveing late tane and apprehendit some of the vagabound and counterfut thieves and limmars, callit the Egyptians, he presentit and delyverit thame to the Shireff principall of the shirefdome of Edinburgh, within the constabularie of Hadinton, quhair they have remaind this month or thereby ; And quhairas the keeping of thame longer, within the said tolbuth, is troublesome, and burdenable to the toune of Hadinton, and fosters the saids thieves in ane opinion of impunitie, to the discouraging of the rest of that infamous byke of lawles limmars to continow in thair theivish trade ; Thairfore the Lords of Secret Counsell ordans the Shireff of Hadinton or his deputs—to pronounce doome and sentence of death aganis so manie of thir counterfoot thieves as are men, and aganis so manie of the weomen as wants children ; Ordanzing the men to be hangit, and the weomen to be drowned ; and that suche of the weomen as hes children to be scourgit throw the burgh of Hadinton, and brunt in the cheeke ; and ordans and commandis the provest and baillies of Hadinton to caus this doome be execute upoun the saids persons accordinglie.

(*Ex Registro Secreti Concilii.*)

THE WYFE OF AUCHTERMUCHTIE.

[This poem (as Lord Hailes remarks) is "a favourite among the Scots." It affords a very good specimen of the naive and rustic humour, with which our grave forefathers loved to relax the usual austerity of their deportment. It has been well preserved both by writing and tradition. In Fife and some other parts of the country it is still current as a popular ballad; and it has been twice edited from the Bannatyne MS., first by Allan Ramsay in his Evergreen, and afterwards by Lord Hailes. The former published it, according to his usual practice, with additions and alterations of his own; the latter adhered correctly to his original. The present edition is taken from the same MS. but collated with another, and, apparently, an older copy, in the Advocates' Library, from which several alterations, and the whole of the 11th stanza, have been supplied.]

1

Is Auchtermuchtie thair wond ane man,
A rach husband, as I hard tauld,
Quha weill could tippill on a cann,
And naithir havit hungir nor could:
Quhill ance it fell upon a day,
He yokkit his pleuch vpon the plaine;
Gif it be trew, as I heard say,
The day was foull for wind and raine.

2

He leusit the pleuch at the landis end,
And draife his oxin hame at evin;
Quhen he came in he lukit ben,
And saw the wif baith dry and clene
Sitand at ane fyre belk and bould,
With ane fat sowp, as I hard say:
The man being verry weit and cauld,
Between thay twa it was na play.

3

Quoth he, Quhair is my horis corne?
My ox hes naithir hay nor stray;
Dame, ye maun to the pleuch the morn,
I sall be hussy, gif I may.
Gudemman, quoth scho, content am I
To take the pleuch my day about,
Sa ye will rewill baith calvis and ky,
And all the house baith in and out.

4

Bot sen that ye will hussyakep ken,
First ye maun sift and syne maun kned;
And ay as ye gang but and ben,
Luk that the bairnis fyle not the bed;
And ay as ye gang furth and in,
Keip weill the gaislines fra the gled;
And lay ane saft wyesp to the kill;
We haif ane deir ferme on our heid.

5

The wyfe scho sat vp late at evin,
(I pray God gif hir evill to fare),
Scho kirnd the kirne, and skumd it clene,
And left the gudeman but the bledoch baire:
Than in the morning vp scho gat,
And on hir hairt laid hir disjunc,

And preind als meikle in hir lap
Micht serve thrie honest men at nune.

6

Says—Jok, will thou be maister of wark,
And thou sall haud, and I sall call;
I' se promise the ane gude new sark,
Outhir of round claith or of small.
Scho lowsit the oxin aucht or nine,
And hynt ane gad-staff in hir hand:
Vp the gudeman raise aftr syne,
And saw the wyf had done command.

7

He cawd the gaislines furth to feid,
Thair wes bot sevensum of them aw;
And by thair cumis the greedie gled,
And cleikit vp fyve, left him bot twa:
Than out he ran in all his mane,
Sune as he hard the gaisles cry;
Bot than, or he came in againe,
The calves brak louse and souk it the ky.

8

The calves and ky met in the lone,
The man ran with ane rung to red;
Than thair comes ane ill-willie kow
And brodit his buttock quhill that it bled.
Than up he tuik ane rok of tow,
And he satt down to sey the spinning;
I trow he loutit owre neir the lowe;
Quo he, this wark hes an ill beginning.

9

Than to the kirn he nixt did stoure,
And jumlit at it quhill he swat:
Quhen he had rumblit a full lang hour,
The sorrow scrap of butter he gatt.
Albeit na butter he could gett,
Yit he wes cummerit with the kirne;
And syne he het the milk owre het,
And sorrow a drap of it wald yirne.

10

Then ben thair cam ane greddie sow,
I trow he kumt hir littill thank,
For in scho schot hir ill-fard mow,
And ay scho winkit and ay scho drank.
He cleikit vp ane crukit club,
And thoct to hitt hir on the snout;
The twa gaislines the glaidis had left,
That straik dang baith thair harmis out.

11

He set his foot vpon the spyre,
To have gotten the fleashe down to the pat;
Bot he fell backward into the fyre,
And cloud his croun on the kening stock.
He hang the meikle pat on the cruk,
And with twa canns ran to the spout,
Or he wan back againe (alaik)
The fyre brunt all the boddom out.

12

Than he laid kindling to the kill,
Bot scho start all vp in ane low;
Quhat evir he heesd, quhat evir he saw,
That day he had na will to wov.
Than he gaid to take vp the bairnis,
Thocht to haif fund thame fair and clene;
The first that he gat in his armis
Was all bedirtin to the eyne.

13

The first that he gat in his armis,
It was all dirt up to the eyne;

I 3

The de'il cut aff their hats, quo he,
That fillit yow all an fow yestrein.
He traillit the foul sheets down the gait,
Thocht to haif wascint thame on side stane;
The burne was rain grit of spait,
Away fra him the sheets his tane.

14

Than up he gat on aie know head,
On the godewyfe to cry and schout;
Scho hard him as scho hard him nocht,
Bot stoutlie steird the stotts about.
Scho draif the day into the nicht,
Scho lowsit the pleuch and syne cam hame;
Scho fand all wrang that sould bene richt,
I trow the man thocht richt grit schame.

15

Quoth he, My office I forsairk,
For all the days of my lyfe;
For I wald put aie house to wraik
Gin I war twentie days godewyfe.
Quoth scho, Weill mot ye bruke your place,
For trowle I sall neir accept it;
Quoth he, Feind fall the lyaris face,
Bot yit ye may be blyth to gett it.

16

Than up scho gat aie meikle rung,
And the gudeman mald to the doir;
Quoth he, Dene, I sall hald my tung,
For an we fecht I'll gett the war.
Quoth he, quhan I forsauk my pleuch,
I taw I bot forruik my seill,
So I will to my pleuch agane,
For this house and I will nevir do weill.

ACCOUNT OF THE HIGHLAND HOST.

[In the beginning of the year 1678, (about eighteen months before the breaking out of the memorable insurrection which led to the battles of Drumclog and Bothwell-Briggs,) ten thousand Highlanders were brought down from their mountains and quartered upon the *Western Counties*, for the purpose of suppressing the field meetings and conventicles of the presbyterians. This Highland Host, as it was called, after committing many disorders, and 'cutting up' the dissipated, was ordered home again by the government,—the undisciplined Gael being found too ignorant and rapacious to observe on all occasions the proper distinction between the loyal and 'lovable' supporters of prelacy, and the contumacious and uncourty covenanters. The following account is extracted from the Woodrow MSS. in the Advocate's library: It appears to have been written by an eye-witness, but has no signature.]

"A Copie of a Letter from the Host about Glasgow."

WE arrived here about 8 or 9 dayes agoe: At our first coming we observed that the country had been much terrified with the report of it, and therefore had carried and conveyed away much of their goods; nor were

we less surprized to finde them so peaceable and submissive. At Stirling and about it, our Highlanders were somewhat disorderly in their quarters, particularly by raising fire in two or three places. Upon our way hither such of them as went with us took their free quarters liberally; and the rest who took another way to Kilpatrick, have been yet ruder in killing sheep and other cattel, and also in robbing any loose thing they found in their way. We are now all quartered in and about this town, the Highlanders only in free quarters. It would be truly a pleasant sight, were it at an ordinary weaponshaw, to see this Highland crew. You know the fashion of their wild apparel, most one of ten of them hath breeches, yet hose and shoes are their greatest need and most clever prey, and they spare not to take them every where: In so much that the committee here, and the council with you (as it is said) have ordered some thousands of pairs of shoes to be made to stanch this great spoil. As for their armes and other militarie aboutments, it is not possible for me, to describe them in writing; here you may see head-pieces and steel-bannets raised like pyramids, and such as a man would admire, they had only found in chamber boxes; targets and shields of the most odd and antique forme, and powder hornes hung in strings, garnished with beateh nails and plates of burnished brass. And truly I doubt not but a man, curious in our antiquities, might in this host finde explanations of the strange pieces of armour mentioned in our old lawes, such as bosnet, iron-hat, gorget, piasse, waist-brassers and reerbrassers, panns, leg-splents, and the like, above what any occasion in the lowlands would have afforded for several hundredes of years. Among their ensignes also, beside other singularities, the Glensow men were very remarkable, who had for their ensigne a faire bush of heath, well spread and displayed on the head of a staff, such as might have affrighted a Roman eagle. But, sir, the pleasantness of this shew is indeed sadly mixed and marred; for this unhallowed, and many of them unchristened, rabble, beside their free quarters, wherein they kill and destroy bestial at their pleasure, without regard to the commands of some of their discreeter officers, rob all that comes to hand, whi-

ther in houses or in the highwayes; so that no man may pass saifly from house to house; and their insolencie in the houses where they are quartered fills poor women and children with terror, and both men and women with great vexation. They make also excursions in tens and twelves upon other places, and especially under cloud of night, and break into houses with banded pistols and naked swords, cursing and swearing that they shall burne and kill if all be not readily given that they demand. I hear not yet of any killed by them, but severals are grievously wounded and beaten; and in effect, the poor peoples lives, goods, and chastities, are exposed to the cruelty of these strange locusts. Many of the country people have left and abandoned their houses and all to their meny. The other day I heard, that, at the burying of a child, the burial company was assaulted by some of these ruffians; and, after a great scuffle, the mortcloth was robbed off the cofine, and that notwithstanding all that their officers could do to hinder or recover it. They tell me also, that some of these savages not knowing what the coffine meant, as being a thing with them not usual, would have broken it open and searched it, if not restrained by their neighbours. In some places they beginne to exact money over and above their victuals, and also to make the people pay for dry quarters (that is, for men that they have not), and for assistant quarters (that is, where they contract and make the places they leave free pay in money, and yet the places that they lye upon do really maintain all). I am further told, that evil company is like to corrupt good manners: and that even many of the militia forces and Perthshire gentlemen beginne to take free quarters. But it is like that a little more time with our march westward will furnish much more matter of this kind; for the marches are indeed the sorest and most afflicting to the poor people, seeing that partly for the service, partly under pretences thereof, horses are forced, and many of them not restored; as likewise there is little order kept in the march, but they run out and spread themselves over the country and catch all that they can lay hold upon; for in these occasions, whatever thing they can get is clear prey, without any fear of recovery. And yet all these are

said to be but whips, wherewith this country is scourged, in respect of the scorpions intended for Ayrshire; and some of the committee being spoke to about the abuse of free quarters, said, that the quarters now taken were but transient quarters, but after the returns made about the Band, there would be destructive quarters ordered against its refusers. Yet I would not have you think that all those Highlanders behave after the same manner. No, there is a difference both among the men and leaders. And the M. of Athol's men are generally commended both as the best appointed and best behaved. Neither do I hear of any great hurt as yet done by the E. of Murray's men in Cathcart parish: but all of them take free quarters, and that at their own discretion. The standing forces have hitherto carried pretty regularly, and appear very ready on all occasions to restrain and correct the Highlanders' insolencies; of which I could give you several instances, but when these men who were lately this peoples only persecutors are now commended by them for sobriety, and in effect are looked on by many of them as their guardians and protectors, you may easily judge what is the others' department. Feb. 1, 1678.

(Woodrow MSS. 4to. vol. xcix, 29.)

EXTRACT

From "A Mock Poem upon the Expedition of the Highland Host;" by COL. CLELAND. Edit. 1697.

When this was done their ranks were broken;
Some ran for dring their drought to slocken:
Some were chasing hens and cocks,
Some were loosing horse from yocks;
Some with snapwarks, some with hoves,
Were charging rears of toops and ewes;
Their stomachs so on edge were set
That all was fish came in the nett;
Trumpets sounded, skeens were glancing,
Some were *Tonald Coooper* dancing:
Some cryed, here to her Laird and Lady,
Some to her mother and her daddie,
And Sir King too—if the Laird please—
Then up with plaids
Some were stealing, some were riveing,
Some were wives and lasses grieving:
Some for cold did chack and chatter;
Some from plaids were wringing water;
Yes to be short, moe different postures,
Than's sewed on hangings, beds and bol-
stures;
Moe various actings modes and stances
Than's read in Poems or Romances.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

THE DESOLATE VILLAGE.

A Reverie.

SWEET village! on thy pastoral hill
 Arrayed in sunlight sad and still,
 As if beneath the harvest-moon,
 Thy noiseless homes were sleeping!
 It is the merry month of June,
 And creatures all of air and earth
 Should now their holiday of mirth
 With dance and song be keeping.
 But loveliest Village! silent Thou,
 As cloud wreathed o'er the Morning's brow,
 When light is faintly breaking,
 And Midnight's voice afar is lost,
 Like the wailing of a wearied ghost,
 The shades of earth forsaking.

'Tis not the Day to Scotia dear,
 A summer Sabbath mild and clear!
 Yet from her solemn burial-ground,
 The small Kirk-Steeple looks around,
 Enshrouded in a calm
 Profound as fills the house of prayer,
 E'er from the band of virgins fair
 Is breathed the choral psalm.
 A sight so steeped in perfect rest
 Is slumbering not on nature's breast
 In the smiles of earthly day!
 'Tis a picture floating down the sky,
 By fancy framed in years gone by,
 And mellowing in decay!
 That thought is gone!—the Village still
 With deepening quiet crowns the hill,
 Its low green roofs are there!
 In soft material beauty beaming,
 As in the silent hour of dreaming
 They hung embowered in air!

Is this the Day when to the mountains
 The happy shepherds go,
 And bathe in sparkling pools and fountains
 Their flocks made white as snow?
 Hath gentle girl and gamesome boy,
 With meek-eyed mirth or shouting joy,
 Gone tripping up the brae?
 Till far behind their town doth stand,
 Like an image in sweet Faery Land,
 When the Elves have flown away!
 —O sure if sought of human breath
 Within these walls remain,
 Thus deepening in the hush of death,
 'Tis but some melancholy crone,
 Who sits with solemn eyes
 Beside the cradle all alone,
 And lulls the infant with a strain
 Of Scotia's ancient melodies.

What if these homes be filled with life?
 'Tis the sultry month of June,
 And when the cloudless sun rides high
 Above the glittering air of noon,

All nature sinks oppress,—
 And labour shuts his weary eye
 In the mid-day hour of rest.
 Yet let the soul think what it will,
 Most dirge-like mourns that moorland still!
 How different once it flow!
 When with a dreamy motion gliding
 Mid its green fields in love abiding,
 Or leaping o'er the mossy linn,
 And sporting with its own wild din,
 Seemed water changed to snow.
 Beauty lies spread before my sight,
 But grief-like shadows dim its light,
 And all the scene appears
 Like a church-yard when a friend is dying,
 In more than earthly stillness lying,
 And glimmering through our tears!

Sweet Woodburn! like a cloud that name
 Comes floating o'er my soul!
 Although thy beauty still survive,
 One look hath changed the whole.
 The gayest village of the gay
 Beside thy own sweet river,
 Wert Thou on week or sabbath day!
 So bathed in the blue light of joy,
 As if no trouble could destroy
 Peace deemed to last for ever.
 Now in the shadow of thy trees,
 On a green plat, sacred to thy breeze,
 The fell Plague-Spirit grimly lies
 And broods, as in despite
 Of uncomplaining lifelessness,
 On the troops of silent shades that press
 Into the church-yard's cold recess,
 From that region of delight.

Last summer, from the school-house door,
 When the glad play-bell was ringing,
 What shoals of bright-haired elves would
 pour,
 Like small waves racing on the shore,
 In dance of rapture singing!
 Oft by yon little silver well,
 Now sleeping in neglected cell,
 The village maid would stand,
 While resting on the mossy bank,
 With freshened soul the traveller drank
 The cold cup from her hand;
 Haply some soldier from the war,
 Who would remember long and far
 That Lily of the Land.
 And still the green is bright with flowers,
 And dancing through the sunny hours
 Like blossoms from enchanted bowers
 On a sudden wafted by,
 Obedient to the changeful air
 And proudly feeling they are fair
 Glide bird and butterfly.
 But where is the tiny hunter-runt
 That revelled on wild dance and shout
 Against their airy prey?

Alas ! the fearless linnet sings,
 And the bright insect folds its wings
 Upon the dewy flower that springs
 Above these children's clay.
 And if to you deserted well
 Some solitary maid,
 As she was wont at eve, should go—
 There silent as her shade
 She stands awhile—then east and slow
 Walks home, afraid to think
 Of many a loudly-laughing ring
 That dipped their pitchers in that spring,
 And lingered round its brink.

On—on—through woful images
 My spirit holds her way !
 Death in each drooping flower she sees ;
 And oft the momentary breeze
 Is singing of decay.

—So high upon the slender bough
 Why hangs the crow her nest ?
 All undisturbed her young have lain
 This spring-time in their nest,
 Nor as they flew on tender wing
 E'er scared the cross-bow or the sling,
 Tame as the purpling turtle-dove,
 That walks serene in human love,
 The magpie hops from door to door ;
 And the hare, not fearing to be seen,
 Doth gambol on the village green
 As on the lonely moor.
 The few sheep wandering by the brook
 Have all a dim neglected look,
 Oft bleating in their dumb distress
 On her their sweet dead shepherdess.
 The horses, pasturing through the range
 Of gateless fields, all common now,
 Free from the yoke enjoy the change,
 To them a long long Sabbath-sleep !
 Then gathering in one thunderous band,
 Across the wild they sweep,
 Tossing the long hair from their eyes—
 Till far the living whirlwind flies
 As o'er the desert sand.

From human let their course be free—
 No lonely angler down the lea
 Invites the zephyr's breath—
 And the beggar far away doth roam,
 Preferring in his hovel-home
 His penury to death.
 On that green hedge a scattered row
 Now weather-stained—once white as snow—
 Of garments that have long been spread,
 And now belong unto the dead,
 Shroud-like proclaim to every eye,
 " This is no place for Chazity ! "

O blest are ye ! unthinking creatures !
 Rejoicing in your lowly natures
 Ye dance round human tombs !
 Where gladdier sings the mounting lark
 Than o'er the churchyard dim and dark !
 Or where, than on the churchyard wall,
 From the wild rose-tree brighter fall
 Her transitory blooms !
 What is it to that lovely sky
 If all her worshippers should die !
 As happily her splendours play
 On the grave where human forms decay,

As o'er the dewy turf of Mora,
 Where the virgin, like a woodland Fay
 On wings of joy was borne.
 —Even now a soft and silvery haze
 Hill—Village—Tree—is steeping
 In the loveliness of happier days,
 Ere rose the voice of weeping !
 When incense-fires from every hearth,
 To heaven stole beautiful from earth.

Sweet spire ! that crown'd the house of God !
 To thee my spirit turns,
 While through a cloud the softened light
 On thy yellow dial burns.

Ah, me ! my beam only bleeds
 To see the deep-worn path that leads
 Unto that open gate !
 In silent blackness it doth tell
 How oft thy little sullen bell
 Hath o'er the village tolled its knell,
 In beauty desolate.
 Oft, wandering by myself at night,
 Such spire hath risen in softened light
 Before my gladdened eyes,—
 And as I looked around to see
 The village sleeping quietly
 Beneath the quiet skies,—
 Methought that mid her stars so bright,
 The moon in placid mirth,
 Was not in heaven a holier sight
 Than God's house on the earth.
 Sweet image ! transient in my soul !
 That very bell hath ceased to toll
 When the grave receives its dead—
 And the last time it slowly swung,
 'T was by a dying stripling rung
 O'er the sexton's hoary head !
 All silent now from cot or hall
 Comes forth the sable funeral !
 The Pastor is not there !
 For yon sweet Manse now empty stands,
 Nor in its walls will holier hands
 Be e'er held up in prayer.

N.

ITALY.

EARTH'S loveliest land I behold in my
 dreams,
 All gay in the summer, and drest in sun-
 beams—
 In the radiance which breaks on the purified
 sense
 Of the thin-bodied ghosts that are fitting
 from hence.
 The blue distant Alps, and the blue distant
 main,
 Bound the far varied harvests of Lombardy's
 plain :
 The rivers are winding in blue gleaming
 lines
 Round the Ruins of Old—round the Hill of
 the Vines—
 Round the grove of the orange—the green
 myrtle bowers—
 By Castle and Convent—by Town and by
 Tower.

Through the bright summer azure the north
breezes blow,
That are cooled in their flight over regions
of snow.

Or westerly gales, on whose wandering wings
The wave of the ocean its silver dew flings.
Bright, bright is the prospect, and seeming
the eoil

With the blessings of promise—with corn,
wine, and oil,
Where the oppress, and myrtle, and orange
combine,

And around the dark olive gay wanders the
vine.

Woods leafy and rustling o'ershadow the
scene,

With their forest of branches and changes
of green ;

And glossy their greenness where sunshine
is glistening,

And mellow their music where silence is
listening,

And the streamlets glide through them with
glacier hue,

And the sky sparkles o'er them with heaven-
lier blue.

How deep and how rich is the blush of the
rose,

That spreading and wild o'er the wilderness
grows !

What waftures of incense are filling the
air !

For the bloom of a summer unbounded is
there.

The soft and voluptuous Spirit of Love
Rules in earth and in ether, below and a-
bove,

In the blue of the sky, in the glow of the
beam,

In the sigh of the wind, and the flow of the
stream !

At his presence the rose takes a reddier
bloom,

And the vine-bud exhales a more wanton
perfume ;

E'en the hoarse surging billows have sof-
tened their roar,

And break with a musical fall on the shore.

But less in this Eden has young Love his
dwelling,

Than in that virgin's bosom, wild throbbing
and swelling,

That bounds 'gainst her zone, and will not
be repress,

Whilst full of the god that possesses her
breast.

Love has kindled her cheek with his deep
crimson dye,

And lit with his radiance her eloquent eye,
Ever restless and changing, and darkening,
and brightening,

Now melting in dew, and now flashing in
lightning.

O, black is her eye,—black intensely ; and
black

Are the ringlets luxuriant that float down
her back ;

And equally sweet is her lip of the rose,
When it opens in smiles, or in silence re-
poses.

O sooner the bird shall escape from the snare
Of the fowler, than man from her thral-
dom—beware !

If you meet but one glance of her magical
eye,

From your bosom for ever must liberty fly !

Let there breathe but one thrilling and all-
very tone

From the siren—your heart is no longer
your own.

VERSES

*Recited by the Author, in a Party of
his Countrymen, on the Day that the
News arrived of our final Victory
over the French.*

Now, Britain, let thy cliffs o' snow
Look prouder o'er the merled main !
The bastard Eagle bears awa,
And ne'er shall ee thy shores again,

Bang up thy banners sad an' riven !
The day's thy ain—the guise is even !
Weel may thy lions bow the heaven,
An' turn their grey beards to the sun.

Lang hae I bragged o' thine an' thee,
Even when thy back was at the wa' ;
An' thou my proudest sang sail be,
As lang as I hae breath to draw.

Gas hang the coof wha boled wae,
An' cauldness o'er thy efferts shrow,
Lauding the fellist, steamest fae,
Frae hall's blank pouch that ever flew.

O he-might conquer idiot kings,
These bars in nature's onward plan ;
But fool is he the yoke that flings
O'er the unshackled soul of man.

'Tis like a cobweb o'er the lucast,
That binds the giant while asleep,
Or curtain hung upon the east,
The day-light from the world to keep !

Come, jaw your glasses to the brim !
Gar in the air your bonnets flee !
“ Our gude auld king ! ” I'll drink to him,
As lang as I hae drink to see.

This to the arms that wall uphere
The Flax and Shamrock blessing will—
An' here's the busy plant of yere,
“ The Thistle o' the Nation's hill ! ”

Auld Scotland !—land o' hearts the wale !
Hard thou hast fought, and bravely won ;
Lang may thy lions paw the gale,
And turn their dewlaps to the sun !

REVIEW OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

A Series of Discourses on the Christian Revelation, viewed in Connexion with the Modern Astronomy. By THOMAS CHALMERS, D. D. 8vo. pp. 276. Third edition. Glasgow, Smith & Son; Edinburgh, William Whyte; 1817.

ONE of the worst features of the present times is the separation that has taken place between science and religion: During the early part of the history of English literature, we find great talents combined with a sublime piety, and the most enlightened philosophy with a fervent and glowing devotion; and they who explained to us the system of nature, defended the cause, and venerated the authority, of revelation. The piety of Milton, of Boyle, and of Newton, was not less remarkable than the superiority of their other endowments; and it will ever be regarded as a striking circumstance, that those giant minds, who have exalted the glory of English literature above that of all other nations, and whom we are accustomed to consider as an honour to the species itself, were distinguished above all other men for their habitual and solemn veneration of religion.

Since the age of these distinguished writers the connexion between science and religion seems gradually to have been becoming less intimate. We are unwilling to arrange ourselves with those gloomy individuals who are found in every age to declaim against the peculiar depravity of their own times; but it is impossible not to see, that the profound reverence for sacred things, which distinguished the illustrious characters of a former age, is not now the characteristic of those by whom science is promoted, and knowledge extended. An enlarged acquaintance with the works of nature is no longer the assured token of that deep-toned and solemn piety, which elevated the character, and purified the manners, of the fathers of our philosophy. Science is now seen without religion, and religion without science; and the consequence is, that the sacred system of revelation, however

Vol. I.

magnificent and beautiful in itself, is in danger of being considered as fitted only to be the creed of less enlightened minds, and of falling in some measure, from this unfortunate opinion, to produce those important effects upon mankind, for the accomplishment of which it is so pre-eminently adapted.

The volume before us is calculated, we think, in no common degree, to counteract this unhappy declension. It is written with an enthusiasm and an eloquence, to which we scarcely know where to find any parallel; and there is, at the same time, so constant a reference to the improved philosophy of modern times, that it possesses an air of philosophical grandeur and truth, which the productions of a more popular and declamatory eloquence can never attain. Were the taste of the author equal to his genius, and his judgment always sufficient to control the fervours of his imagination, the labours of Dr Chalmers could not fail to be infinitely beneficial. But here lies our author's chief deficiency. His genius is of the kind that is marked by its peculiarities as much as by its superiority; and this circumstance, we think, is the more to be regretted, as there is manifestly no necessary connexion between the excellencies and defects by which his works are characterised. The natural relations of the intellectual powers might have been more correctly maintained in his mind, while all his faculties continued to be exerted with the same constancy and vigour,—and the same originality and invention might have been combined with greater dignity, and more uniform elegance.—We have therefore but a short process to institute, in order to admit our readers into a knowledge of the character of our author's mind. In our intercourse with the world, we often meet with persons in whom what we call *genius* predominates over every other feature; and who, though not superior to their fellows in taste, judgment, or understanding, are yet infinitely superior to them in the capacity of forming striking combinations of ideas, or in the endowments of an excur-

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sive or elevated imagination. This is precisely the case with the author whose works we are considering. Genius in him shines paramount to every other quality of his mind. In every page of the volume, which has suggested these observations, there is something bold, original, and striking; and yet there is every now and then some peculiarity of expression that offends a cultivated taste, or some wildness of sentiment that excites astonishment and wonder rather than sympathy.

The author of these discourses is so well known to our readers in this part of the island, that it would be quite superfluous on their account to say any thing of his private history; but for the sake of our readers in the south, we suspect it may be necessary to tell, in a single sentence, who Dr Chalmers is, and how he has attained that uncommon celebrity he now enjoys among us.

Till within these few years, Dr Chalmers was scarcely known beyond the circle of his personal friends. He obtained, at an early period, a living in an obscure part of the country; and being naturally of an inquisitive and active disposition, he devoted himself, in the leisure of his professional engagements, to an ardent prosecution of scientific knowledge. Accident, according to report, led him, some few years ago, to examine with more than ordinary attention the foundations of the Christian faith; and as the result of his investigations was a deep impression of the strength of the evidence by which it is supported, he now brought to the illustration and defence of religion a double portion of the enthusiasm he had already devoted to science. Hitherto he had been attached to that party in our church which aspires to the title of moderate or liberal—he now connected himself with those who wish to be thought more strict and apostolic. His reputation as a preacher, as might have been expected from the warmth and fervour of his eloquence, began now rapidly to extend itself; and the whole country was soon filled with the fame of his eloquence and his merits. The reputation he had thus acquired was not diminished but enhanced, by his occasional appearances in the congregations of this metropolis. His speeches last year in the General Assembly of the Scottish Church, and his sermons before the

Lord High Commissioner and for the sons of the clergy, made known his merits to most of the eminent men in this part of the kingdom, and will be long remembered in this quarter as the most brilliant display of eloquence and of genius which we have ever had the good fortune to witness.

Such is our author's brief and simple story, previous to the publication of the present volume. We must not induce our readers, however, to believe that the public were as yet all agreed in their opinion of Dr Chalmers' merits. His former publications had been distinguished rather by a fertility of imagination than by a deliberate and cool judgment. He had been accustomed, it was said, to take up an opinion as it were by accident, and to defend it with enthusiastic ingenuity and energy, though at the same time he was overlooking something so obvious and palpable, that the most simple novice might detect the fallacy of his argument. He had written on the national resources, and had attributed every thing to agriculture, demonstrating our perfect independence of the luxuries of trade and commerce. He had published a treatise on the Evidences of Christianity, and had denied that the internal evidence was of any importance. Some detached sermons which he had given to the public had been deformed by an austerity at which the polite world revolted; and it was thought that the new work which was announced would be found obnoxious to the same censures. With respect to this work; now that it has been published, we conceive that there can be but one opinion—that it is a piece of splendid and powerful eloquence, injured indeed by many peculiarities of expression, by provincial idioms and colloquial barbarisms, but, at the same time, more free from the author's peculiar blemishes than any of his former productions, and forming, notwithstanding its many faults, a work likely to excite almost universal admiration. That it would be improved, we think, every one will likewise allow, were there less sameness of sentiment and of expression—were there fewer words of the author's own invention—were the purity of the English language, in short, as much attended to as its power and energy. If the author would only cultivate his taste as much as his imagination, he

might do more for the cause he has at heart, the cause of Christianity, than any other person with whom we are acquainted.

The principal object of the discourses in the present volume is to prepare the mind for the direct evidence of Christianity—to do away that presumption which is supposed to exist *a priori* against this astonishing dispensation—to shew the infidel that there are things in nature hardly less wonderful than the redemption of man—and that, amazing as is the scheme of revelation, it is yet in perfect analogy with the known attributes of God. Men of science, who see the operations of nature conducted according to uniform laws, and without the visible interference of an external agent, are apt to take up a prepossession against any system of miracles; and when philosophy unfolds the volume of creation, and the understanding expatiates delighted on the laws and motions of planetary worlds, it is natural for us to imagine that science has outstript the discoveries of religion, and that the records of the gospel are thrown into the shade by the triumphs of reason. “These are the prejudices which lie at the foundation of natural science;” and our author has exposed them with an ability and a success scarcely inferior to that of Butler himself, and in a manner certainly “better adapted to the taste and literature of the times.” He shews, that the faith of Christians is in reality something noble and sublime; and that, “elevated as the wisdom of him may be, who has ascended the heights of science, and poured the light of demonstration over the most wondrous of nature’s mysteries—that even out of his own principles it may be proved, how much more elevated is the wisdom of him who sits with the docility of a little child to his Bible, and casts down to its authority all his lofty imaginations.”

The limits of a publication of this kind prevent us from entering into a minute examination of the work before us; and as we are sensible that we could do no justice to an analysis of these discourses, without allotting to it a greater space than is consistent with the plan of our publication, we shall conclude these general hints by recommending the volume, in the

strongest manner, to the perusal of our readers. To Dr Chalmers we would earnestly recommend, in his future productions, to avoid that eccentric phraseology, and that occasional uncouthness and vulgarity of expression, which cannot but counteract, in a very considerable degree, the effect of his enthusiastic and touching eloquence. His object is a style “adapted to the taste and literature of the times;” and the common defence of popular theologians, that they write to impress the heart and the understanding, and not to sooth or gratify a fastidious taste, will not avail Dr Chalmers, who writes expressly for the literary world, and who must be sensible that it cannot benefit his cause to appear before them with these very blemishes which are most revolting to their peculiar habits and associations.

Upon the whole, we are convinced that the effect of these discourses must be great and salutary. They will tend to shew the worshippers of reason and of science, that Christianity is in reality something transcendently sublime, interesting, and valuable; and to convince the world in general that a warm and habitual piety is really one of the characteristics of superior minds, while scepticism arises from an incapacity of profound emotion or grand conception. If the world were once convinced of this, the associations of the young and the gay would no longer interest them in favour of infidelity. Religion would become again universally loved, honoured, and practised; and the English character, instead of being gradually degraded to the diminutive model which is held out by the most flippant and unprincipled of our neighbours, would probably revert with unexpected celerity to its ancient style of grandeur and simplicity. It is only necessary that genius, which has been so long enlisted, throughout all Europe, on the side of infidelity, should again rouse itself in the cause of religion, to accomplish so desirable a revolution in the opinions and character of men. If a few great and original minds, like that of Dr Chalmers, should arise to advocate the cause of Christianity, it would no longer be the fashion to exalt the triumphs of reason and of science, in order to throw contempt on the discoveries of the gospel.

Harold the Dauntless; a Poem. By the Author of "The Bridal of Triermain." 1817. Constable & Co. pp. 200.

THIS is an elegant, sprightly, and delightful little poem, written apparently by a person of taste and genius, but who either possesses not the art of forming and combining a plot, or regards it only as a secondary and subordinate object. In this we do not widely differ from him, but are sensible, meantime, that many others will; and that the rambling and uncertain nature of the story, will be the principal objection urged against the poem before us, as well as the greatest bar to its extensive popularity. The character of Mr Scott's romances has effected a material change in our mode of estimating poetical compositions. In all the estimable works of our former poets, from Spenser down to Thomson and Cowper, the plot seems to have been regarded only as good or bad, in proportion to the advantages which it furnished for poetical description; but of late years, one half, at least, of the merit of a poem is supposed to rest on the interest and management of the tale.

We speak not exclusively of that numerous class of readers, who peruse and estimate a new poem, or any poem, with the same feelings and precisely on the same principles as they do a novel. It is natural for such persons to judge only by the effect produced by the incidents; but we have often been surprised that some of our literary critics, even those to whose judgment we were most disposed to bow, should lay so much stress on the probability and fitness of every incident which the fancy of the poet may lead him to embellish in the course of a narrative poem, a great proportion of which must necessarily be descriptive. The author of *Harold the Dauntless* seems to have judged differently from these critics, and in the lightsome rapid strain of poetry which he has chosen, we feel no disposition to quarrel with him on account of the easy and careless manner in which he has arranged his story. In many instances, he undoubtedly shows the hand of a master, and (as the director-general of our artists would say,) "has truly studied and seized the essential character of the antique—his attitudes and draperies are unconfined, and varied with

demi-tints, possessing much of the lustre, freshness, and spirit of Rembrandt. The airs of his heads have grace, and his distances something of the lightness and keeping of Salvator Rosa. The want of harmony and union in the carnations of his females, is a slight objection, and there is likewise a meagre *sheetiness* in his contrasts of *chiaroscuro*; but these are all redeemed by the felicity, execution, and master traits, distinguishable in his grouping, by which, like Murillo or Caravaggio, he sometimes raises from out the rubbish masses of a colossal trifle."

But the work has another quality; and though its leading one, we do not know whether to censure or approve it. It is an avowed imitation, and therefore loses part of its value, if viewed as an original production. On the other hand, regarded solely as an imitation, it is one of the closest and most successful, without being either a caricature or a parody, that perhaps ever appeared in any language. Not only is the general manner of Scott ably maintained throughout, but the very structure of the language, the associations, and the train of thinking, appear to be precisely the same. It was once alleged by some writers, that it was impossible to imitate Mr Scott's style, but it is now fully proved to the world, that there is no style more accessible to imitation; for it will be remarked, (laying parodies aside, which any one may execute), that Mr Davidson and Miss Holford, as well as Lord Byron and Wordsworth, each in one instance, have all, without, we believe, intending it, imitated him with considerable closeness. The author of the *Poetic Mirror* has given us one specimen of his most polished and tender style, and another still more close of his rapid and careless manner; but all of them fall greatly short of *The Bridal of Triermain*, and the poem now before us. We are sure the author will laugh heartily in his sleeve, at our silliness and want of perception, when we confess to him that we never could open either of these works, and peruse his pages for two minutes with attention, and at the same time divest our minds of the idea that we were engaged in an early or experimental work of that great master. That they are generally inferior to the works of Mr Scott, in

vigour and interest, admits not of dispute; still they have many of his wild and softer beauties; and if they fail to be read and admired, we shall not on that account think the better of the taste of the age.

With regard to the former of these poems, we have often heard, from what may be deemed good authority, a very curious anecdote, which we shall give merely as such without vouching for the truth of it. When the article entitled 'The Inferno of Altisidora,' appeared in the Edinburgh Annual Register for 1809, it will be remembered that the last fragment contained in that singular production, is the beginning of the romance of Triermain. Report says, that the fragment was *not meant to be an imitation of Scott, but of Coleridge*; and that for this purpose the author borrowed both the name of the hero and the scene from the then unpublished poem of Christabelle; and further,—that so few had ever seen the manuscript of that poem, that amongst these few the author of Triermain could not be mistaken. Be that as it may, it is well known, that on the appearance of this fragment in the Annual Register, it was universally taken for an imitation of Walter Scott, and never once of Coleridge. The author perceiving this, and that the poem was well received, instantly set about drawing it out into a regular and finished work; for shortly after, it was announced in the papers, and continued to be so for three long years; the author, as may be supposed, having during that period his hands occasionally occupied with heavier metal. In 1813 the poem was at last produced, avowedly and manifestly as an imitation of Mr Scott; and it may easily be observed, that from the 27th page onward, it becomes much more decidedly like the manner of that poet than it is in the preceding part which was published in the Register, and which undoubtedly does bear some similarity to Coleridge in the poetry, and more especially in the rhythm—as, c. g.

'Harpers must huff him to his rest,
With the slow tunes he loves the best,
Till sleep sink down upon his breast,
Like the dew on a summer hill.'

'It was the dawn of an autumn day,
The sun was struggling with frost-fog gray,

That, like a silvery crape, was spread
Round Skiddaw's dim and distant head.'

'What time, or where
Did she pass, that maid with the heavenly
brow,

With her look so sweet, and her eyes so fair,
And her graceful step, and her angel air,
And the eagle plume on her dark-brown hair,
That pass'd from my bower e'en now?'

'Although it fell as faint and shy
As bashful maiden's half-formed sigh,
When she thinks her lover near.'

'And light they fell, as when earth receives,
In morn of frost, the withered leaves—
That drop when no winds blow.'

'Or if 'twas but an airy thing,
Such as fantastic slumbers bring,
Framed from the rainbow's varying dyes,
Or fading tints of western skies.'

These, it will be seen, are not exactly Coleridge, but they are precisely such an imitation of Coleridge as, we conceive, another poet of our acquaintance would write: on that ground, we are inclined to give some credit to the anecdote here related, and from it we leave our readers to guess, as we have done, who is the author of the poems in question.

It may be argued by the capricious, and those of slow-motioned souls, that this proves nothing; but we assure them it proves all that we intend or desire to have proved; for we think the present mode of endeavouring to puzzle people's brains about the authors of every work that appears extremely amusing. It has likewise a very beneficial and delightful consequence, in as much as it makes many persons to be regarded as great authors, and looked up to as extraordinary characters, who otherwise would never have been distinguished in the slightest degree from their fellows. We shall only say, once for all, that whenever we are admitted behind the curtain, we shall never blab the secrets of the green-room, for we think there is neither honour nor discretion in so doing; but when things are left for us to guess at, we may sometimes blunder on facts that will astonish these mist-enveloped authors, as well as their unfathomable printer, who we think may soon adopt for a sign-board or motto, Mr Murray's very appropriate and often-repeated postscript; *set No admittance behind the scenes.* And, at all events, if we should some-

times mistake, it will only be productive of a little more amusement in the discussion of the literary capabilities of some new individuals, with their styles and manners, even down to the composition of a law paper.

We cannot give long extracts from every work which we propose to notice, but we have no hesitation in saying, that the poem of Harold is throughout easy, and flowing; never tame, and often exhibits great spirit. But it is apparent that the author had no plan in going on, farther than the very affected and unnatural one, now rendered trite by repetition, of making his hero wed his page, who turns out to be a lady in disguise. All the rest of the poem seems to run on at mere random. The introduction begins with the following stanzas:—

“There is a mood of mind we all have known,
On drowsy eve, or dark and lowering day,
When the tired spirits lose their sprightly
tone,
And nought can chase the lingering hours
away.

Dull on our soul falls Fancy’s dazzling ray,
And Wisdom holds his steadier torch in vain,
Obscured the painting seems, mistuned the
lay,

Nor dare we of our listless load complain,
For who for sympathy may seek that cannot
tell of pain?

Ennui!—or, as our mothers call’d thee,
Spleen!

To thee we owe full many a rare device;—
Thine is the sheaf of painted cards, I ween,
The rolling billiard-ball, the rattling dice,
The turning lathe for framing gimcrack nice;
The amateur’s blotch’d pallet thou may’st
claim,

Retort, and airpump, threatening frogs and
mice,

(Murders disguised by philosophic name,)
And much of trifling grave, and much of
buxom game.

Then of the books, to catch thy drowsy glance
Compiled, what bard the catalogue may quote!
Plays, poems, novels, never read but once;—
But not of such the tale fair Edgeworth wrote,
That bears thy name, and is thine antidote;
And not of such the strain my Thomson sung,
Delicious dreams inspiring by his note,
What time to Indolence his harp he strung;
Oh! might my lay be rank’d that happier
list among!”

The dry humour, and sort of half Spenserian cast of these, as well as all the other introductory stanzas in the poem, we think excellent, and scarcely outdone by any thing of the kind that we know of; and there are few parts, taken separately, that have not something attractive to the lover of natural poetry, while any one page

will shew how extremely it is like to the manner of Scott.

A professed imitator will not, we presume, value himself much on his pretensions to originality, else we might perhaps give the author some offence by remarking, that the demeanour of Harold in the fane of St Cuthbert is too like that of Wat o’ the Cleuch in Jedburgh abbey, to be viewed as purely incidental; and it is not a little singular, that he should have judged it meet to borrow from another imitator, who, in that style and instance, is so decidedly his inferior.

We shall only add, that Harold the Dauntless is a fit and reputable companion to Triermain. The poetry is more equal, and has more of nature and human character; yet when duly perused and reflected on, it scarcely leaves on the mind, perhaps, so distinct and powerful an impression.

Armata. A Fragment. London, Murray, 1817. pp. 210.

It is a remarkable fact, that no crisis of our political existence, during the last half century, has called forth so few of our pamphleteer speculators on statistics as the present;—when the unexampled difficulties which have oppressed our agriculture, our manufactures, and our commerce,—difficulties from whose operation no one amongst us has been exempt, and whose extent no one amongst us can define, present so wide a field to our *soi-disant* philosophers and statesmen. Whether this silence be owing to a want of ability, or a want of inclination to encounter a subject of such magnitude, it is not now our business to determine. Two plans, however, have been brought forward, which we are assured will relieve us from all our embarrassments. Major Cartwright prescribes for us universal suffrage and annual parliaments, while a distinguished member of the Legislature is not less sanguine in his expectation, that our farmers and our manufacturers will find a remedy for all their distresses in—the plains of South America! The subject having been thus neglected, it was with not less pleasure than surprise, that on reading the tract before us, we found that the author—whoever he be—developes in a masterly manner the causes which have brought us into our present alarming situation, and explains the measures which, he thinks, ought to be adopted to work out our deliverance.

It will doubtless be asked, how it is that such subjects should be treated of under the title of *ARMATA*?—and it is therefore necessary that we should inform our readers, that *ARMATA* is the name of a country placed by the author in an imaginary world; in depicting which country, he gives a most eloquent and animated description of the policy of Great Britain, tracing the history of her distresses from the beginning of the contest with America downwards, through the revolutionary war with France to the present day. How far it was necessary to resort to a new world, in order to find a vehicle for the conveyance of his ideas on the distresses of Great Britain, may be matter of doubt; but be that as it may, the author has displayed, in the investigation of the question, deep knowledge of his subject, and has discussed it in a style of brilliant eloquence, tempered, however, with a degree of moderation, too seldom witnessed in works on the political topics of the present day. The following character of Mr Fox, is a fair specimen of the author's powers of writing.

“My confidence in this opinion is the more unshaken, from the recollection that I held it at the very time, in common with a man whom, to have known as I did, would have repaid all the toils and perils you have undergone.—I look upon you, indeed, as a benighted traveller, to have been cast upon our shores after this great light was set.—Never was a being gifted with an understanding so perfect, nor aided by a perception which suffered nothing to escape from its dominion.—He was never known to omit any thing which in the slightest degree could affect the matter to be considered, nor to confound things at all distinguishable, however apparently the same; and his conclusions were always so luminous and convincing, that you might as firmly depend upon them as when substances in nature lie before you in the palpable forms assigned to them from the foundation of the world.—Such were his qualifications for the office of a statesman; and his profound knowledge, always under the guidance of the sublime simplicity of his heart, softening, without unnerving the giant strength of his intellect, gave a character to his eloquence which I shall not attempt to describe, knowing nothing by which it may be compared.” pp. 86—88.

It has been said, and we believe without having been contradicted, that this work is the production of a very eloquent and distinguished member of the Legislature, who has filled a large

space in the political world during the last thirty years; and although in the second edition of *Armata*, which is now before us, the author does not avow himself, yet, as it is a work which even the eminent person alluded to might be proud to acknowledge, and as it speaks the same sentiments which he has always maintained, we are inclined to give credit to the rumour which has named him the author of this spirited and able performance.

Stories for Children; selected from the History of England, from the Conquest to the Revolution. 18mo. pp. 186. 1817. Second edition, London, Murray.

PARTIAL as we confess ourselves to be to the pleasing recollections of our early years, we must admit that the little folks of this generation have many advantages which we did not enjoy. The juvenile library of our day was of limited extent; and though amply furnished with *Mother Bunch*, &c. it could not boast of the admirable productions of a Mrs Barbauld, a Miss Edgeworth, and a number of other eminent writers, who have not disclaimed the humble, but most useful, task of teaching “the young idea how to shoot.” The manner in which these meritorious authors have combined instruction with entertainment, we consider as one of the great improvements of modern times. History is now rendered “as attractive as a fairy tale,” and our little masters and misses may be as familiar with the characters of real life as their predecessors were with *Blue Beard* and *Little Red Riding Hood*.

We have been particularly gratified with the little book which has given rise to these reflections. The author has expressed so shortly, and so well, the reasons which led him to compose these charming stories for his own family, and induced him to favour the world with them, that we think our readers will be pleased to see them in his own words.

“Every person has, I suppose, felt the difficulty of paying the contribution of *stories* which children are so anxious to levy. I happen to have one little girl whose curiosity and shrewdness have frequently embarrassed me; I have found that *actions* led to inquiries which it was not easy to satisfy, and that *supernatural* fictions (such as *fairy tales*) vitiated the young taste, and disgusted it from its more substantial nourishment, while the *actions* of common life,

(such as histories of Jenny and Tommy,—of dolls and tops) though very useful as *lessons*, had not enough of the marvellous to arrest the attention to the degree necessary for *amusement*. These considerations led me to tell my little girl the following stories, which I found to amuse her in a very high degree, without having any of the disadvantages which result from relations merely fictitious. My principal object was not to *instruct* but to *amuse*, and I therefore did not attempt any thing like a course of history; but as I have, in general, adhered to historical fact, and departed from it only (when history was doubtful or silent) in favour of some popular prejudices, whatever lasting impression may be made on the young mind, will be, on the whole, consistent with truth, and conducive to its further and more substantial improvement."

As a specimen of the happy manner in which our author unites the utmost elegance of language, with that simplicity which adapts itself to the tenderest years, we select his story of Wat Tyler :

WAT TYLER.

Richard II. born 1366.—Died 1380.—
Reigned 22 years.

"There are often great riots in England, which are sometimes very dangerous, for when mobs assemble, nobody knows what such a great crowd of foolish ignorant people may do: but one time, about four hundred years ago, there happened the most dangerous riots that ever were known, for all the country people armed themselves with clubs, and staves, and scythes, and pitchforks, and they rose in such great numbers that they drove away all the king's soldiers, and got possession of the city of London.

"The chief leaders of this mob were not gentlemen nor soldiers, but common peasants and tradesmen, who were called after the names of their trades, Wat Tyler, Hob Carter, and Tom Miller; and as these fellows could neither read nor write, and were poor ignorant wretches, they took a great hatred to all gentlemen, and every body who could read and write, and they put some of them to death; and the whole city was kept for several days in the greatest confusion and danger, and all quiet honest people were afraid for their lives.

"The king at this time was called Richard, not Cœur De Lion,—but another king Richard, who was called Richard the Second. He was the grandson of Edward the Third; but he was neither so wise nor so fortunate as his grandfather, who was a great king. Richard was very young, not more than seventeen years old, and it is not surprising that he hardly knew how to stop the proceedings of this riotous mob; for his soldiers were driven away, many of his ministers were put to death, and the rest of them were forced to fly.

"At last the king thought it best to go and meet the mob, and hear what they had to say. So he went with the lord mayor, and a few other lords and gentlemen, to a place called Smithfield, where the mob were encamped as if they had been an army. When Wat Tyler, who was their chief leader, saw the young king coming, he advanced to meet him, and then they began to talk and dispute together; but at length Wat Tyler was so insolent to the king, that his conduct was not to be borne; and although it was in sight of his own army, the lord mayor of London had the courage to strike him down with his mace, and then the other gentlemen put Wat Tyler immediately to death.

"The rioters seeing Wat Tyler, their leader, fall, prepared to revenge themselves on the king and his party; and the whole, even the king himself, would undoubtedly have been murdered on the spot, but that Richard, young as he was, saved them all by his own courage; for when he saw the mob so furious, instead of seeming frightened, he rode up to them alone, and said to them, in a good-humoured manner, 'What is the matter, my good people? Are you angry that you have lost your leader? I am your king, and I will be your leader myself.'

"The mob was astonished and overawed by the king's courage, and they immediately obeyed him, and followed him out into the fields; for the king was glad to get them out of the city where they were committing all manner of mischief.

"When he had them in the fields, he had such a strong guard of his own soldiers that he was no longer afraid of the rioters. So he commanded them all to disband, and go quietly to their own houses; which accordingly they immediately did, and not a life was lost after the death of Wat Tyler, who very well deserved his fate for his rebellion against the king, and for all the mischief and murders that his rebellion had occasioned."

We rather think this story may be read with advantage at present by children of a larger growth—as we certainly did not expect that Wat Tyler would have been held up as a patriot even to a Spafelds mob. We regret that we have not room for further extracts. "The Murder in the Tower," in particular, is very affectingly told. But the specimen we have already quoted will render it quite superfluous for us to say one word more in praise of this excellent little work, which we have no doubt will soon form a part of every juvenile library; and we can assure the distinguished author, from our own experience, that these stories have been as "successful in other families as they have been in his own."

PERIODICAL WORKS.

THE EDINBURGH REVIEW. No 54.

1. *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage, Canto the Third, and The Prisoner of Chillon, and other Poems.* By LORD BYRON. —In this article the Reviewers do not confine themselves altogether to these two publications, but the *Corsair* being the last work of Lord Byron of which they had given a particular account, they introduce their examination of the present works by notices of *Lara, The Siege of Corinth*, and other intermediate pieces. This *Third Canto of Childe Harold*, the Reviewers are persuaded, will not be pronounced inferior to either of the former; and they think that it will probably be ranked above them by those who have been most delighted with the whole. Of *The Prisoner of Chillon* they speak in the language of praise; but the rest of the poems are said to be less arable, and most of them, the Reviewers fear, have a personal and not very charitable application.

2. *A Letter to the Roman Catholic Priests of Ireland, on the expediency of reviving the Canonical mode of electing Bishops by Dean and Chapter, &c.* By C. O.—There is no further notice of the book or its author. It is a dissertation on the Catholic question, in which the Reviewer endeavours to show that no securities whatever should be required from the Catholics as the condition of their emancipation.

3. *Defence of Usury: showing the impolicy of the present legal restraints on the terms of pecuniary bargains, in Letters to a Friend. To which is added, a letter to Adam Smith, Esq. L. L. D. on the discouragements opposed by the above restraints to the progress of inventive industry. The third edition: to which is also added, second edition, a Protest against Law Taxes.* By JEREMY BENTHAM, Esq. of Lincoln's Inn.—In this article the Reviewer begins with examining the reasons that have been urged in defence of the usury laws, and finds that they produce none of the good which they pretend to have in view; and then proceeds to point out the mischiefs which they create in all directions. These

laws are considered to be also insufficient, and inconsistent with their avowed purposes, as they allow of transactions substantially usurious. The penalties imposed upon all who assist suitors in courts of justice, with the means of enforcing their rights, stipulating for a certain premium, which the law of England denominates *maintenance and champerty*, are reprobated as the growth of a barbarous age; and a very strong case is extracted from Mr Bentham's treatise to show the ruinous consequences of this law to needy suitors. The repeal of the usury laws, however, is held to be imprudent, at this particular crisis, as "all persons now owing money would inevitably have their creditors coming upon them for payment." It is to be wished the Reviewer had taken into consideration the effects which this repeal might produce upon the terms of loans to government, and upon the price of the public funds.—The *Protest against Law Taxes* is highly extolled. The privilege of suing *in forma pauperis* is shown to be of little value. Stamps on law proceedings are censured; and the vulgar argument, that such taxes operate as a check to litigation, is said to be "triumphantly refuted" by Mr Bentham.

4. *Wesentliche Betrachtungen oder Geschichte des Krieges Zwischen den Osmanen und Russen in den Jahren 1768 bis 1774, von RESMI ACHMED EFENDI, aus dem Türkischen übersetzt und durch Anmerkungen erläutert von HEINRICH FRIEDRICH VON DIEZ.*—This book is a history of the war between Russia and the Ottoman Porte, in the years 1768—1774, originally written in Turkish by Resmi Achmed Efendi, and translated into German by M. Von Diez. The Reviewer has contrived, by the playfulness and pleasantness of his style, to render this short article very amusing. The work itself, he says, is dull enough in all conscience, but it is a literary curiosity.

5. *National Difficulties practically explained, and Remedies proposed as certain, speedy, and effectual, for the relief of all our present embarrassments.*—The questions proposed for discus-

sion in this article are, 1st, In what manner were the people of this country, who are now idle, formerly employed? The substance of the answer is, that foreign trade was "the source from which employment flowed to all classes of her industrious inhabitants."—2d, By what means were they deprived of this employment? The answer is, that this commerce was suddenly pent up, partly by a train of ill concerted measures at home, and partly by the policy of the enemy abroad, within the narrow bounds of the British territory. "We sought to ruin the enemy's trade, and we have succeeded in ruining our own."—And, 3d, Whether there is any probability that it (employment) ever will be regained? This is the most important question. "We have no proof," the Reviewer says, "that the consumption of our manufactures, either in Europe or in America, has fallen off." Our error has been in overstocking these markets; but the goods will be consumed, and trade revive.—The most important of the other causes of the distress which prevails are, the decline of agriculture, and the increase of taxation.

6. *The Works of Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, and of Sir Thomas Wyatt the Elder.* Edited by GEORGE FREDERICK NOTT, D. D. F. S. A. late Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.—For one of these quartos, that which contains the works of the Earl of Surrey, the Reviewers are inclined to make every allowance, and to master up every thing favourable; but Sir Thomas Wyatt "was in no true sense of the word a poet;" and as their object is to consider poets and poetry, they take leave of him at once. This article contains a summary of the Life of the Earl of Surrey, and a critique on his poetry. "We see not the slightest ground," say the Reviewers, "for depriving Chaucer, in any one respect, of his title of Father of English Poetry," and "we are heartily ready to allow that Surrey well deserves that of the eldest son, however he was surpassed by the brothers that immediately followed him."

7. *Narrative of a Journey in Egypt, and the Country beyond the Cataracts.* By THOMAS LEGH, Esq. M. P.—The Reviewers speak well of this work.—After accompanying Mr Legh on his journey, and extracting a very interesting part of the narrative, they con-

clude with some account of the Wahabees of Arabia, chiefly taken from the Travels of Ali Bey.

8. *The Statesman's Manual; or the Bible the best Guide to Political skill and foresight; a Lay Sermon, addressed to the higher classes of Society; with an Appendix.* By S. T. COLERIDGE, Esq.—This article abounds in ridicule and metaphor as well as in argument. If any one delights in seeing a poor author cut up, he must be amply gratified by this indignant and scornful performance.

9. *Letters from St Helena.* By WILLIAM WARREN, Surgeon on board the Northumberland.—The Reviewers point out some mistakes in Mr Warren's historical recollections, but observe, "that there is an air of plainness and sincerity in his account of what he saw and heard, that recommends it strongly to the confidence of his readers." Only a small portion of the article is devoted to Mr Warren's book. The greater part is occupied "with a short and general view of the public and political life of Napoleon, with such facts and anecdotes interspersed, as have been furnished to us, on good authority, from persons familiarly connected with him at different periods of his fortune, or obtained from some of our countrymen, who saw and conversed with him during his residence in the Isle of Elba." This delectable compilation would have done honour to M. Bertrand himself. It is distinguished throughout by an exaggerated representation of what is praise-worthy in the character and conduct of Napoleon, and, what is infinitely worse, by a palpable anxiety to apologize for his greatest enormities.

10. *Della Patria di Cristoforo Colombo.* Dissertazione pubblicata nelle Memorie dell' Accademia Imperiale delle Scienze di Torino. Restampata con Quinte, Documenti, Lettere diverse, &c. and Ragionamento nel Quale si conforma l' Opinione Generale intorno alla Patria di Cristoforo Colombo.—Presentato all' Accademia delle Scienze, Lettere, e Arti di Genova.—Nell' *Adunanza del di 16. Dicembre.* 1818, dagli Accademici Serra, Carrega e Pignio.—The object of the first of these works is to prove that Columbus was a Piedmontese, and of the latter, that, as has been generally held, he was a Genoese. The Reviewers are of this last opinion. To this discussion is

subjoined a most interesting letter, written by Columbus upon his return from the first voyage in which he discovered the New World, and despatched from Lisbon, where he landed, to one of the Spanish king's council. It has been almost entirely overlooked by historians.

11. *Statements respecting the East India College, with an Appeal to facts, in refutation of the charges lately brought against it in the Court of Proprietors.* By the REV. T. R. MALTHUS, &c.—Mr Malthus and the Reviewers, *alter et idem* perhaps, agree in thinking that some sort of instruction is really desirable for the future Judges and Magistrates of India, and this indeed is a point tolerably well proved, though not till after a good deal of time and labour has been employed about it. But whether the College at Hertford be the very best institution for the purpose is not quite so clear. The arguments in defence of it are of too general a nature, and the "disturbances" on which the objection to it rests, too slightly noticed, to enable the public to come to any decided opinion, without having access to information of a more definite and tangible character.

THE QUARTERLY REVIEW. No 31.

1. *Narrative of a Journey in Egypt and the Country beyond the Cataracts.* By THOMAS LEGH; Esq. M. P.—"On the present occasion," say the Reviewers, "we have nothing to find fault with but the omissions." Mr Legh may rejoice that he has escaped so well from the ordeal of these opposite Courts of Criticism.

2. *Counsellor PHILLIPS'S Poems and Speeches.*—Mr Phillips's sins against good taste are not a little aggravated in the eyes of these Reviewers by his political opinions.

3. *A Treatise on the Records of the Creation, and on the Moral Attributes of the Creator, with particular reference to the Jewish History, and to the consistency of the principle of population with the Wisdom and Goodness of the Deity.* By JOHN BIRD SUMNER, M. A.—Mr Burnett, a gentleman of Aberdeenshire, bequeathed a sum to be set apart till it should accumulate to £1600, which was then to be given to the authors of the two best Essays on the subject of Mr Sumner's book,—to the first in merit, £1200, and to the

second, £400. The second prize was assigned to Mr Sumner, of whose Treatise the Reviewers present a pretty full, and apparently an impartial, examination in this interesting article. Their observations on the principle of population lead to conclusions very different from those of Mr Malthus, and are, we hope, better supported by history and experience.

4. *A Voyage round the World, from 1806 to 1812; in which Japan, Kamtschatka, the Aleutian Islands, and the Sandwich Islands, were visited, &c.* By ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL.—Campbell is a poor young sailor, who had lost both feet, and was found by Mr Smith, the Editor of the volume, in one of the steam boats that ply on the Clyde, playing on the violin for the amusement of the passengers. "The hope that an account of his voyage might be of service to an unfortunate and deserving man, and not unacceptable to those who take pleasure in contemplating the progress of mankind in the arts of civilisation, gave rise to the present publication." The book itself contains much that is curious, and adds not a little to our still very imperfect knowledge of the remote regions visited by the author.

5. *Shakespeare's Himself again! &c.* By ANDREW BECKET.—An article full of irony and banter, apparently a well deserved chastisement of this unfortunate commentator.

6. *Traacts on Saving Banks.*—There is a great deal of information about those banks collected in this article, but the Reviewer is too zealous and too sanguine to perceive the inconveniences which must be felt from adopting the plans of Mr Duncan; and, while he bestows well-merited praise on the benevolent exertions of this gentleman, we think that he hardly does justice to some of the other fellow labourers.

7. *Cowper's Poems and Life.*—The third volume of the poems, edited by John Johnson, LL.D., the first work embraced by this Review, is considered as decidedly inferior to its predecessors. The other two treatises are memoirs, said to be written by Cowper himself, and never before published. From what we see of them here, the only subject of regret is, that they should ever have been published at all. The article contains a general character of Cowper's poetry and letters.

9. *A Sketch of the British Fur Trade in North America, with Observations relative to the North-west Company of Montreal.* By the EARL of SELKIRK: and *Voyage de la Mer Atlantique à l'Océan Pacifique par le Nord-ouest dans la Mer Glaciale; par le Capitaine Laurent Ferrer Maldonado l'an 1888.* *Nouvellement traduit, &c.*—Lord Selkirk, some years ago, attempted to divert the tide of emigration from the Highlands of Scotland to the United States, and turn it to Prince Edward's Island, within the territories of Great Britain. More lately, his views of colonization seem to have become more extensive; and having purchased about a third part of the stock of the Hudson's Bay Company, he obtained from their governors a grant of a wide extent of country, held, or supposed to be held, under their charter, of which he proceeded to take possession. The settlers on this tract have been molested, it appears, by the servants of the North-west Company, between which and the Hudson's Bay Company there had long subsisted a deadly feud; and some very extraordinary proceedings are understood to have taken place on both sides. According to Lord Selkirk, the fur trade is not in the best hands, nor carried on in a very honourable manner. The North-west Company is pointedly accused, indeed, of great violence and injustice, for which, as the law at present stands, it is extremely difficult, or altogether impossible, to call its servants to account. Of the Hudson's Bay Company, the Reviewers do not think so well as Lord Selkirk does.—The rest of this article, and that which is of a far deeper interest, relates to the North-west passage. The relation of Maldonado's voyage is held to be a clumsy and audacious forgery. The Reviewers firmly believe, however, that a navigable passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific, round the northern coast of America, does exist, and may be of no difficult execution. In support of this opinion, they proceed to examine the various unsuccessful attempts that have been made at different periods. No human being, they say, has yet approached the coast of America on the eastern side, from 66½° to 72°, and here it is thought the passage may be found.

9. *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage, Cantos III.; and the Prisoner of Chillon, and other Poems.* By LORD BYRON.

If the heart of Lord Byron be not

dead to every emotion of pleasure and gratitude, this article must stir up these feelings in no common degree. The Reviewer displays throughout, not only the powers of a poet and of a critic of the highest order, but the delicacy and solicitude of a friend, without, however, shutting his eyes to the eccentricities and misjudged exhibitions of this lugubrious and indignant misanthrope. There are one or two digressions in it somewhat curious, for they may be thought to identify the Reviewer,—upon much the same grounds as Childe Harold has been supposed to speak the sentiments of Lord Byron. In the first, he disputes the proposition, that rapidity of composition and publication endangers the fame of an author of great talents. A little after it is stated, as an axiom, that “every author should, like Lord Byron, form to himself, and communicate to the reader, a precise, defined, and distinct view of the landscape, sentiment, or action, which he intends to describe to the reader.” Lord Byron's political opinions, of course, meet with no favour; but his sins of omission, as well as commission, though pointed out in forcible language, do not call forth those expressions of contumely and bitterness, which so often disgrace the subalterns in political hostilities. There is something very serious, or, so different are peoples' tastes, perhaps amusing, at the conclusion of this article. It is impossible not to see in it the goodness of the writer's heart, though we make no doubt that others may pretend to discover also a slight infusion of amiable simplicity. For our own parts, we cannot help suspecting that there is a reasonable portion of affectation in some of Lord Byron's dolorous verses; and that to treat him like a spoilt child will not have much efficacy in removing the complaint. If any one should hereafter think it necessary, in order to establish his superiority of talent, to begin with distinguishing himself in the circles of vice and folly, despising the restraints to which ordinary mortals have agreed to submit, he may be led to doubt of the certainty of this mode of proving his claim, when he is assured, that the moral and religious regimen, here prescribed to Lord Byron, has been very faithfully observed, both in the private and public life of several of the most distinguished writers of the present age. —Google

10. *Warden's Letters*.—"Mr Warden's pretences and falsehoods," say the Reviewers, "if not detected on the spot, and at the moment when the means of detection happen to be at hand, might hereafter tend to deceive other writers, and poison the sources of history." The motive of the Reviewers is therefore a very laudable one, and the 'detection' will no doubt be very satisfactory to a certain class of readers. But the historian! Sources of history! If the historian and philosopher should sit down to this, and the corresponding article in the Edinburgh Review, about a hundred years hence, what must he think of the political parties, and of the state of literature, in Britain in the year 1816? Mr Warden is a "blundering, presumptuous, and falsifying scribbler;" and the proof is, that he actually brought the materials of this book from St Helena, in the shape of notes, instead of having really despatched letters from sea, and from St Helena, to a correspondent in England!

11. *Parliamentary Reform*.—That part of this article which corresponds with its title, contains sentiments, about the justness of which there will be little difference of opinion among

well informed men. None but the most ignorant can expect, and none but the most wrongheaded, or unprincipled, will teach the people to expect, any relief under the present distresses of the country, from universal suffrage and annual parliaments. But the Reviewer does not confine himself to topics, in the discussion of which he would have carried along with him the approbation of all those whose approbation is of any value. Unfortunately, we think, for the cause of which he is so able an advocate, he has introduced a great deal of extraneous matter, concerning which men of the clearest heads and purest intentions cannot be brought to agree. He has also counteracted the effects which the soundness of his judgment, and the powers of his eloquence, might have otherwise produced upon misguided or unthinking reformers, by indulging in a strain of violent exaggeration and reproach. So wide a departure from the Roman poet's maxim of *suaviter in modo, fortiter in re*, brings him too near to the style of the orators and authors whom he so justly exposes, and is inconsistent with the respect which so able a writer owes to himself and to his readers.

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE.

DR CLARKE, the celebrated traveller, who is now professor of mineralogy at Cambridge, has lately been employed in the performance of some very curious and important experiments with a blowpipe of a power far exceeding that of any similar instrument which has formerly been used. This instrument is in reality the invention of Mr Brooks,—although, when Dr Clarke employed it in his first experiments, he appears to have considered it as the invention of Mr Newman, who was only the artist employed in making it, and from whose hands Dr Clarke had probably received it. This mistake, however, the doctor has now been careful to correct.—The instrument consists essentially of a close box, in which air is condensed by means of a syringe. From this box, the air, which in the experiments of Dr Clarke consisted of two volumes hydrogen, and one volume oxygen gas, highly condensed, is allowed to rush upon the flame of a lamp or candle; and by the powerful heat thus produced, Dr Clarke found that every substance which he tried, excepting charcoal and plumbago, were capable of being fused. All the most refractory stones,—the earths, namely, lime, barytes, strontian, magnesia, alumina, and si-

lica,—were melted into glass, slag, or enamel. Dr Clarke has since stated, however, that plumbago has also yielded to the power of this instrument; and from the following quotation from the doctor's communication, in the *Annals of Philosophy* for March, it will be seen that he considers charcoal itself as not decidedly refractory when the fusing power is in all its perfection:—"As far," says the doctor, "as mineral substances are concerned, the character of infusibility is for ever annihilated. Every mineral substance, not excepting plumbago, has been fused. There remains, therefore, only one substance, namely charcoal, to maintain this character; and if I have leisure for a subsequent dissertation, I trust I shall be able to shew, that charcoal itself exhibits some characteristics of a fusible body."—The most remarkable, however, of all the results obtained during these brilliant experiments, was the reduction of barytes and strontian to their metallic bases;—to these the doctor has since added a long list of other metallic salts and ores, which he has been able to reduce to their pure metallic state, and of which specimens have repeatedly been transmitted for the inspection of the most illustrious sci-

sific characters whom this country contains. —The instrument itself, by means of which all those important results have been obtained, has also received some improvements from the hand of the doctor, by which not only greater safety is obtained in the use of it, but a very considerable degree both of power and of facility has been added to the energy which it originally possessed; while the splendid scientific results which its employment has developed, have also been accompanied by some of the most brilliant phenomena which chemistry has to exhibit. The combustion of iron has been particularly mentioned as actually exhibiting a shower of fire. "The general result of my observations," says the author, "has excited in my mind a hope that the means I have used will be employed upon a more extended scale to aid the manufactures of this country. By increasing the capacity of the reservoir, and the condensing power of the apparatus, the diameter of the jet may be also enlarged; and the consequence will be, that a power of fusion the most extraordinary, as a work of art, which the world ever witnessed, may be employed with the utmost economy both of space and expenditure, and with the most certain safety." —We hope these splendid anticipations will soon be realized; and, upon the whole, we cannot help expressing our satisfaction that the employment of this powerful instrument, in the development of such striking results, has fallen to the lot of a gentleman who has already rendered such essential service to the literature of his country, and whom, from the evidence afforded by his works (for we have not the honour of any more intimate acquaintance with him), we are really disposed to regard as not only one of the most accomplished scholars, but one of the best men, also, which this country contains.

The Lockhart Papers are announced for publication, consisting of memoirs concerning the affairs of Scotland, from Queen Anne's accession to the commencement of the Union; with commentaries, containing an account of public affairs from the Union to the queen's death. All these papers were composed by, and are chiefly in the handwriting of, George Lockhart, Esq. of Carnwath, who was a very able and distinguished member of the Scottish and British Parliaments, and an unshaken disinterested partizan of the fallen family of Stuart. They contain, also, a register of letters between the son of James II. generally called the Chevalier de St George, or the Old Pretender, and George Lockhart; with an account of public affairs from 1716 to 1728; and journals, memoirs, and circumstantial details, in detached pieces, of the young Pretender's expedition to Scotland in 1745; his progress, defeat, and extraordinary adventures and escape after the battle of Culloden in 1746, by Highland officers in his army. All these manuscripts are in the possession of Anthony Aufrere of Horroton

in Norfolk, Esq. who married Matilda, only surviving daughter of General James Lockhart of Lee and Carnwath, Count of the Holy Roman empire, grandson of the author of the Memoirs. This work will be comprised in two quarto volumes, of six or seven hundred pages each; it admirably connects with the Stuart and Culloden papers; and is calculated to excite and reward the attention of all lovers of national history and political anecdote.

A paper has been read to the Royal Society by Dr Brewster, containing the results of a very extensive and ingenious series of experiments on the action of regularly crystallized bodies upon light. From these experiments Dr Brewster has determined all the laws by which the phenomena are regulated, and has been enabled to compose formulæ, by which the time, and the direction of the axis of the particles of light, may in every case be calculated *a priori*. The law of double refraction investigated by La Place, and the laws of the polarising force deduced by M. Biot, are shown to be merely simple cases of laws of much greater extent and generality, being applicable only to a few crystals, while those investigated by Dr Brewster are applicable to the vast variety of crystallised bodies which exist in nature.

We understand that Professor Leslie has very lately made an important addition to his curious and beautiful discovery of artificial congelation. He had found by his early experiments, that decayed whinstone, or friable mould, reduced to a gross powder and dried thoroughly, will exert a power of absorbing moisture, scarcely inferior to that of sulphuric acid itself. But circumstances having lately drawn his attention to this subject, he caused some mouldering fragments of porphyritic trap, gathered from the sides of that magnificent road now turning round the Calton Hill, to be pounded and dried carefully before the fire in a bachelor's oven. This powder, being thrown into a wine-decanter fitted with a glass stopper, was afterwards carried to the College; and, at a lecture a few days since in the Natural Philosophy Class (which he has been teaching this session in the absence of Professor Playfair in Italy), he showed the influence of its absorbing power on his hygrometer, which, inclosed within a small receiver of an air pump, fell from 80° to 320°, the wetted bulb being, consequently, cooled about 60° of Fahrenheit's scale. The professor, therefore, proposed on the instant to employ the powder to freeze a small body of water. He poured the powder into a saucer about 7 inches wide, and placed a shallow cup of porous earthen-ware, 3 inches in diameter, at the height of half an inch above, and covered the whole with a low receiver. On exhausting this receiver till the gage stood at 2-10ths of an inch, the water in a very few minutes ran into a cake of ice. With the same powder, an hour afterwards, he froze a larger body of water in three mi-

notes; and he will, no doubt, push these ingenious and interesting experiments much further.—It appears that such earth will absorb the hundredth part of its weight of moisture without having its power sensibly impaired, and is even capable of absorbing as much as the tenth part. It can hence easily be made to freeze the eighth part of its weight of water, and might even repeat the process again. In hot countries, the powder will, after each process, recover its power by drying in the sun. Ice may therefore be procured in the tropical climates, and even at sea, with very little trouble, and no sort of risk or inconvenience.

In the Bath Literary and Philosophical Society, the Rev. Mr Wright has described a very ingenious method of working a ship's pump by mechanical means, when the crew are too few in number to attend to that duty, and particularly in a heavy gale. It was used by Capt. Leslie in June last, during a voyage from Stockholm to America, when the crew were exhausted with pumping, and the ship was sinking. He fixed a spar aloft, one end of which was ten or twelve feet above the top of his pumps, and the other extremity projected over the stern; to each end of the spar he fastened a block: he then fastened a rope to the spears of his pump, and after passing it through both pulleys along the spar, dropped it into the sea astern: to this end he fastened a cask of 110 gallons measurement, and containing 60 or 70 gallons of water, which answered as a balance-weight; and the motion of the ship made the machinery work. When the stern of the ship descended, or any agitation of the water raised the cask, the pump-spears descended, and the contrary motion raised the spear, and the water flowed out. The ship was thus cleared in four hours.

At a meeting of the commissioners appointed to manage the yearly grant of £10,000, voted by Parliament for finishing the college of Edinburgh, the plan of Mr W. Playfair being adopted, the prize of 100 guineas was adjudged to that gentleman. According to Mr Playfair's plan, the exterior of the building, as originally planned by Adams, is to be retained with very little alteration; but there will be a total departure from the internal arrangements. The southern side of the quadrangle is to be occupied almost entirely by the library, which will be 190 feet long, and one of the most elegant rooms in the kingdom. The western side is to be appropriated to the museum, and the other two sides are to be occupied chiefly as class-rooms.

A new mode of giving additional strength to iron and steel, is proposed by Mr Daniell. His plan is to twist metal in the same manner as strength and compactness are given to hemp and flax.

The trigonometrical survey of Great Britain, under the direction of the Ordnance Board, proceeds without interruption. The maps of three-fifths of England and Wales are already completed. In the course of

the summer, the British surveyors are to be joined by two eminent French academicians, with a view of connecting the trigonometrical surveys of the two countries, and thus not only attaining a greater degree of geographical accuracy, but obtaining, perhaps, a more satisfactory solution of the problem respecting the true figure of the earth. The French gentlemen appointed to assist Colonel Mudge and Captain Colby are, M. Biot and M. Mathieu of the Institute of France, whose principal object is, to measure the length of the pendulum at Greenwich, Edinburgh, and the Orkneys.

A new and ingenious instrument, called the Colorigrade, has lately been constructed by M. Biot, for giving names to different colours, according to the place which they occupy in Newton's scale. By this means colours may be described accurately and scientifically.

A new species of resin from India, has been analyzed by J. F. Daniell, Esq. F.R.S. It consists of

Extractive matter soluble in water,	0.4
Resin soluble in alcohol and ether,	62.6
Resin insoluble in alcohol and ether,	37.0

100.0

It forms a very admirable varnish, which is not only highly transparent, but bears the heat of the warmest climate without cracking or changing colour.

Mr Pond, the astronomer royal, has discovered in the stars α Aquilæ, α Lyræ, and α Cygni, a constant parallax of half a second; but he is disposed to ascribe it to some other cause than that of the ordinary parallax. Dr Brinkley of Dublin found the parallax to be two seconds.

A stone is said to have been lately found at Pompeii, on which the linear measures of the Romans are engraved.

The Congo sloop of war is arrived at Deptford. Several large cases, containing the natural productions of Africa, collected in the late expedition to the Congo, have been sent to Sir Joseph Banks, for the purpose of being assorted in their respective classes: many of them are of a kind hitherto unknown, and the whole will shortly be submitted to the inspection of the public.

Mr Murray has succeeded in fusing two emeralds into one uniform mass; also two sapphires into one, by the compressed mixture of the gaseous constituents of water in the oxyhydrogen blow-pipe.

M. Locatelli, the celebrated mathematician of Milan, has invented a new piece of mechanism (says a Paris paper), by means of which vessels may ascend rivers without the assistance of a steam-engine. The first experiment, which was made on a small boat, completely succeeded. The inventor asserts, that his plan is applicable even to a man of war, and that it will secure her from the danger of shipwreck. The strength of a single man, or at most that of a horse, is sufficient to put this machine in motion.

WORKS PREPARING FOR PUBLICATION.

LONDON.

The Journal of the late Captain Tuckey, on a Voyage of Discovery into the Interior of Africa, to explore the Source of the Zaire, or Congo,—with a Survey of that River beyond the Cataracts,—will soon be published by authority.

The Plays and Poems of James Shirley, now first collected and chronologically arranged, and the text carefully collated and restored, with occasional Notes, and a Biographical and Critical Essay, are preparing for publication; by William Gifford, Esq.; handsomely printed by Bulmer, in 6 vols 8vo. uniformly with Massinger and Ben Jonson.

Specimens of the British Poets, with Biographical and Critical Notices, and an Introductory Essay on British Poetry, are preparing for press; by Thomas Campbell, Esq. Author of the Pleasures of Hope, &c. In 4 vols post 8vo.

Mr A. J. Valpy has in the press a new edition of the Greek Septuagint, in one large vol. 8vo. The text is taken from the Oxford edition of Bos, without contractions.—Also, a new edition of Homer's Iliad, from the text of Heyne, with English notes, including many from Heyne and Clarke; one vol. 8vo.—And Catullus, with English notes; by T. Forster, Esq. Jun. 12mo.

A work of Biblical Criticism on the Books of the Old Testament, and Translations of Sacred Songs, with notes, critical and explanatory, will soon appear; by Samuel Horsley, LL. D. F. R. S. F. A. S. late lord bishop of Asaph.

In the course of this month will be published, a Treatise, touching the Liberties of a Christian Man; written in Latin, by Dr Martyn Luther, and translated by James Bell; imprinted by R. Newberry and H. Byneman, 1579; dedicated "to Lady Anne, Countess of Warwick," with the celebrated epistle from M. Luther to Pope Leo X.: edited by W. B. Collyer, D. D. F. A. S. and dedicated (by permission) to the Duke of Sussex.

Mr Joseph Lancaster has printed proposals for publishing, by subscription, in one volume octavo, a Matter-of-fact Account of many singular and providential Events, which have occurred in his public and private Life.

J. E. Bicheno, Esq. will soon publish an Inquiry into the Nature of Benevolence, principally with a view to elucidate the moral and political principles of the Poor Laws.

Mr W. Seavage, printer, of London, has issued proposals for publishing, by subscription, Practical Hints on Decorative Printing, with specimens in colours, engraved on wood; containing instructions for forming black and coloured printing inks—for producing fine press-work—and for printing in colours.

A new edition of Dr Thomson's System of Chemistry is in the press, and will speedily be published. The work will be entirely remodelled, and will be comprised in four octavo volumes.

The second edition of Mr Murray's Elements of Chemical Science is in the press, and will be forthwith published. This edition will contain a succinct and lucid view of those important and beautiful discoveries which have illuminated the rapid and brilliant march of chemistry.

Dr Spurzheim's new work, entitled, Observations on the Deranged Manifestations of the Mind, or Insanity, is in the press.

In a few weeks will be published, a new work, entitled, Boarding-school Correspondence, or a Series of Letters between a Mother and her Daughter at School; a joint production of Mrs Taylor, author of "Maternal Solitude," &c. and of Miss Taylor, author of "Display," "Essays in Rhyme," &c.

The Memoirs of John Duke of Marlborough, chiefly drawn from his private correspondence, and the family documents preserved at Blenheim, as well as from other authentic sources, never before published, are preparing with all speed by Wm Coxe, archdeacon of Wilts.

An Account of the Island of Java; by Thomas Stamford Raffles, Esq. late lieutenant-governor there. With a map and numerous plates, by Daniel.

Pompeiana, or Observations on the Topography, Edifices, and Ornaments, of Pompeii; by Sir W. Gell and J. P. Gandy, Esq. with numerous engravings, are in the press.

Mr Mill's long expected History of British India is now in the press, and will be published in three 4to volumes.

Journey through Asia Minor, Armenia, and Koordistan, in the years 1813 and 1814; with Remarks on the Marches of Alexander, and the Retreat of the Ten Thousand; by John Macdonald Kenneir, Esq. 4to.

Early this present month will be published, a Narrative of a Voyage to Hudson's Bay, in his Majesty's Ship Rosamond; containing some Account of the North Eastern Coast of America, and of the Tribes inhabiting that remote region; illustrated with plates; by Lieut. Edward Chappell, R. N.

A work on the Principles of Political Economy and Taxation, is preparing by David Ricardo, Esq.

An Authentic Narrative is preparing of the loss of the American brig Commerce, wrecked on the western coast of Africa, in the month of August 1815; with an account of the sufferings and captivity of her surviving officers and crew, on the great

African Desert: by James Riley, her late master and supercargo.

We are happy to announce, that the continuation of the State Trials to the present time, edited by Thomas Jones Howell, Esq. is in course of publication. The first volume, which has just appeared, comprises the period from 1783 to 1793, and contains many cases of the highest interest and importance. We understand, that for the accommodation of such persons as possess Hargrave's State Trials, a separate title-page has been printed so as to render "the Continuation" applicable to that as well as to the octavo edition; as by a curious coincidence the folio and the octavo editions terminate at nearly the same period.—By this very admirable mode of publication, they who wish to possess the modern State Trials, either as a separate work or as a supplement to either of the collections, may be provided with it accordingly.

Algebra of the Hindus, with Arithmetic and Mensuration; translated from the Sanscrit, by H. T. Colebrooke, Esq. 4to.

No II. of the new and enlarged edition of H. Stephens' Greek Thesaurus, is just published. To this number is added an Index of all the words, which are discussed in this and the previous number, distin-

guishing by a star such as are not contained in the Thea. as published by H. Steph. All the arrangements being now completed by the very recent arrival of Professor Schaefer's copious MS. materials, which the Editors have purchased at considerable expense, the work will proceed without delay, and the editors confidently expect that they will be able to announce the publication of the third number very speedily.—The two first numbers contain about 2000 words omitted by Stephens. A learned pupil of Lennep is now engaged in transcribing the notes of Ruhnken and Valkenaer, written on the margin of a Leyden Scapula. The editors have carefully perused the parts already published, for the purpose of ascertaining any typographical errors, and intend to follow Stephens' example in subscribing to the General Index a complete list of errata.

Mr T. Moore has in the press, and will speedily publish, *Lalla Rookh*, an oriental romance. Oriental imagery seems to be so admirably adapted to the style and genius of Mr Moore, that we form high expectations of the merit and interest of this work.

A volume of *Comic Dramas;* by Miss Edgeworth.

EDINBURGH.

Essay on the Theory of the Earth; translated from the French of M. Cuvier; with Mineralogical Notes, and an account of Cuvier's Geological Discoveries, by Professor Jameson; the third edition, with numerous additions, 8vo.

On the Nature and Necessity of the Atonement; by the Rev. William Stevenson, minister of the gospel, Ayr, 12mo.

A volume of **Practical Sermons;** by the Rev. David Dickson, New North Church, Edinburgh, is in course of preparation for the press.

The Secret and True History of the Church of Scotland, from the Restoration to the year 1678; by the Rev. James Kirkton; with notes, and a biographical memoir of the author, will speedily appear. The work will contain original anecdotes, and interesting details, not elsewhere to be found; the more valuable, as Kirkton was himself an eye and ear witness of many of the facts which he records, and a distinguished sufferer in the presbyterian cause, during a part of Charles II.'s reign; by Mr Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe.

Trials for Sedition in Scotland, before the High Court of Justiciary; reported by Mr Dow, W. S. 8vo.

Dramatic Tales; by the author of the *Poetic Mirror*; 2 vols 12mo.

The Spirit of the Lake, and other Poems; by W. M. Fowler, 8vo. 6s.

A View of the History of Scotland, from the earliest Records to the Rebellion in the year 1745; in a series of letters; 3 vols 8vo.

VOL. I.

Mandeville; a Domestic Story of the Seventeenth Century; by the author of *Caleb Williams*. 3 vols 12mo.

Travels from Vienna through Lower Hungary, with some account of Vienna during the Congress; by Richard Bright, M.D. 1 vol. 4to. with engravings.

Mr Hugh Murray is preparing for the press the late Dr Leyden's *Historical Account of Discoveries and Travels in Africa*, enlarged and continued, with a *View of the Present State of that Continent*.

Reports of some Recent Decisions by the Consistorial Court of Scotland, in Actions of Divorce, concluding for Dissolution of Marriages celebrated under the English law; by J. Fergusson, Esq. 8vo.

The Edinburgh Gazetteer, or Geographical Dictionary; comprising a complete Body of Geography, physical, political, statistical, and commercial; 6 vols 8vo. with Atlas, by Arrowsmith, 4to.

A New General Atlas will speedily be published, in royal quarto, constructed from the latest authorities; by A. Arrowsmith, hydrographer to the Prince Regent: it will be comprehended in fifty-three maps, from original drawings, engraved in the best style by Sidney Hall.

Memoirs of the most remarkable Passages in the Life of Sir James Turner, knight, from the Commencement of his Military Career in Germany, in 1639, till his Trial before the Privy Council in 1668; written by himself. Published from the original manuscript; with a portrait, 8vo.

MONTHLY LIST OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

LONDON.

ANTIQUITIES.

THE unedited Antiquities of Attica; comprising the Architectural Remains of Eleusia, Rhamnus, Sunium, and Thoricus; by the Dilletanti Society; imperial folio, with eighty-four engravings. £10, 10s.

BIOGRAPHY.

Memoirs of the Life and Doctrines of the late John Hunter, Esq. founder of the Hunterian Museum at the Royal College of Surgeons; by J. Adams, M. D. 12s. 6d.

Lives of the British Admirals; by J. Campbell; Vol. VII. and VIII. 8vo. £1, 4s.—royal 8vo. £1, 10s.

Historical Anecdotes of some of the Howard Family, 8vo. 7s.

Memoirs of the Life and Writings of the late Dr Lettson, &c. by T. J. Pettigrew, F. L. S. 3 vols 8vo. £1, 16s.

Memoirs of the Life and Writings of the Rev. Claudius Buchanan, D. D. late Vice-Provost of the College of Fort William in Bengal; by the Rev. Hugh Pearson, of St John's College, Oxford, 2 vols 8vo. £1, 1s.

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MONTHLY REGISTER.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

Europe.

FRANCE.

In the Chamber of Deputies, on the 8th January, the Election Law, consisting of twenty Articles, was passed by a majority of 139 against 100. The main question for discussion was, Shall the Deputies be chosen by the electors directly, or shall the great body of electors name a certain number from among themselves, by whom the Deputies shall be chosen? By this law the Deputies are to be chosen directly by the electors in one single assembly, as in England. All Frenchmen who have attained the age of thirty, and pay 300 francs of taxes per annum, are to be allowed to vote.

A royal ordinance, dated the 8th of January, contains the following article: "Every vessel, whether French or foreign, which shall attempt to introduce into any of our colonies blacks for sale, shall be confiscated; and if French, the captain shall be held incapable of holding a command."

The Houses of Laette of Paris, Barings of London, Parish of Hamburg, and Hopes of Amsterdam, have taken upon themselves the advance of the loan wanted by France, which is 12,000,000 British, or 300,000,000 francs. Report adds, that one half will be required in money, and the other half in provisions and clothing. The Gazette de France states, that this loan was finally signed on the 13th February.

On the 9th of January, M. de Serre brought up the report of the Committee on the law relative to personal liberty. It is a modification of that of last year, and enables the crown to confine, under specific forms, persons suspected of conspiring or attempting the overthrow of the established constitution. After a debate of several days this law was carried in the Chamber of Deputies by 186 to 92.

In the Chamber of Deputies the debate on the law respecting the public journals is terminated. It was voted by a majority of 188 against 89. All the journals of France are thus rendered dependent upon the king's authority, by which any of them may be immediately suppressed.

By the first April 30,000 of the allied troops, being one fifth of the whole, will quit the French territory. The official note of the four plenipotentiaries of Austria, England, Prussia, and Russia, declares, that the high personal character of the king, and the principles and conduct of his present ministry, together with the sanc-

tion of the opinion of the Duke of Wellington, are the sole causes of the relief thus afforded to France.

In the Chamber of Deputies the ministers were left in a minority of 69 to 208, on the important question of what we would call the Navy Estimates. The minister of that department had calculated upon a grant of 80,000,000 of francs. He had already appropriated upwards of 48,000,000; but the commission appointed to report upon the loan recommended 44,000,000, and this sum was carried by the numbers above cited.—The Chamber has at length finally agreed to the budget by a majority of 47. The total expenditure of that country is fixed at about £45,000,000 sterling.

Jan. 15.—The king has created a large number of knights of St Michael, for the purpose of distinguishing men who have rendered themselves celebrated in literature, science, and the arts, or by useful discoveries. This does great honour to the king. It is the only order of knighthood we believe in Europe, that pays such a tribute of honour and respect to those who may well be called the benefactors of mankind.

Application it is said has been made by the French government to our ministers, for issuing the usual orders to our settlements, for giving facility to an expedition under Mess. Freycinet, consisting of the *Uranie* frigate and a corvette, about to sail from France to finish their survey of New Holland.

The price of provisions at Boulogne is thus given, in a letter from an officer to his friend at Christchurch, dated the 5th Month. A leg of mutton from 7s. to 9s. per lb.; beef and pork, 7d.; inferior sorts, 6s.; poultry very dear; wild fowl cheap; a good widgeon or wild duck, from 6s. to 8s.; a pair of very good soles, 10d. which is considered dear; a turbot, from 8 lb. to 10 lb. for 2s. 6d. or 3s.; 26 eggs for 10d.; vegetables very cheap: all articles of living are one-third dearer than in June 1816.

In the Chamber of Deputies, March 5th, 4,000,000 francs were appropriated from the revenue arising from the sale of the national forests for the support of the gendarmerie.—On the law respecting the customs-ministers had a majority of 134. This act is intended to exclude, by heavy duties, the import of cottons, sugar, and iron.

The Moniteur of the 22d March contains the new law relating to bills of exchange, as passed by the two Chambers, and sanctioned by the royal assent. It enacts, that the holder of a bill of exchange, drawn on the continent or islands of Europe, and payable in the European territories of Europe,

whether payable at sight, or at one or more days or months, or usages at sight, must demand payment or acceptance within six months from its date, on forfeiture of all claim upon the endorser, or even the drawer, if the letter has made provision for it.

March 26.—CHAMBER OF PEERS.—The Duke of Richelieu and the Duke of Palmes were introduced. The former deposed to the president his majesty's proclamation, conceived in the following terms:—

Louis, by the Grace of God, &c.

The session for 1816 of the Chamber of Peers and the Chamber of Deputies is and remains closed.

(Signed) LOUIS.

Thilletter, March 26, 1817.

The Chamber broke up immediately after the proclamation had been read.

NETHERLANDS.

Intelligence has been received at Amsterdam, that the Dutch commissioners received the island of Java from the English on the 15th of August.

On the 19th of February, at Brussels, the Princess of Orange was delivered of a son, who is to take the title of Duke of Brabant.

The States General have finally rejected a proposition for prohibiting the exportation of grain.

The Dutch papers communicate a measure calculated to injure, if not to ruin, the trade at Amberg. A toll is ordered to be collected upon all vessels entering or leaving the Scheldt, in addition to the custom-house duties. Its weight is represented as incompatible, not only with any prosperous commerce, but with any other intention than that of destroying it, for the toll is seven times greater than the freight of goods brought from a short distance.—England for instance. The king has been questioned for its removal, and the latest reports give reason to believe that the application has been successful.

The episcopal Prince de Broghe at Ghent, will excite the public attention, by refusing to acknowledge the temporal supremacy of the crown. Shortly after BONAPARTE assumed the imperial diadem, this prelate ventured to act upon the same principle; but the Emperor, as jealous as himself of his authority, conveyed orders to M. d'HOULLE, the prefect, and to M. d'ERLACHTER, the general of division, to put the bishop under military arrest, and to compress the members of the numerous seminaries who embraced the orthodox tenets of their unshaking pastor. This ridiculous scene really took place. The youths "in purple and gold" in their black robes, were marched to the place public; and, in the presence of a numerous multitude, were marched and unceremoniously, and taught all the rudiments of military discipline by corporals and officers of the national guard. In the night they were quartered in barracks, and

were not permitted to return to their holy duties before a month or six weeks. This measure was arbitrary; but during the whole reign of Napoleon, the name of the Prince de Broghe never once reached the public ear.

SPAIN.

The strict prohibition of journals published in England or the Netherlands, which had for some time been suspended, is renewed with great severity, probably on account of the popular discontent manifested at some late acts of the government. The frequent arrests for political offences is said to be regarded with particular disgust.

Letters from Spain of the 4th Feb. state, that in consequence of a new impost levied on charcoal at Valencia, which bore very hard on the poor in the winter season, the people murmured, and at last deputed commissioners to wait on the governor (Elio) with their complaints. Instead of listening to them, Elio put the commissioners in prison: the people rushed to arms and liberated them; and the governor, in his turn, was obliged to fly to the citadel. The insurgents kept possession of the city all the 17th January; but on the 18th, supplies of troops arriving, they were overpowered, and the governor liberated. He attempted to put to death some of the rioters without trial, but the judges of the High Court of Justice declared, they could allow no citizens to be executed without a trial. The governor threatened to imprison the judges. The citizens were emboldened by this vigorous conduct of the judges, and affairs wore so serious an aspect, that Elio posted off to Madrid to lay the matter before the king.

The report of some commotions having arisen in Valencia, agrees very well with what we know of the present state of popular feeling in Spain, viewed in connexion with such instances as the following, of the cruelty of their semi-barbarous government.—"Pamplona, Feb. 10th. On the 2d, 3d, and 4th of this month, and in the prison of this city, the torture was inflicted on Captain Olivan, who for this purpose was brought down from the citadel, where he had been confined during eight months, merely because he was suspected of disaffection to government. Amidst the most excruciating pangs, no other than energetic declarations of his own innocence were heard, as well as of that of more than thirty other officers confined with him under similar circumstances."

The English government lately solicited, that a field in the neighbourhood of Tarragona, in which 300 English soldiers and some officers fell gloriously defending that fortress, should not be cultivated, or otherwise disturbed, offering to purchase it; but the city of Tarragona, and the feeling of our government, only made a present of the ground.

Previous to the 18th Feb. a great number of persons had been executed at Madrid, under charges of treason against the person and authority of the sovereign. Nothing yet has transpired concerning the fate of the unfortunate Arguelles and his companions, who have been transported to a desert island of the Mediterranean. To those who know the true character of the present Spanish government, it will be no matter of surprise if this notice conclude their history.

An edict for the prohibition of certain books, divided into two principal classes, was published at Madrid on the 2d of March. In the first are comprehended those which are prohibited, even to the persons to whom the inquisition may have granted licenses or particular permissions; the other comprises works which are only prohibited to such persons as have not obtained those licenses. The works of the first class are eight in number, and are prohibited as defamatory of the supreme authority of the pope and clergy.—The second prohibition falls upon forty-seven works, which are described as full of a corrupt and revolutionary spirit. In this last class, *M. De Constant's Principles of Policy*—*La Croix's Elements of the Rights of the People*—*Blanchard's Felix and Paulina*—and *Adelaide and Theodore, or Letters on Education*,—are included.

ITALY.

On the 15th of December, a catholic priest proceeded on foot to the Cathedral of Adria, in Lombardy, and returned thanks for having attained his 110th year, without infirmities or sickness! He was accompanied by an immense concourse of people, and chanted the cathedral service in a firm, manly, and dignified voice.

The German papers have brought us a document of greater importance than usual, in the shape of a new constitution for Sicily. That interesting portion of Europe has lost nothing by the restoration of the legitimate sovereign to the throne of his ancestors. The king of Naples, unlike his namesake and cousin the sovereign of Spain, has signalled his restoration by confirming and extending the blessings of a free constitution.

The emigration of our countrymen to Italy is so extensive, that 400 English families now reside at Naples alone.

Between 500 and 600 English are now resident at Rome, including branches from the noble families of Devonshire, Jersey, Westmoreland, Lansdown, Beresford, King, Cowper, Compton, Dunstanville, Denbigh, Carnarvon, and Breadalbane.—The duchess of Devonshire gives parties every week, and is a great patroness of the fine arts.

Canova.—The pope had attached to the title of Marquis of Ischia, which he conferred on the sculptor Canova, an annual pension of 3000 crowns. This celebrated artist has disposed of this revenue in the following

manner: First, a fixed donation to the Roman academy of archeology of 600 crowns. Second, 1070 crowns to found annual prizes, and a triennial prize for sculpture painting and architecture, which the young artists of Rome and the Roman states only are competent to obtain. Third, 100 crowns to the academy of St. Luc. Fourth, 120 crowns to the academy of the Lynx; and fifth, 1010 crowns to relieve poor, old, and infirm artists residing in Rome.

Foreign papers, dated in March, reckon above 800 English families to be resident in the three cities of Florence, Leghorn, and Pisa. The number of young English who are receiving their education in various schools in Italy may be estimated at 1500.

GERMANY.

By the new regulations in the Prussian dominions, heavy taxes are to be imposed upon English goods, while the manufactures of other countries are to be subject to smaller duties. The continental system seems to have created manufacturers, who are now in danger of being ruined by the competition of England.

A German paper contains the following, as it is asserted, accurate account of the Austrian army.

Infantry,	349,200
Light Infantry,	85,800
Cavalry,	75,000
Artillery,	20,000

Total,.....530,000

The king of Wirtemberg has abolished the censorship of the press; and, by conciliatory firmness towards his people, is likely to become one of the most popular sovereigns in Europe. The States were opened on the 3d March, at Stuttgart, by the king in person, when the project of the new constitution was presented to that body. It consists of 337 articles, and is highly favourable to the liberty of the subject.

SWEDEN.

By the latest accounts, the present government of this country appears to stand on very slippery ground; and something more than even all the characteristic prudence and worldly wisdom of Bernadotte will be required to support him on the Scandinavian throne.—Stockholm, March 18: alarming reports of a political nature have arisen. One Lindhorne, a publican, denounced, on the 13th, certain seditious language which he had overheard. The affair, of which the object was no less than a total subversion of the present order of government, has immediately given rise to the strictest investigation, and has appeared sufficiently important to induce all the high colleges (or public boards), and deputations of the armed force,—the nobility, the citizens of Stockholm, and the peasants,—to wait on the Crown Prince, and assure him of their fidelity and attachment.

RUSSIA.

By an ukase of the Emperor Alexander, the male population of Poland has, with few exceptions, been made liable to the military conscription, from twenty to thirty years of age.—A rescript to the governor of Cherson, in favour of the Duchobooze, a sect of dissenters from the Greek Church, is highly honourable to the humane feelings and enlightened views of this monarch.

TURKEY.

Letters from Constantinople of the 1st February state, that the British minister is still in negotiation relative to the affairs of the Ionian Islands, of which the divan pertinaciously refuses to acknowledge the independence. Yet it was not unknown at Constantinople, that General Maitland had arrived at Corfu, and had convoked the Grand Senate to pronounce definitively on the administration or organization of the state.—If we may credit letters from Vienna, inserted in the Paris papers, it would seem that the Porte has to contend with a rebellious subject in the person of the Pacha of Bagdad, who having been formally deposed by a firman from Constantinople, refused to resign his power, and acknowledge his successor.—It is also stated in the same journals, that the Pacha of Egypt, the most powerful of the Turkish governors in the Mediterranean, is preparing to dispute the sovereignty of that province with the Ottoman Porte.

America.

UNITED STATES.

THE president of the United States transmitted to both Houses of Congress, on the 4th December, a message by Mr Todd, his secretary, of which we can only give the general outline. It begins by noticing the partial failure of the crops, the depression of particular branches of manufactures, and of navigation,—complains of the British government for prohibiting a trade between its colonies and the United States in American vessels,—notices the attack on the American flag by a Spanish ship of war, and the uncertain state of the relations with Algiers,—expresses much satisfaction at the tranquillity that has been restored among the Indian tribes, and between these tribes and the United States,—recommends a re-organization of the militia, provision for the uniformity of weights and measures, the establishment of a university within the district which contains the seat of government, an amendment of the criminal law,—and suggests, that the regulations which were intended to guard against abuses in the slave trade should be rendered more effectual. The expediency of a re-modification of the judiciary establishment, and of an additional department in the executive branch of the government, are re-

commended to the consideration of Congress. —On the subject of finance the President expresses much satisfaction. The actual receipts of the revenue during 1816 are said to amount to about 47,000,000 dollars, and the payments to only 38,000,000; thus leaving a surplus in the treasury, at the close of the year, of about 9,000,000 dollars. The aggregate of the funded debt, on the 1st January 1817, is estimated not to exceed 110,000,000 dollars, the ordinary annual expenses of government are taken at less than 20,000,000, and the permanent revenue at 25,000,000. The state of the currency and the establishment of the national bank are then noticed; and Mr Madison concludes this moderate and well-written document, by referring to the near approach of the period at which he is to retire from public service, and with animated expressions of satisfaction at the tranquillity and prosperity of the country.

It is pleasing to observe the facility with which useful institutions are adopted, under the harmony at present subsisting among mankind. The Provident or Saving Banks, which have been established so beneficially in Britain, are likely to be soon very generally resorted to in the United States. The plan was in progress at Boston before the close of 1816, and was countenanced by a large body of the state legislature.

From the report of the late secretary to the treasury, it appears that the gross revenue for the year 1816 amounted to 59,403,978, and the expenditure to 38,745,799 dollars, leaving an excess of receipts, amounting to 20,658,179, exclusive of the sum in the treasury on the first of January 1816.

A bill has been brought into Congress, to prevent citizens of the United States from selling vessels of war to the subjects of any foreign power, and more effectually to prevent the arming and equipping of vessels of war intended to be used against nations in amity with the United States. This bill is supposed to be chiefly directed against the insurgents of Spanish America, and to have been brought forward through the representations of the Spanish minister.

It has been officially announced, that Mr Morro has been elected president, and Mr Tomkins vice-president, for the constitutional term of four years from the 4th of last month.

An act of Congress has passed, by which all British vessels entering the ports of the United States, from our colonial possessions, are to be subjected to an additional duty of two dollars per ton. This proceeding is resorted to, in consequence of the exclusion of the American shipping from our West India islands.

It has been proposed, in the House of Representatives, to reduce the peace establishment to 5000 men, and also to repeal all the internal taxes.

The exports from the United States, for the year ending 30th September 1816,

amounted to \$1,920,452 dollars, of which \$3,781,896 were of domestic materials, and 17,139,556 foreign.

A report from the committee on manufactures was presented to the legislature of the state of New York on the 20th January, which recommends, for the encouragement of the infant manufactures of the United States, particularly of woollen and cotton, either a permanent augmentation of the duties on their import, or a prohibition of all such as can be supplied by the home manufactures.

BRITISH AMERICA.

BY the Newfoundland Gazette, we learn that a question of great importance attracts the attention of the inhabitants of that island, and one which is of much interest to the inhabitants of Great Britain. The validity of marriages solemnized by dissenting ministers has been disputed, and reference made on the subject to the statute law of England.

The legislature of Jamaica, it appears, have strictly complied with the request of his Majesty's government, to prevent any infringement of the laws for the abolition of the slave trade.

SPANISH AMERICA.

THE cause of the insurgents in Spanish America ebbs and flows with such rapid and uncertain vicissitude, that it is extremely difficult to give any thing like a correct view of the state of the contest in these widely extended regions. We see them defeated and driven from place to place,—rallying, returning, and victorious in their turn; but no decisive advantage seems as yet to have been gained by either party, nor does there appear, in the accounts which have reached this country, sufficient materials from which to form a decided opinion on the future progress and final results of a contest which is marked by want of system and energy on both sides. Whatever may be the result of the present struggle, however, the time cannot be far distant when these extensive countries will form several rich, powerful, and independent states, a consummation devoutly to be wished—for their own sakes, and for the general prosperity of the civilized world, of which they are probably destined to form one of the most valuable and interesting divisions.—Lord Cochrane and Sir Robert Wilson are said to be about to embark in the cause of Spanish American independence. Such strongly constructed and unquiet minds seem to be necessary to the progress of human affairs; and in this scene of trouble their energies may produce a happy effect upon the hitherto feeble and unenlightened subjects of one of the worst governments that ever oppressed and degraded the human race.—Sir Gregor M'Gregor, who has so much distinguished himself in this contest, is the son of the late Captain Daniel M'Gregor, a gentleman of Argyll-

shire in Scotland; who was long an officer in India. He is under thirty years of age, served as a captain with the British army in Spain, was afterwards colonel in the British service, and had a Spanish order of knighthood conferred upon him, and was allowed by the Prince Regent to assume the title in his native country.

The Portuguese troops have invaded the territory of Monte Video; but whether in consequence of an arrangement with Old Spain, or with a view to conquest on their own account, does not seem to be very clearly ascertained. It is not likely that their interference will materially affect the general result, except in so far as it may have a tendency to carry the flame of revolution into their own transatlantic territories.

HAYTI.

WE have received what is called the revived constitution of Hayti, or rather of that part of the island which is under the government of Petion. It is comprehended in 11 articles, which are subdivided into upwards of 200 sections; and, like most other exhibitions of this sort, it makes a sufficiently respectable appearance on paper.

The Haytian Royal Gazette notices the king of France's proposals to Christophe, and the indignation of his able Majesty and his minister, the Duke of Marmalade, at the insolent superscription of the papers, which, instead of being most respectfully addressed to "His Majesty the King of Hayti," were directed only to "Monsieur the General Christophe, at Cape Francois." The letters were returned unopened.

ASIA.

EAST INDIES.—Calcutta papers announce the agreeable intelligence, that Captain Webb has crossed the several ranges of the snowy mountains, and entered Tartary. It is his opinion that he might, without great difficulty, from the situation which he last wrote, penetrate into the heart of Russia. Much may be expected from Captain Webb's scientific skill towards a correct knowledge of these stupendous heights, whose summits have been found to rise more than 20,000 feet above the level of the sea, nearly 8,000 feet higher than Chimborazo, the highest of the Andes.

At a late meeting of the Asiatic Society, a curious document was communicated, respecting several classes of robbers and murderers, known in the south of India by the name of *Phanagars*, and in the upper provinces by the appellation of *Thugs*; the peculiarity of whose practice is the employment of a noose, which they throw round the traveller whom they have fallen in with on the road, apparently by accident, and whom they thus strangle and rob; they live in a regular society, and roam the country in gangs, under a regular sirdar, or chief.

CEYLON.—The Dutch planters of Ceylon have adopted some judicious regulations for the gradual abolition of slavery; all children born of slaves, after the 12th of August last, are to be considered free, but to remain in their master's house, and serve him for board, lodging, and clothing; the males till the age of 14, and the females till 12—after which to be fully emancipated.

CHINA.—Although no official intelligence has been received by government from Lord Amherst, since his arrival at Peking, yet there is reason to believe, from private accounts from Canton, of the 17th November, that the British embassy to that court has entirely failed; though it is impossible at present to assign the reasons. Another circumstance mentioned in these letters, threatens to produce still more unfortunate effects. The *Alceste* British frigate, commanded by Captain Maxwell, was fired at by the forts on either side of the river; but the ship being immediately moored within pistol shot of one of them mounting forty guns, with two broadsides armed both batteries. The *Alceste* was then ordered to proceed quietly to her destination; and what is most singular, up to the 17th November, not the slightest notice had been taken of the affair by the governor of Canton.

FRANCE.—The government of Persia, it is said, have applied for the permission of the British government to take British officers on half pay into their army, with a view of introducing modern tactics into the military establishment of that country; an attack being apprehended on the part of Russia. It is even stated in a letter from Calcutta, of the 15th October, that the Archduke Constantine has entered Persia at the head of 100,000 Russians; but this report as yet gains little credit in this country.

Optics.

CONGO EXPEDITION.—The detailed accounts of the expedition to explore the river Congo, or Zaire, reached the Admiralty some weeks ago. Melancholy as the result has been, from the great mortality of officers and men, owing to the excessive fatigue, rather than to the effects of climate, the journals of Captain Tuckey, and the gentlemen in the scientific departments, are, it is said, highly interesting and satisfactory, as far as they go, and we believe they extend considerably beyond the first night of capture. It would seem, in-

deed, that the mortality was entirely owing to the land journey beyond these rapids, and that Captain Tuckey died of complete exhaustion after leaving the river, and not from fever.

We lament to learn, that when the Dorothy transport was at Cabendo, in the end of October last, there were ten Portuguese ships in the port waiting for slaves, and two from Spain.

The Congo discovery vessel arrived at Portsmouth from Bahia last month. The journal of the lamented Captain Tuckey is said to describe the country he explored for 226 miles, as a rocky desert, and thinly peopled region, not worthy of further research.

March 29.—Information has just been received of the death of Major Peddie, before he reached the Niger. Lieutenant Campbell is now the commanding officer; and, we understand, proceeded to carry into execution the orders received by Major Peddie.

ST HELENA.—The *Orontes* frigate, which left St Helena on the 4th January, has brought to England Colonel Poniewski, the Polish officer who followed Bonaparte, and who was some time since banished from that island to the Cape, for improper conduct; and Lord Somerset has now sent him to Europe. Las Casas and his son have been also sent to the Cape in the *Griffin* sloop of war, in consequence, it is said, of their concerting a plan of correspondence with France.

A letter, addressed by order of Bonaparte to Sir Hudson Lowe, governor of St Helena, by General Montholon, brought to this country by Napoleon's usher of the cabinet, M. St Santini, has been published, in which the Ex-emperor loudly complains of the rigorous manner in which he is treated by Sir Hudson Lowe. But the conduct of this officer was defended by Earl Bathurst, in the debate to which Lord Holland's late motion on the subject gave rise, and the insinuations thrown out by Bonaparte against the British government were very satisfactorily repelled.

ISLE OF FRANCE.—On the 25th of September, a great fire happened at Fort Louis, which is said to have destroyed property to the value of a million and a half Sterling. Nineteen streets were entirely consumed, including hospitals, prisons, barracks, magazines, and other public buildings. The greater number of the unfortunate inhabitants have been reduced to absolute poverty.

PROCEEDINGS OF PARLIAMENT.

Tuesday, 28th January.—The Prince Regent came to the House of Lords with the usual state, at three o'clock, and opened the Session of Parliament with the following speech from the Throne :

My Lords, and Gentlemen,

It is with the deepest regret that I am again obliged to announce to you, that no alteration has occurred in the state of his Majesty's lamented indisposition.

I continue to receive from Foreign Powers, the strongest assurances of their friendly disposition towards this country, and of their earnest desire to maintain the general tranquillity.

The hostilities to which I was compelled to resort, in vindication of the honour of the country, against the government of Algiers, have been attended with the most complete success.

The splendid achievement of his Majesty's fleet, in conjunction with a squadron of the King of the Netherlands, under the gallant and able conduct of Admiral Viscount Exmouth, led to the immediate and unconditional liberation of all Christian captives then within the territory of Algiers, and to the renunciation by its government of the practice of Christian slavery.

I am persuaded, that you will be duly sensible of the importance of an arrangement so interesting to humanity, and reflecting, from the manner in which it has been accomplished, such signal honour on the British nation.

In India, the refusal of the Government of Nepal to ratify a treaty of peace, which had been signed by its Plenipotentiaries, occasioned a renewal of military operations.

The judicious arrangements of the Governor-General, seconded by the bravery and perseverance of his Majesty's forces, and of those of the East India Company, brought the campaign to a speedy and successful issue; and peace has been finally established, upon the just and honourable terms of the original treaty.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I have directed the estimates of the current year to be laid before you.

They have been formed upon a full consideration of all the present circumstances of the country, with an anxious desire to make every reduction in our establishments which the safety of the empire and sound policy allow.

I recommend the state of the public income and expenditure to your early and serious attention.

I regret to be under the necessity of informing you, that there has been a deficiency in the produce of the revenue in the last year; but I trust, that it is to be ascribed to temporary causes; and I have the conso-

lation to believe, that you will find it practicable to provide for the public service of the year, without making any addition to the burdens of the people, and without adopting any measure injurious to that system, by which the public credit of the country has been hitherto sustained.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have the satisfaction of informing you, that the arrangements which were made in the last Session of Parliament, with a view to a new silver coinage, have been completed with unprecedented expedition.

I have given directions for the immediate issue of the new coin, and I trust that this measure will be productive of considerable advantages to the trade and internal transactions of the country.

The distresses consequent upon the termination of a war of such unusual extent and duration, have been felt, with greater or less severity, throughout all the nations of Europe, and have been considerably aggravated by the unfavourable state of the season.

Deeply as I lament the pressure of these evils upon this country, I am sensible that they are of a nature not to admit of an immediate remedy; but whilst I observe with peculiar satisfaction the fortitude with which so many privations have been borne, and the active benevolence which has been employed to mitigate them, I am persuaded that the great sources of our national prosperity are essentially unimpaired, and I entertain a confident expectation, that the native energy of the country will at no distant period surmount all the difficulties in which we are involved.

In considering our internal situation, you will, I doubt not, feel a just indignation at the attempts which have been made to take advantage of the distresses of the country, for the purpose of exciting a spirit of sedition and violence.

I am too well convinced of the loyalty and good sense of the great body of his Majesty's subjects, to believe them capable of being perverted by the arts which are employed to seduce them; but I am determined to omit no precautions for preserving the public peace, and for counteracting the designs of the disaffected: and I rely with the utmost confidence on your cordial support and co-operation, in upholding a system of law and government, from which we have derived inestimable advantages, which has enabled us to conclude, with unexampled glory, a contest wherupon depended the best interests of mankind, and which has been hitherto felt by ourselves, as it is acknowledged by other nations, to be the most perfect that has ever fallen to the lot of any people.

Lord SIDMOUTH, after strangers had withdrawn, informed the House, that as the Prince Regent was returning from the House, and the carriage was passing in the Park, at the back of the garden of Carleton House, the glass of the carriage window had been broken by a stone, as some represented it, or by two balls fired from an air-gun, as others stated it, which appeared to be aimed at his Royal Highness.

Both Houses examined witnesses on this communication, and presented addresses to the Prince Regent.

The address on the speech from the Throne was moved and seconded, by the Earl of DARTMOUTH and Lord ROTHES, in the House of Lords; and in the House of Commons, by Lord VALLETORT and Mr DAWSON. Earl GREY moved an amendment in the Lords, which was negatived without a division; and the original address was carried in the House of Commons, in opposition to an amendment moved by Mr PONSONBY, by a majority of 152.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, Feb. 3d.—Lord SIDMOUTH presented the following message, which was read by the Lord Chancellor: "His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, acting in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty, has thought proper to order to be laid before the House of Lords, papers containing an account of certain meetings and combinations held in different parts of the country, tending to the disturbance of the public tranquillity, the alienation of the affections of the people from his Majesty's person and government, and to the overthrow of the whole frame and system of the laws and constitution; and his Royal Highness recommends these papers to the immediate and serious consideration of the House."

THANKS TO LORD EXMOUTH.

Lord MELVILLE, after taking a review of the cause, the mode, and the effects of the expedition to Algiers, and paying a well-merited tribute of applause to the promptitude, skill, and gallantry, displayed in that memorable achievement, moved the thanks of the House to Lord Exmouth, Sir David Milne, and the officers, seamen, and marines; and also to Admiral Capellen, and the officers and crews under his command; which motions were unanimously agreed to.

PRINCE REGENT'S MESSAGE.

Feb. 4th.—Lord SIDMOUTH rose to propose to their Lordships, an answer to the message which he had last night laid before them from the Prince Regent. Their Lordships would, he had no doubt, concur in the address which he should have the honour to propose, as it would pledge their Lordships to nothing except to an examination of the evidence. He would refrain from all reference to any ulterior proceed-

ings, and recommend that nothing should be said or done until the report of the Committee should be laid before the House. The atrocious outrage lately committed against the Prince Regent was certainly regarded with the utmost horror and reprobation by an overwhelming majority of the nation; and he felt it his duty to state, that the present communication was not at all connected with that outrage.

After some general remarks by Lord Grosvenor, Lord Holland, the Earl of Liverpool, Earl Grey, and the Marquis of Buckingham, the address was agreed to, and the papers on the table were ordered to be referred to-morrow to a Committee of Secrecy, consisting of eleven Lords, to be then chosen by ballot.

NEPAUL WAR.

Feb. 6th.—The Earl of LIVERPOOL took a review of the cause of this war, and of the operations which led to its successful termination, and moved that the thanks of the House be given to the Most Noble the Marquis of Hastings, for the able and judicious arrangements by which the war in Nepal had been brought to a successful conclusion. The motion was agreed to; after which, thanks were voted to Sir David Ochterlony, and the troops under his command.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF SECRECY.

Feb. 18th.—The Earl of HARROWBY presented the report of the Secret Committee appointed to inquire into certain meetings and combinations endangering the public tranquillity, which was laid on the table, and ordered to be taken into consideration on Friday, and that the House be summoned for that day.

SUSPENSION OF THE HABEAS CORPUS ACT.

Feb. 21st.—Lord SIDMOUTH introduced a bill, under the title of, "A bill to enable his Majesty to secure and detain in custody, such persons as his Majesty shall suspect of treasonable intentions against his Majesty's person and government." His Lordship intimated, that it was thought most convenient for their Lordships to discuss the principle of the measure on the second reading of the bill, which he intended to propose should take place on Monday next. Read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time on Monday.

Feb. 24th.—Lord SIDMOUTH, after moving the order of the day for the second reading of the bill, observed, that whatever differences of opinion might exist as to this and other measures in contemplation, he was confident that no Noble Lord could have read and reflected upon the report of the Committee upon the table, without the deepest regret, calculated as it was to shock every feeling of loyalty to the Throne, and of affection for the illustrious individual exercising its functions, and to cast a loathsome stigma upon the character and dispo-

ation of the country. His Lordship then at great length commented on the leading points of the report, urged the necessity of the measure, for the preservation of the constitution and the salvation of the country; and concluded with moving, that the bill be now read a second time.

After an animated debate, protracted till past two in the morning, the House divided. Contents, 150. Non-contents, 24. The bill was then committed, repeated, read a third time, passed, and ordered to be sent to the Commons.

PROTEST.

Discontent.—Because it does not appear to us, that, in the report of the Secret Committee, there has been stated such a case of imminent and pressing danger, as may not be sufficiently provided against by the powers of the Executive Government under the existing laws, and as requires the suspension of the most important security of the liberty of the country.

AUGUSTUS FREDERICK, BEDFORD,
ALBEMARLE, FOLKE, SURRENDER;
ALVANLEY, MONTFORD, ESSEX,
LAUDERDALE, GRESH, WELLESLEY,
THASHT, GROSVENOR, ANCHLAND,
ST JOHN, SAN and SEAN,
ROSELYN, VASSALL HOLLAND.

OFFICES' CONTRIBUTION BILL.

Feb. 23.—The House having gone into a Committee on the Malt Duty, and Offices' Contribution Bill, Lord REDEBASS moved, in pursuance of notice, to propose an amendment. The Bill contained a clause of a very peculiar description, stating, That whereas His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, and many persons holding public offices, was desirous of contributing a certain portion of the income derived from these offices towards the public service, it was enacted, that it should be lawful to give the proper instructions to the officers of the Exchequer to receive such contributions, &c. The contributions were to be voluntary; but then they would be voluntary only in the sense in which the contribution for beer-duty was formerly raised among the Lordships' servants. When a new covenant made his appearance for the first time, he was called upon to pay this beer-duty; and if he refused, the process of hounding was resorted to, and they continued to hound him until he paid the money. But he would not consent to be hound out of his money, and he trusted that others would not be induced to be taxed in this way, under pretence of a voluntary contribution. His Lordship then proceeded at some length to explain, that men who held official situations frequently injured their private families by the expenses which they felt it necessary to incur, and to which their salaries were, in many instances, inadequate. His Lordship therefore disapproved of the whole clause, but his amendment was suggested without a division.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PARLIAMENTARY REFORM—RULES TO BE OBSERVED IN PRESENTING PETITIONS.

Friday, Jan. 31.—Sir FRANCIS BURDETT having some Petitions to present, praying for a Reform in the Representation of that House, acknowledged that he had not felt it his duty to read them through out, but declared that he had read their purport. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER referred to the Speaker to know whether the Hon. Member had read the Petition he was about to present, when.

The SPEAKER said, there was no objection on this subject; the first was, that it was the duty of a Member to state the substance of the petition he was about to present; secondly, it was the Member's duty to know if it was couched in respectful language; if not, he departed from the duty of his duty in offering it. This was the established practice of the House.

Monday, Feb. 3.—Lord CASTLERAGH presented a message from the Prince Regent, similar to that presented in the House of Lords.

THANKS TO LORD REMOVAL.

On the motion of Lord CASTLERAGH, votes of thanks, similar to those voted in the House of Lords, were agreed to.

COMMITTEE OF SECRET.

Feb. 4.—On the motion of Lord CASTLERAGH, the House proceeded to ballot for the Committee of Secret, and after the prescribed forms were gone through.

Mr BROGDEN appeared at the Bar with the report of the Committee appointed to examine the list given in for purporting the Committee of Secret, when the report having been read, twenty-one gentlemen were named of the Committee.

SAVING BANKS.

Mr ROSE moved to bring in a Bill for regulating Provident Institutions, or Saving Banks. In reply to some remarks from Mr Curzon, respecting the increasing burden of the poor-rates, Mr Rose said, that he felt great anxiety that it should not go forth to the public that the poor-rates would be considerably diminished by the measure he now proposed. His main wish it to be understood, that, as far as it went, it would tend to afford very great relief, not only by diminishing the wants and distresses of the labouring poor, but also by teaching them to rely in future on themselves for happiness and independence.

SEVERAL WAR.

Feb. 6.—Mr CANNING gave a history of the rise and ascending power of the Gordons, with an account of the war, and its close; and concluded with moving votes of thanks similar to those agreed to in the House of Lords.

COMMITTEE OF WAYS AND MEANS.

Feb. 1.—The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER having moved the order of the

day for Mr. Glynne's moving itself into the special Committee, observed, that he intended to propose only such votes as would go to the renewal of certain usual annual taxes, and a grant of Exchequer Bills to replace them which were now out. The several duties on malt, sugar, &c. were then moved, and it was then proposed that £24,000,000 be raised by Excise duties. Bills for the service of the year 1816.

On the observations by Sir C. Monck and Mr. Calcraft, the resolutions were agreed to.

EXPENSES AND REDUCTIONS.

MR. W. B. CANTRELL (the Member for the Committee on that part of the Budget's) speech which related to the House, in an elaborate speech of great length, and embracing a variety of views of the state of the country, past, present, and prospective, did not disguise or extenuate the present distress, but still maintained, that with the characteristic vigour and energy of the British character, and an economy pervading every department of the public service, we should soon be restored to our high situation among the nations. He then entered into a detail of the reductions of the national expenditure which were contemplated, making a total annual diminution, in all the different branches, of six millions and a half, and thereby reducing the current expenses of this year to £19,373,000; and that there might be a further saving of above a million anticipated in the next year, which would bring the expenditure down to £17,300,000; and that of this sum there was not more than £15,000,000 applicable to current services, for there were now paid in pensions, and half pay to the officers and men in the army, navy, and military departments, who had contributed to bring the war to so glorious a termination, upwards of four millions. A certain proportion of the pensions would annually be available for the public service by the decease of those who enjoyed them. A hundred thousand men were now in the receipt of pensions and half-pay. He had made inquiries as to what, upon ordinary calculations, might be expected to accrue annually from the falling in of their allowances. By assuming the medium age of 60, was half of the whole would cease to receive in the course of 80 years, making 2,500 annually; and, as the allowances are four millions, the sum becoming available every year for the public service, in the reduction of the public burdens, would be £100,000. In making up the estimates, a sketch of which he (Lord C.) had submitted to the House, Ministers were actuated by the most anxious desire to effect every possible reduction; to carry into effect every plan of economy that was consistent with our situation and security; and to bring the expenditure of the nation as much as possible within its means. His Lordship took a review of the general distress that prevailed all over Eu-

rope; he praised the generous sympathy which bound all classes of society together in this happy land, and those spontaneous efforts made to lighten the burdens of the destitute, by sharing them. In the highest quarters, in the head of the government of this country, the same feelings and sympathies were shared that actuated his people. He not only sympathized with their distress, but was prepared to share their privations; and, from the spontaneous movement of his own mind, had expressed his determination to abstain from receiving, in the present state of distress, so much of the civil list as he could refuse, consistently with maintaining the dignity of his station, without doing what Parliament would disapprove of incurring.—(*General cheering.*) His Royal Highness had given his commands to inform the House, that he meant to give up for the public service a fifth part of the fourth class of the civil list, which it ought to be observed was the only branch connected with the personal expenses, or the royal state of the Sovereign; for all the other heads of charge included in the civil list, except the privy purse, were as much for paying public services as the sums included in the estimates he had this night mentioned.—(*Hear, hear!*) That branch of the civil list amounted to £209,000; and his Royal Highness offered, out of this and the privy purse, £10,000.—(*Hear, hear!*)—for the public service. His Royal Highness had directed and applauded the exertions of his people, he had shared in their glories, and now generously sympathized in their sufferings, and determined to share their privations.—(*Hear!*) The servants of the Crown had resolved to follow the example of their Royal Master, and to surrender that part of their salaries which had accrued to them since the abolition of the property tax.—(*Hear, hear!*) His Lordship came then to the last branch of the subject, the formation of a Committee, for the purpose of inquiring into the income and expenditure of the country, on the mode of choosing which, and on the duties they were to perform, his Lordship expatiated for some time, and then concluded with proposing the appointment of a Committee, to consist of 21 members, “for the purpose of inquiring into the revenue and expenditure of the country for the years ending the 5th January 1816, the 5th January 1816 and 1817, and also for the years ending the 5th January 1818 and 1819, with a view to the investigation of measures for affording relief to the country, without detriment to the public service; and to report thereon, from time to time, their opinions to the House.” Before he sat down, it would be right to mention, that he proposed the Committee should be invested with full powers to send for persons, papers, and records.—(*Hear, hear!*) that they should possess all the means of pursuing their inquiries to the bottom.

The Noble Lord concluded with reading

the following list:—Lord Castlereagh, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Ponsonby, Mr Banks, Mr Long, Mr Tierney, Lord Binning, Sir J. Newport, Mr Peel, Mr C. W. Wynne, Mr Arbuthnot, Mr Frankland Lewis, Mr Huskisson, Mr N. Calvert, Mr Davies Gilbert, Mr Cartwright, Mr Holford, Mr Edward Littleton, Lord Clive, Mr Gooch, and Sir T. Ackland.

Mr TIERNEY, and many other members, delivered their sentiments at great length, both against and for this nomination, after which the House divided. For the Committee 210; against it 117.

Two other divisions took place, on a motion to substitute other names in the room of Lord Binning and Mr Huskisson, but the majority decided that they were to stand as part of the Committee.

SINECURES.

Tuesday, Feb. 11.—Lord CASTLEREAGH, in reply to General Ferguson, stated that the Noble Marquis (Cambden) alluded to had resigned all the emoluments and profits of the office he held, (Tellership of the Exchequer) and only retained the regulated salary of £3500. (*Cheering.*) The Noble Marquis had been for some time desirous of making this sacrifice, but as his office was in the nature of a vested right, and as he did not know what effect this surrender might have on others in a similar situation, he delayed till the meeting of Parliament. Seeing, however, the example of retrenchment and sacrifice set in the highest quarter, he no longer hesitated, and offered now all the emoluments of his appointment. (*Hear, hear.*)

PARLIAMENTARY REFORM.

Feb. 14.—A great many petitions having been presented praying for a Reform in Parliament, most of them claiming universal suffrage and annual elections, as the ancient constitution of the kingdom, Mr BROUGHAM spoke to the following effect: "Sir, I have in all cases gone as far as it was possible for me to go, to assist in opening the door of this House to the people's complaints; and I have done all that I could—and not less than the Noble Lord (Cochrane) —to discountenance, as far as my little influence would allow me, any proposition which appeared to me to be calculated to impede, cramp, and hamper the exercise of popular rights. (*Hear, hear, hear!*) I therefore put myself on my country, in competition with the Noble Lord, as to which of us has shewn himself to be the greater friend of the people of England. (*Hear, hear, hear!*) But, Sir, I will not shew my friendship for the people, by telling them falsehoods. (*Hear, hear, hear!*) I will not be a party in practising delusion on the people. (*Hear, hear, hear!*) I will not take advantage of the warmth of popular meetings,—a great proportion of the individuals constituting which are necessarily ignorant of the nicer points of history and antiquity,—to induce the people to sign such petitions as those

which have lately been presented to this House. (*Hear, hear, hear!*) Sir, I would not be a party in telling the people (monstrous assertion!) that twelve hundred years ago this country enjoyed a free and perfect constitution. (*Hear, hear, hear!*) This, Sir, is a specimen of the historical knowledge,—of the antiquarian research,—of the acquaintance with constitutional law of these wisecracks out of doors, who, after poring for days and nights, and brooding over their wild and mischievous schemes, rise up with their little nostrums and big blunders to amend the British Constitution! (*Laughter and loud cheers.*) And then, Sir, we are pronounced ignorant and daring who refuse to subscribe to the creed of these true reformers, who know accurately what happened in this country five hundred years before authenticated history begins! (*Hear!*) and we are told, that he who will not believe the self-evident propositions of these gentlemen, which it is said are so reasonable as not to admit of the least controversy, are dishonest as well as ignorant and daring. The people of England have presented hundreds of petitions to this House. I believe above a million of people have declared to this House some opinion or other on the question of reform. These persons have been collected together at meetings, to which they flocked simply because they felt severe distress. They knew from their own experience, and from the nature of their sufferings, that they in a great measure originated in the maladministration of public affairs. There is one conclusion, Sir, which we ought to draw from all these considerations; namely, that severe distress is the real cause of this popular agitation; and that as far as the people call upon us for great retrenchments and some reform, the call is well founded, and must be heard. I heartily hope that it may be heard before it is too late, and that the people may by that means be taken and kept out of the hands of those who would betray them into misery a hundred fold greater than that which they at present endure." (*Hear, hear!*)

COMMITTEE OF SECRECY.

Wednesday, Feb. 19.—Mr B. BATHURST appeared at the bar with the report of the Committee of Secrecy, to whom certain papers, laid before the House by command of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, had been referred.—Ordered to be printed, and taken into consideration on Monday next.

POOR LAWS.

Feb. 21.—Mr CURWEN, in a clear and argumentative speech, took a wide and comprehensive view of the Poor Laws in their origin, progress, and present oppressive magnitude. We can only give a few detached passages. The great evils were increasing still, and would increase much more, unless some remedy were applied to bring things back to their original state. We had, it was to be recollected,

become, from an agricultural, a commercial country. In 1776 the poor rates were stated at a million and a half; now, in the course of forty years, they might be taken altogether at eight millions and a half. This monstrous sum must excite the deepest regret; but it was not merely the amount that was to be deplored, for the sum of happiness and consolation was not increased by it; but, on the contrary, there was an augmentation of human misery. Something must now be applied. He was well aware that the amount was so great, that it was impossible to cut it down at once. We had, in the course of years, in fact taken away the care of the people from themselves; and the result of this conduct unfortunately was, that they regarded the present time as every thing, and the future as nothing. It was now our interest and our duty, to endeavour to rescue them from this condition, and to revive and elevate their minds by the operation of some other principle. If we did not, we should lend ourselves to the destruction of their industry, their virtue, and their happiness. A foreigner must look with astonishment at the enormous sum of nine millions raised for the relief of the poor. Few foreign Sovereigns had so great a revenue for all the purposes of their governments. He could make his appeal to those gentlemen who were Magistrates, to say, whether the poor were at present happy, contented, and grateful! No! they must answer, that they were unhappy, dissatisfied, ungrateful to those who afforded them temporary relief, and without real comfort. (*Hear!*) They looked on every thing with a jaundiced eye, and discontent of mind. He had visited Ireland, and when he first saw the wretched Irish cabins, with the smoke issuing through the door, his feelings of disgust were so strong, that he turned away, desirous of not entering; but when he did go in, he found a surprising revolution, and the least looked-for that he could have imagined. He saw within the place the exercise of all the affections of the heart, while potatoes were the food, and butter-milk the only luxury. He thought the Irish peasant happier than an English pauper. He saw a proof that happiness was chiefly seated in the mind. The poor Irishman did not appear broken in spirit or degraded. He travelled a thousand miles in that country, making observations on the state of the poorer classes wherever he went. Nothing, he was convinced, was so dangerous to the poor as pauperism: yet there were not less than two millions of British subjects in that degrading condition. Could the House require a stronger stimulus than this afflicting consideration, to impel them to the application of an instant remedy? After ages of inconveniences had passed, the remedy could operate only by slow degrees; but still he must assume the possibility of its efficacy. It was not possible for the Legislature to

prevent premature and imprudent marriages; but it must be their object to inspire the poor with some forethought of the miseries that might come upon an unprovided offspring. The great object of a proper Committee would be, to find means of shewing to the people their own interest and advantage, in taking their happiness into their own hands. He gave a melancholy picture of the demands in the shape of Poor Rates, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, where one farmer occupying 210 acres of land was called upon to pay a guinea a day; and in Sussex, Shropshire, and other counties, he mentioned assessments at 18s. 20s. 24s. and 26s.; and even higher. After stating a number of laborious calculations, to enforce or elucidate his arguments, he said it was his intention to call on the fund-holder, the money-lender, and the trade of the country, to bear their proportion of the burthen; but it was his great aim to lessen the number of claimants, to reduce pauperism within narrower limits, and to restore to the mass of population that independent spirit, which would teach them to trust to themselves and their own exertions for support. After developing his plans and intentions, he moved for a Committee to be appointed, to consider the state of the Poor Laws and the Labouring Poor.

LORD CASTLEREAGH complimented the Hon. Member on the calm, deliberate, and judicious manner in which he had introduced this important subject; and admitted, that his claim on him for his general view of the subject was fair. He was anxious to support inquiry, as were all around him. Ministers would dedicate their time to it most cheerfully, as far as was consistent with their other avocations. His Lordship then entered into a most explicit statement of his view of the subject, which we regret exceedingly that we cannot give.

A Committee was then appointed, and ordered to report from time to time to the House.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF SECRECY.

Monday, Feb. 24.—LORD CASTLEREAGH prefaced the measures he had to submit to the House with expressions of extreme regret at the necessity which compelled him, in the discharge of his public duty, to bring them forward; he then entered into a very copious analysis and illustration of the report, but without adding any thing material to the statements thereof, or disclosing the facts and evidence on which it was founded, assigning the same reasons that Lord Sidmouth used in the other House. In order to counteract and repress the treasonous practices now afoot in the country, the Ministers of the Crown deemed it necessary, 1st, That a bill should be passed, suspending the Habeas Corpus Act; 2d, For the more effectually preventing seditious meetings and assemblies; 3d, For extending the same legal protection to the person of the

Prince Regent as to the King: 4th, For the better prevention and punishment of persons attempting to seduce the military from their duty and allegiance. The last two he would propose to make perpetual; the first two only temporary, perhaps to the close of the present session, or the commencement of the next. He concluded with moving for leave to bring in a bill for the more effectually preventing of seditious meetings.

The debate was long and animated; and on a division, the numbers were, ayes 190; noes 14; majority 176. The bill was read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time on Wednesday.

LORD CASTLEREAGH then presented a bill to extend to the person of the Prince Regent the statute of 36 George III. for the better preservation of his Majesty's person; and a bill to extend the 37th of his Majesty, for rendering more penal the seduction of the soldiery. They were both read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time on Wednesday.

LORDS OF THE ADMIRALTY.

Feb. 25.—A very long debate ensued on a motion of Sir M. W. RIDLEY, the purport of which was to diminish the number of the Lords of the Admiralty, which was lost on a division; there being for the original motion 152; for the previous question moved by Lord Castlereagh, 208; majority 86.

THE HABEAS CORPUS SUSPENSION BILL.

Feb. 26.—On the first reading of this bill being moved by Lord CASTLEREAGH, it was warmly opposed by Mr BENNETT and other members. On a division the numbers were, ayes 273; noes 98; majority 175. In the course of the debate, the LORD ADVOCATE of Scotland said, that he was in-

formed that a secret conspiracy was organized in Glasgow, which had communications with societies in England. That conspiracy was held together by means of a secret oath, which he read to the House:

"In the presence of Almighty God, I A. B. do voluntarily swear, that I will persevere in my endeavouring to form a brotherhood of affection amongst Britons of every description who are considered worthy of confidence; and that I will persevere in my endeavours to obtain for all the people in Great Britain and Ireland, not disqualified by crimes or insanity, the elective franchise at the age of twenty-one, with free and equal representation, and annual parliaments; and that I will support the same to the utmost of my power, *either by word or physical strength, as the case may require.* (Loud cries of hear.) And I do further swear, that neither hopes, fears, rewards, or punishments, shall induce me to inform or give evidence against any member or members, collectively or individually, for any act or expression done or made, or to be done or made, in or out, in this or similar societies, under the *punishment of death*, to be inflicted on me by any member or members of such society. So help me God, and keep me steadfast!" (Hear, from all sides of the House.)

Feb. 28.—On the motion of the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, the bill was read a third time and passed. Ayes 255; Noes 103; majority 162. Another division took place on a motion of Mr POWSONY, that the act should expire on the 29th May, instead of the 1st July. Against the motion 239; for it 97; majority 142.

(To be continued.)

BRITISH CHRONICLE.

JANUARY.

THE Prince Regent has been pleased to grant out of the funds at the disposal of his Majesty, £1000, in aid of the subscription for relief of the labouring classes within the city of Edinburgh and suburbs.

A useful discovery.—A machine has been constructed under the immediate auspices of the Lord Mayor of London, calculated to render the most essential services. Its object is to act in case of the overturning of carts, waggons, &c. heavily laden, when by its use an immediate remedy is produced, and danger obviated, in cases where horses become entangled, and their lives endangered. The application of the machine has been already proved to be instantaneous in its effects. The experiment was made at the brewhouse of Calvert & Company a few days since, with a dray, on which

were placed three butts of beer. The expense does not exceed 30s. From a conviction of its great utility, the Lord Mayor has caused one to be placed in the care of each of the watchhouse-keepers in the six principal districts of the city, viz. Giltspur Street, Fleet Market, Mansion House, London Bridge, Bishopsgate, and Aldgate.

2.—*A flat, yet lively contradiction.*—[To the Proprietor of the Dublin Evening Post.] "Sir,—Having seen an account of my death in your paper, I request you will contradict it."

RICHD. KEVIN."

6.—This being the Princess Charlotte's birth-day, when her Royal Highness completed her 21st year, the day was celebrated at Claremont, and in London, by her Royal Highness's tradesmen illuminating their houses, and by other rejoicings.

7.—The gazette of last night contains an address from the corporation of Dublin to the Prince Regent, thanking, in the warmest terms, his Royal Highness for his munificent contribution of £2000, in aid of the fund for the relief of the labouring classes of that city.

8.—The committee for distributing relief to the labouring classes in the city of Edinburgh have now on their list above 1600 persons. The men are employed in working on Leith Walk, at the head of the Links, on the ground on the east side of the Mound, and on the Calton Hill. The subscription amounts to upwards of £6000.

East India House.—A special meeting of proprietors of East India stock was held in Leadenhall Street, to take into further consideration the question of appointing an additional European professor of the oriental languages in their college at Hertford, at a salary of £400, and a further allowance of £100 per annum; when, after a long and animated discussion respecting the character of this establishment, the resolution was put to the vote, and carried in the affirmative.

8.—For several hours this morning, the fog throughout the whole of the metropolis was so intense, that candles were used in every shop and counting-house. About twelve o'clock, however, the sun burst out again in all his glory, and a fine summer-like day succeeded.

8.—The body of William Finkerton, smuggler, was found in the Great Canal, at the Flash, near Rockvillia distillery. This man has been missing since the beginning of last month, and when found, had a flask of whisky tied to his back.

Singular Occurrence.—On Thursday the 2d instant, the body of a woman was found tied to a boat, near the landing-place of the Royal Hospital at Greenwich, on which an inquest was held before one of the coroners of Kent, when an old man came forward, and swore that the deceased was his daughter, and that she was the wife of Israel Friday, an out-pensioner of Greenwich College. He then went into a long account of a quarrel which took place between Friday and his wife the day before the body was found. Other witnesses also swore to the deceased being the daughter of the old man. The coroner thereupon directed diligents search to be made after Friday, the husband. The jury met again on the 10th instant, when the constables reported that they had not been able to find Friday, but that they had found his wife alive and hearty. The coroner reprimanded the witnesses severely for want of discrimination; but every one allowed

that the great likeness there was between the living woman and the deceased might have deceived better judges, particularly as both the women had similar private marks on their arms.

Hawkers.—Yesterday John Barlow was examined under the hawkers's act, charged with going from house to house, and offering for sale Cobbett's Political Register, price twopence, the same being unstamped, and he not having a hawkers's license. He was convicted in the penalty of £10, and, in default, to be committed for three months to the house of correction.

9.—*Feversness.*—Died at Ardersier, in this vicinity, a gander, well known to have been full grown when the foundation of Fort George was laid, in the year 1748. His helpmate died only two years ago.

Ireland.—The Marquis of Londonderry, in addition to his liberal donation to the poor on his lordship's Derry estate, has advanced £1000 for the purpose of purchasing fuel and provisions, which are to be delivered out to them at very low prices.

10.—*Shocking Story.*—A melancholy catastrophe took place at Bolsover, in the county of Derby, a few days ago. It appears that a poor woman of the name of Wylde, took the horrid resolution of destroying herself and her four children by poison. The deadly preparation was procured, and the children called up at an early hour in the morning, under the pretence of giving them a medicine for the worms. She administered it to them, and also a considerable quantity to herself, in the presence of her husband. Its deadly effects were soon visible, and terminated in their death, leaving the agonized husband in a state of mind which it would be vain to attempt to describe.

13. *Etz.*—It is with extreme regret we state, that a tremendous breach has taken place in the Burnt Fen Bank, near Mr Seaber's, on the river Lark, by which near 15,000 acres of land are inundated.

Melancholy Accident.—A letter from Lochgoilhead, dated the 3d January 1817, to a gentleman in Glasgow, says—"On Monday last a boat left this, in order to go to Greenock; when sailing down Lochgoil, they were hailed by a person that wanted to cross; they condescended, and, being upon the lee shore, gave the boat the two sails, which before had but one. Half way over, opposite the Waininn, came on a squall, and run the boat down, by not relieving the sheets.—Eight persons were on board, of which five were drowned, and a sixth died after being got on shore."

Curr Rock.—"We are sorry," says an Edinburgh paper, "in the space of a

few weeks, to have again to notice the fatal effects of a very dangerous reef of rocks, which extend from the shore at Fifeness, fully a mile and a half to seaward, and terminating in Carr Rock. The sloop Janet of St Andrews, forty tons register, Elder master, bound from Alloa, with coals, sprung a leak off the Carr Rock about six o'clock on the evening of the 6th. The crew, finding that the water gained fast upon them, were making to the shore, to run the vessel upon Balcombe Sands, when she unfortunately struck upon one of the outer rocks of the *Brigs*, near the Carr. The crew immediately took to the boat, and landed in safety. Robert Watson, Lord Kellie's fisherman, who has been resident at Fifeness about sixty years, is enabled, from what he recollects of the shipwrecks at the Carr Rock, to remark, that there has been, *in his time*, "at least sixty vessels lost upon the Carr!—for if she missed her mark one year, she is sure to hit twice the year following."

17. A meeting of the advocates for a reform in Parliament was held at Freemason's Tavern this day, when several resolutions were adopted, expressing the necessity for a constitutional reform in the representation, the abolition of useless offices and unmerited pensions, and a reduction of the military establishment.

IRELAND.—A meeting, convened by requisition, took place on the 13th inst. at the Green of Harold's Cross, Dublin, when a respectful address was voted to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, humbly praying that he would give his royal countenance and support to the measure of parliamentary reform.—Several resolutions were also carried, stating the public distress, and declaring that the object of the meeting was reform, not revolution. A petition to Parliament, founded on the resolutions, was read and adopted.

20.—The trial of the rioters for plundering Mr Beckwith's premises on the 2d of December, the day of the first Spa-fields meeting, commenced this morning at 10 o'clock, at the Old Bailey, when John Cashman was found *guilty*, John Hooper, Richard Gamble, William Gunnel, and John Carpenter, *not guilty*. Cashman has since been executed. The trial of the other rioters was resumed on the 21st, but none of them were capitally convicted.

22.—The loss of the Mistletoe schooner, tender to the flag-ship at Portsmouth, with all her crew; upon the coast of Sussex, whilst cruising in search of smugglers, can no longer be doubted: she must have foundered in one of the violent gales. It is ascertained that the

vessel sunk off Rottingdean is not the Mistletoe, but some merchantman. The officers who have unfortunately perished in her are, Lieut. Wade Blake (commander); Mr J. Duncan, second master; Mr Tully, master's mate; Mr J. Brenham, midshipman; Mr Thomas Kennell, pilot; and thirty-two able seamen and boys.

James Watson, senior, who has attracted so much of public notice, was indicted for having assaulted Joseph Rhodes with a sharp instrument, with which he struck and stabbed him. The jury returned a verdict of acquittal, when several persons below, and in the galleries, gave very indecorous demonstrations of joy.

23.—This day a meeting of delegates from various petitioning bodies in Great Britain for reform in Parliament was held at the Crown and Anchor—Major Cartwright in the chair; when it was resolved, that representation should be co-existent with taxation, and that property ought to form no part of a member of Parliament's qualification—virtue and talents being sufficient.

Common Council.—Mr Waithman moved a number of resolutions on the subject of parliamentary reform. These resolutions do not go so far as those of the delegates just mentioned, having for their object "the shortening of the duration of Parliaments, and a fair and equal distribution of the elective franchise to all freeholders, copyholders, and householders paying taxes, with such regulations as would preserve the purity and integrity of the members, and render the House of Commons an efficient organ of the people." The resolutions were carried with not more than ten dissenting voices.

Hotten Garden.—Mr Hunt, Mr Cobbet, and the boy, Thomas Dogood, who tore down a posting-bill, entitled, "Mr Hunt hissed out of the City of Bristol," came to this office, when a good deal of conversation passed between the magistrate and Messrs Hunt and Cobbet, respecting the committal of Dogood, and the conduct of the officer, Limbrick, who apprehended him—which led to no result.

Dreadful Catastrophe.—On Friday evening, the 3d instant, about eleven o'clock, Mr Cobbet, jun. of Kingston, having just retired to rest with his wife, to whom he had been married but a few weeks, put an end to his existence by blowing his brains out with a pistol (of three barrels) which he had previously concealed under his pillow. The horrid circumstance has occasioned his wife to be insensible ever since, and she is not expected to live.—Coroner's verdict, *Insanity*.

Coroner's Inquest.—An inquisition was

taken before Mr Stirling, coroner for Middlesex, upon the body of Mary Ann Golding, the daughter of John and Elizabeth Golding, of No 30, Molineux Street, Mary-le-bone, whose death was occasioned by the barbarous treatment of her parents. The deceased was only five years of age. The jury viewed the body; its appearance was shocking, being covered with marks of violence from the neck downwards to the thigh. The back had several old wounds upon it; the legs were bruised; and the whole frame was emaciated. The evidence taken before the jury disclosed a repetition of acts of brutality on the part of the child's parents, which left no doubt on the minds of the jury, that they had been the cause of her death. After an hour's consultation, the jury returned the following verdict: "The deceased died in convulsions, caused by the cruel treatment of her unnatural parents."

25.—*Johanna Southcote*.—The delusion at this time practised upon the believers in the predictions and doctrine of the late prophetess, in matter of great astonishment. An interdict arrived at Newark on Sunday, the 19th instant, from a disciple of the conclave at Leeds, inhibiting those of the faith, amongst other things, from attending to their ordinary business during the ensuing eight or nine days; and a manufacturer's shop in that place is at this time entirely deserted, and the business of many small dealers suspended in consequence.

The following letter has been sent by the Secretary of State for the Home Department to the Lord Lieutenant of the county of Leicester, and, we believe, to the Lord Lieutenant of several other counties.—*Whitehall, Jan. 11, 1817.*
My Lord;—It being deemed expedient, under present circumstances, that the civil power should be strengthened in the county under your Grace's charge, I have to request that you will recommend to the magistrates in the principal towns within the same (in which the measure is not already adopted), to encourage the enrolment of respectable householders, to act, as occasion may require, as special constables for a fixed period of time, not less than three months; and I have further to request that your Grace will communicate to the commanding officers of the several yeomanry corps within the county of Leicester, the wish of his Majesty's government, that they will hold themselves, and the corps under their respective commands, in a state of preparation to afford prompt assistance to the civil authorities in case of necessity.—I have, &c. SIMPSON.

The Lord Lieutenant of the
County of Leicester.

One of the Leith smacks arrived from London on the 26th instant, having on board nearly forty tons of the new silver coinage. This valuable cargo, amounting to £300,000, was insured at Lloyd's at the low rate of 10s. 6d. per £100,—a strong proof of the confidence placed in the superior class of Leith smacks.

On Saturday, the 11th January, the inhabitants of New Lanark met in the New Institution, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of presenting an address to Robert Owen, Esq. expressive of their high satisfaction with his conduct, and that of the other proprietors, in introducing various ameliorations in the condition of their community; and more particularly in reducing the time of working in their mills an hour a-day; which regulation took place the 1st Jan. 1815, the time of labour being from six to seven previously to that date; since which it has been from six to six only. This proposition being unanimously agreed to, a committee was appointed to prepare and present the same. It was then resolved, that the village should be illuminated on the Tuesday evening following, in testimony of their regard for his disinterested conduct in the management of the establishment, and also in commemoration of the purchase of the mills by the present proprietors.

28.—Yesterday a third meeting of the reform delegates was held at the King's Arms tavern, Palace Yard. There were upwards of thirty delegates present, who affected to represent one hundred and ninety towns throughout the kingdom. After some discussion, which brought out nothing new or interesting, it was agreed that those delegates having petitions to present to Parliament should assemble this day at three o'clock, in Palace Yard, to put them into the hands of Sir F. Burdett and Lord Cochrane.—The meeting was then finally dissolved.

This being the day fixed for the meeting of Parliament, the Prince Regent left Carlton House at half-past one, and repaired to St James's Palace.—His Royal Highness took his seat in the state carriage accompanied by the Duke of Montrose, master of the horse, and Lord James Murray, a lord in waiting; the other royal attendants followed in other carriages.—The procession to the House was not seriously disturbed; some discontented voices mixed their murmurs with the applause of the more loyal, yet there was no such expression of disapprobation as to excite alarm.—On the return of the royal procession the discontent broke out into the most outrageous abuse, and even into acts of violence.—The life guards were insulted,

and gravel-stones and other missiles were thrown at the royal carriage: between Carleton-house gardens and the stable-yard, one glass of the state coach was struck three times and broken. It appears from the evidence of Lord James Murray, that his lordship was inclined to think one or two bullets had been fired at the coach, but no gun or pistol was seen, no smoke appeared, no report was heard, no bullet has been found.—As soon as the Prince Regent alighted from the state coach, he informed Sir N. Conant, the magistrate in waiting, of the outrage that had occurred, and the Duke of Montrose was immediately despatched to the office of the home department in search of Lord Sidmouth. The prince, after waiting at St James's some time for the noble secretary, went in his private carriage to Carleton House; and whether the mob had relented from their malignant violence, or whether the tumultuous part of them had withdrawn to attend their favourite, Hunt, his royal highness was saluted with huzzas.—About the time of these violent proceedings, that is about half-past two, nearly twenty of Hunt's delegates made a procession by Charing-cross through Parliament Street, with about half a dozen petitions on rolls of parchment in favour of reform, carried on their arms like muskets, they marching in a military step.—Hunt, it is said, wished the parchments to be unrolled, that the length of them might astonish the passers-by.—His myrmidons, however, did not choose to comply with this request; upon which he observed, that he never had to do with such cowardly persons before.

A proclamation was issued on Wednesday morning, the 29th instant, offering £1000 reward for the apprehension of the person or persons guilty of the late treasonable attempt on the life of the Prince Regent.

On the same day the joint address of congratulation of both Houses of Parliament to the Prince Regent, on his late happy escape, was presented to His Royal Highness at Carleton House, which he received with all the accustomed state seated upon the throne. The attendance of Lords and Commons on this occasion was very numerous.—headed by the Lord Chancellor and Speaker of the House of Commons. From ten o'clock in the morning till five in the afternoon, Carleton House was crowded with the nobility and gentry of both sexes, making their anxious inquiries, and offering their sentiments of congratulation; and addresses from all parts of the country will doubtless be speedily presented on this most interesting public occasion.

31.—The livery of London that in

Common Hall, and passed some additional resolutions in favour of parliamentary reform; the most important of which was one for triennial Parliaments, which was carried by a large majority against an amendment, by which it was proposed to declare in favour of annual Parliaments.

Lord Exmouth.—After the adjournment of the Common Hall, the Lord Mayor proceeded to the Common Council-Chamber, where Lord Exmouth had been in waiting a considerable time in consequence of invitation, to receive the sword voted to him, as a mark of public approbation and thanks for his splendid victory in the bombardment of Algiers.—The noble Lord was attended by ten captains of his fleet who had shared the dangers and glory of that expedition. The Lord Mayor accompanied the presentation by an appropriate speech; to which Lord Exmouth replied by the most cordial expression of his grateful feelings for the honour conferred upon him by the city of London.

After the ceremony, his lordship and his colleagues, accompanied by the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, and several other members of the corporation, proceeded to Ironmonger's Hall to partake of a banquet prepared for him by the company, who took a peculiar interest in the results of that victory. The circumstances which rendered that event so interesting to the Ironmonger's Company was, that they are the trustees of an estate of £3000 a year bequeathed many years ago by one of their members, a Mr Bolton, who had the misfortune to be captured by a Barbary Corsair, and was several years in slavery, from which he was ultimately ransomed. In memory of his own sufferings, and in gratitude for his liberation, he directed that £1000 of the legacy above-named should be annually appropriated for the ransom of British captives, who might chance to be enslaved by any of the Barbary States. The company have religiously obeyed the injunctions of the humane testator, and commissioned a regular agent at Mogadore for the purpose.

IRELAND.—The Committee appointed to appropriate the general fund for the relief of the poor of Dublin have determined to give premiums at the rate of £5 per acre, for the planting of early potatoes, within two miles of the castle of Dublin. The managers of the Cork institution have voted £700 for the same purpose; the premiums to be distributed under such regulations as the Committee shall see fit.

Desperate Poachers.—We had hoped that the determined resistance to well known laws had been confined on this

side of the Tweed to the pursuit of the pure spirit of malt; we regret to hear, however, that a desperate affray lately took place on Lord Blantyre's estate near Haddington, betwixt three poachers and his lordship's game keeper and two assistants. After a most determined resistance, in which shots were exchanged and severe wounds given, (one of the poachers having his arm broken) two out of the three were taken into custody. This was mainly effected by the timely appearance of a countryman at the moment when the depredators had the best of the fight: (*Edinburgh Courier*.)

The most interesting of the other occurrences of this month, which our limits do not permit us to detail, were the severe gales, which have occasioned much damage on different parts of the coast;—the distressed condition of the labouring classes, partly owing to the last unfavourable harvest and the high price of

provisions;—and the unparalleled exertions made in every part of the united kingdom for their relief. The benevolence of the higher orders, while it was never at any former period so extensively displayed, has not been, on the present occasion, alloyed by that want of reflection which recognized no other mode of relief than by means of pecuniary donations. The practice has been, almost universally, to employ those who were able to work, and to allow them such wages as would save them from want, though at the same time so moderate as to induce them to return to their former habits of independent industry as soon as the demand for labour should revive. Happily, at the moment we are now writing, several of our manufacturing towns begin to resume their former activity; and our prospects are becoming daily less gloomy and doubtful.

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

COLONIAL PRODUCE.—*Sugars* have of late been in considerable demand, without much improvement in price. *Muscovados* proper for refining have been purchased freely at a small advance. The stocks of *Refined Sugars* being very small, and considerable orders having arrived from the Continent, this article has a little improved. The sales of *Brazil* and *East India Sugars*, lately brought forward, have gone off briskly, at prices a shade higher. *Coffee* has been in some demand for exportation, though not such as to diminish greatly the superabundant stock of this article, which has for many years past been produced in too large quantity for the consumption. *Cottons* continue in steady demand, without much variation in price. In *East India* descriptions there has been considerable briskness, at an advance of 5*l.* to 10*l.* per lb. *Tobacco* extremely dull, and prices lower. *Rums* having fallen considerably in price, the exporters were induced to come into the market, and much business has been done in this article. The last *Tea* sale at the East India House, which finally closed on the 14th ult., proved that the general freedom of trade with every part of Europe to China, and particularly the exertions of the Americans to supplant the English in the European market, have not had the expected effect; for the average prices shewed an advance of 2*d.* per lb.

EUROPEAN PRODUCE.—In articles from the Baltic little business is doing, and prices declining.—*Hemp* from £1 to £2 per ton, and *Tallow* 1*s.* to 2*s.* per cwt. *Sowing Linseed* in considerable demand, and 110*s.* has been refused. *Clover Seeds* are also on the advance, and the stock of *American* very limited: *Red* 130*s.* to 140*s.* per cwt. There has been much briskness in the *Provisions* trade, and prices have advanced. *Brandies* and *Genevas* a shade lower in price. The *Wine* trade with the Cape of Good Hope is increasing, and now may be called extensive. The remission of the duties has effected this; but, at the same time that it renders essential service to that settlement, it gives occasion to the introduction, by fraud, into the Cape, of large quantities of foreign wines, which are from thence exported to this country as the native produce, to the great injury of the revenue: the present prices, £28 to £32 per ton. In the demand for the *Manufactures* of this country we are happy to announce some improvement, though not yet such as to be very generally felt; still we think the worst is past, and that the late universal depression will in a short time be considerably removed; not, however, that we hope the sanguine expectations of speculators, at the conclusion of the war, can ever be realized. From the most important Continental markets, *France* and *Austria*, our manufactures are completely shut out; and other states, into which they are admitted, have been for a long time inundated, what with our excessive exports and the produce of native manufactures. The same applies to the *North American* market; and the present distracted state of *South America* has much diminished our trade with that important continent.

PRICES OF MERCHANDISE.

April 7.

Cocoa, W. In. £3	5 0 to £4	10 0	Spice, Cinnamon	0 10 0 to 0 11 0
Coffee, W. In. or. S	2 0 to 3	10 0	— Cloves	0 3 0 to 0 3 8
— fine	4 19 0 to 5	8 0	— Nutmegs	0 4 2 to 0 6 1
— Mocha	5 1 0 to 5	3 0	— Pepper, Bl.	0 0 7½ to 0 0 7½
Cotton, W. I. c.	0 1 6½ to 0	1 8½	— Wh.	0 1 2 to 0 1 3
— Demer.	0 1 10 to 0	2 0	Spirits, Brandy,	
— S. L. fine	0 2 4½ to 0	2 7	— Cognac	0 6 9 to 0 7 0
Currents	5 5 0 to —	—	— Geneva,	
Figs, Turkey	3 15 0 to 4	10 0	— Schiedam	0 3 10 to 0 4 0
Flax, Riga	63 0 0 to 65	0 0	— Rum, Jamai.	0 3 4 to 0 4 4
Hemp, Riga R.	43 0 0 to —	—	— Leew. Is.	0 2 9 to —
Hops, new, Pö. 13	0 0 to 18	18 0	Sugar, Jam. Br.	3 8 0 to 3 12 0
— Bags	12 0 0 to 15	0 0	— fine	4 2 0 to 4 5 0
Iron, Brit. Bars	10 0 0 to —	—	— E. India	1 14 0 to 2 15 0
— Figs	6 0 0 to 7	0 0	— Lump, fine	5 14 0 to 6 10 0
Oil, Salad	15 0 0 to 16	0 0	Tallow, Russia,	
— Gallipoli	100 0 0 to —	—	— Yellow	3 1 0 to —
Rags, Hamburg	2 8 0 to —	—	Tea, Bohea	0 2 6 to 0 2 7
Raisins, Bloom			— Hyson, fine	0 5 1 to 0 5 5
— or Jar, new	5 5 0 to 5	10 0	Wine, Mad. old	90 0 0 to 120 0 0
Rice, Car. new	1 19 0 to 2	3 0	— Port, old	120 0 0 to 125 0 0
— East India	2 2 0 to 2	5 0	— Sherry	110 0 0 to 120 0 0

Premiums of Insurance at Lloyd's Coffeehouse.—Guernsey or Jersey, 20s. Cork, Dublin, or Belfast, 20s. Hamburg, 1½ gs. Madeira, 1½ gs. Jamaica, 50s.

Course of Exchange, April 4.—Amsterdam, 39 : 6 B. Hamburg, 36 : 2. Paris, 25 : 40. Madrid, 35½ effect. Lisbon, 57. Dublin, 12½.

Gold in bars, £3 : 18 : 6 per oz. New doubloons, £3 : 15 : 6. Silver in bars, 5s. 1d.

The following is an account of the official value of the Exports from Great Britain in each year from 1792 to 1816, both inclusive,—distinguishing the value of British Produce and Manufactures from that of Foreign and Colonial Merchandise :—

Year.	British Produce and Manufactures.	Foreign and Colonial Merchandise.	Total Exports.
1792,	£18,336,851	£6,129,998	£24,466,849
1793,	13,832,268	5,784,417	19,616,685
1794,	16,725,402	8,386,043	25,111,445
1795,	16,338,213	8,509,126	24,847,339
1796,	19,102,220	8,923,846	28,026,063
1797,	16,903,103	9,412,610	26,315,713
1798,	19,672,103	10,617,526	30,290,029
1799,	24,084,213	9,556,144	33,640,357
1800,	24,304,283	13,815,837	38,120,120
1801,	25,699,809	12,087,047	37,786,856
1802,	26,993,129	14,416,837	41,411,966
1803,	22,252,027	9,326,468	31,578,495
1804,	23,935,793	10,515,574	34,451,367
1805,	23,004,337	9,950,608	34,954,945
1806,	27,402,635	9,124,499	36,527,134
1807,	25,171,422	9,395,149	36,566,571
1808,	26,691,962	7,862,395	34,554,267
1809,	35,104,122	15,182,768	50,286,890
1810,	34,923,675	10,946,204	45,869,879
1811,	24,131,734	8,277,937	32,409,671
1812,	31,244,723	11,993,449	43,238,172
1813,	The records of this year were destroyed by fire.		
1814,	36,092,167	20,499,347	56,591,514
1815,	44,053,455	16,930,439	60,983,894
1816,	36,714,534	14,545,933	51,260,467

(Signed)

WILLIAM IRVING,

Inspector-General of the Imports and Exports of Great Britain.

Custom House, London, 13th March 1817.

Weekly Price of Stocks from 1st to 21st March 1817.

	4th.	11th.	18th.	24th.	31st.
Bank Stock	247½	247½	247½	shut.	shut.
5 per cent. reduced	69¾	70¼	70¼	shut.	shut.
5 per cent. consols	68½	69	69½	70	71½, 71¾
4 per cent. consols	87¼	88½	87½	shut.	shut.
5 per cent. Navy Ann.	99½	99¾	99¾	99½	100¾
Imperial 5 per cent. Ann.	67½	69	68½	shut.	shut.
India Stock	203	203	203	shut.	shut.
— Bonds	37p.	42p.	35p.	35p.	43p.
Exchequer Bills	18p.	16p.	12p.	11p.	13p.
Onsform	—	—	—	—	—
Consols for Acc.	69¾	70¼	70¼	70¾	72¾
American 5 per cent.	61	61½	—	—	—
— New Loan, 6 per cent.	99	98	—	—	—
French 5 per cent.	61,30	59,90	60,30	—	—

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF ENGLISH BANKRUPTCIES, announced between the 1st and 31st March 1817, extracted from the London Gazette.

Ainslie, R. Foulham, Norfolk, grocer	Little, W. Southfields, linen draper
Ainslie, L. & J. Barker, Dooner, iron founders	Lancaster, J. Whitley, Yorkshire, woolen-cloth manufacturer
Abraham, L. Craven Buildings, London, glass merchant	Middleton, J. King's Lynn, insurance broker
Ardern, R. Stockport, hatter	Medex, M. Bread Street, London, merchant
Bald, J. O. Liverpool, merchant	Murray, W. Bath, money scrivener
Birchwood, S. Plymouth, linen draper	Morrall, W. Birmingham, factor
Baber, J. St James's street, London, dress maker	Morrice, D. Tenby, rope manufacturer
Blackwell, R. Manchester, manufacturing chemist	Marshall, J. King's Head Court, Newgate Street, London, wholesale linen draper
Bamister, R. Royd in Metham, Yorkshire, woolen-cloth manufacturer	Muir, A. Leeds, linen draper
Brown, J. Chesterfield, Derbyshire, grocer	Marth, T. Liverpool, spirit dealer
Brooke, J. Rawford, Yorkshire, oil manufacturer	Niblett, F. Bread Street, Cheapside, money scrivener
Brown, E. & T. Hinde, Blackburn, grocers	Noyes, R. Dunford, Wilt, paper manufacturer
Brookes, W. Paternoster Row, London, silk manufacturer	Nash, R. King-on-upon-Thames, seal-crusher
Browse, W. Stafford, potter	Price, G. Threadneedle Street, London, hardwareman
Birkin, J. Edward Street, London, ironmonger	Porter, R. & H. Porter, Rood Lane, London, ship-brokers
Baines, P. Preston, coal merchant	Price, J. Bristol, ironmonger
Beech, J. Stone, Staffordshire, linen draper	Pearson, T. North Shields, linen draper
Bates, J. Shalton, merchant	Pialstow, J. & G. Liverpool coopers
Bates, E. Chiswell, Middlesex, surgeon	Pearson, J. Portsmouth, draper
Cree, R. Plymouth dock, linen draper	Parsons, R. Swansea, iron-master
Charlton, J. Forster, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, ship-owner	Phillips, J. Fenchurch Buildings, London, watch-maker
Deak, F. B. & J. Fairbrother, Tottington, Lancashire, cotton spinners	Robertson, G. Liverpool, merchant
Dunn, L. George Street, Mile-end, ropemaker	Robinson, W. & S. S. Clapham, Liverpool, merchants
Davidson, J. Warwick Court, London, merchant	Siordet, J. M. & J. L. Siordet, Austin Friars, London, merchants
Draakly, J. & E. Clementson, Market-bosworth, Leicestershire, hosiers	Summeret, J. Shorsted, Kent, farmer
Dutton, T. King Street, Cheapside, London, warehouseman	Scott, R. B. Spring-Gardens, London, printer
Davis, J. Popping Court, London, stereotype founder and printer	Scott, W. Nottingham, lace manufacturer
Drew, R. Badingham, merchant	Southell, W. Liverpool, cabinet maker
Dutton, G. Brown's Buildings, London, cheesemonger	Stevens, W. Bristol, coal merchant
Dowley, J. Willow Street, Bankside, iron merchant	Speers, J. Birmingham, linen draper
Foster, J. Liverpool, timber merchant	Tugood, J. Lancaster, ironmonger
Fell, J. Ratcliff Highway, London, ironmonger	Thompson, T. E. & T. Nether-Compton, flax spinners
Gage, W. Mitcham, brewer	Townsend, J. Ludgate Street, London, warehouseman
Gropson, J. Hart's Street, Worcestershire, ropemaster	Thomas, M., R. Fills & W. Cock, Plymouth, contractors
Graffes, E. Liverpool, glass dealer	Toshman, W. Carmarthen Street, London, money scrivener
Gale, J. & W. Birmingham, brush manufacturers	Taylor, A. North Shields, sailmaker
Geary, W. Norwich, hosier	Thomas, P. Mitre Court, London, merchant
Harvey, W. G. Battle, gunpowder manufacturer	Todd, G. Newcastle-upon-Tyne, spirit merchant
Holmes, J. A. Holmes & J. Holmes, Tong, Yorkshire, woolleners	Wilkinson, J. Calveley, Yorkshire, merchant
Hilling, J. B. Norwich, jeweller	Wells, J. Poland Street, London, cheesemonger
Hedden, A. Cheltenham, jeweller	Woodburn, J. Millthorpe, Westmorland, timber merchant
Kilbey, E. Lancashire, soap-boiler	Willey, W. Leicester, draper
Knott, J. Manchester, manufacturer	Wroe, J. Tong, York, worsted manufacturer
Lark, R. jun. Norwich, bookseller	Whitley, J. Daw Green, York, vintner
Lark, J. Frome, Somerset, clothier	

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF SCOTCH BANKRUPTCIES, announced between 1st and 31st March 1817, extracted from the Edinburgh Gazette.

Alexander & Samuel, Leith, merchants	Ford, James, Esq. of Finhaven, Montrose, merchant
Brown, George, Aldrie, wine and clock maker	Fraser, Alexander, Aberdeen, merchant
Bryce & Aikens, Foroness Wainfield, parish of Neilson, calico printers	Hamilton, John, Dunbarton, merchant
Cooper, John, Stenton, tenant partner of Scott, Bury, & Co. tanners, Kilmouchar	M'Goun, Watson, & Co. Greenock, merchants
Craig, George, Prestonpala, merchant	M'Leish, David, jun. Perth, merchant
Clark, Donald, Auchincloss near Campbelltown, manufacturer	Mitchell, Alexander, Fiddesburgh of Forgan, Aberdeenshire, farmer and cattle dealer
Donald, Thomas, Wick, merchant	Michael, William, & Son, Inverary, merchants
Donald, William, Greenock, merchant	Nixon, Richard, Dunbar, merchant
Fleming, Robert, Peathill, merchant and carrier between Glasgow and Stirling.	Reid, Robert, Thornhill, merchant
	Stewart, John, Dalnaspellie, Perthshire, grazier and cattle dealer
	Watt, James, Aberdeen, fisher

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

A winter rather mild, though wet, and marked by the long prevalence of strong gales from the west, has been succeeded by an early spring, and, of late, by very favourable weather for committing the seeds to the ground. The spring crops will therefore probably occupy the usual space; but there is every reason to suspect that a much less extent of wheat than usual was sown in autumn, and that only upon the driest soils could there be any considerable addition made to it since. The grounds sown with the wheat of last season are in several instances unpromising: Live stock of all kinds have passed the winter well. The weather has been propitious to the early lambs.—The corn markets have fluctuated little for some weeks, excepting in the article of inferior wheat, which at present is hardly saleable; and if the supply of foreign wheat be as liberal as it is expected to be, a large portion of what remains of the last year's crop of British wheat is not likely to be in demand at any price. Perhaps oats are the only species of grain on which some farther advance may be expected, the stock of this grain in the high lands, and that of potatoes, which in many places are used as a substitute, generally, being now nearly consumed. Premiums have been offered by the Highland Society of Scotland, and by the Irish Societies, for encouraging the culture of early potatoes, which it is to be hoped may alleviate the pressure of scarcity and dearth during the summer.—The late markets for horses, cattle, and sheep, indicate an improvement in the demand; sheep, in particular, have advanced considerably in this part of the island.—Upon the whole, the prospects of all those farmers whose chief dependence is not placed upon a wheat crop, which was in by far the greater number of instances ruinously deficient last harvest, both in quantity and quality, may be said to be much better than at the corresponding period last year.

London, Corn Exchange, April 7.

Wheat, per qr. 72	Beans, old	per quarter	60 to 68
—Select samples 124 to 130	—Per cent	27 to 39	
—White runn	Old	58 to 64	
—Red ditto	Pease boiling	48 to 58	
Rye	—Old	48 to 54	
Barley English	Flour, per sack	105	
Malt	—Second	85 to 95	
—Old	Scotch	80 to 90	
—Poland (new)	Pollard, per qr.	24 to 30	
—Old	—Second	16 to 20	
—Potato (new)	—Bran	10 to 11	
—Old	Quart. loaf 16d. to 17d.		
—Foreign			
Beans, pigeon			

SEEDS, &c.—April 7.

Mustard, brown, s.	C. Claquefell.	s.	s.
—(hd. per bush. 14 to 18	per quarter	36 to 50	
—New ditto	Rye-grass (Pacey)	36 to 44	
—Old white	—Common	12 to 24	
—New ditto	5 to 8	12 to 24	
Tares	8 to 10	63 to 126	
Turnip green	—White	65 to 120	
—round	—For, red	60 to 130	
—White	—White	54 to 115	
—Red	Trefull	10 to 47	
Canary, per qr.	R.b. grass	30 to 72	
—New	Carraway Eng.	66 to 72	
Hempseed	—Foreign	45 to 54	
—New	C. flunder	14 to 18	
New Rape seed, p. last, £46 to £50.—Linsced Oil-Cake, at the mill, £18, 16s. per thousand.—Rape Cake, £9 to £10.			

Liverpool, Saturday, April 5.

Little business doing, and no variation in the currency.

Wheat, per 70 lbs.	Beans, Irish	50 to 66
English	per quar.	70 to 85
—New	—Boiling	40 to 42
Scotch	American p. bar.	75 to 78
Weich	Sour ditto	68 to 70
Irish New		
Dantzic		
Winnar		
American		
Barley per 60 lbs.		
English		
Scotch		
Irish		
Malt p. 9 gals 12 to 14 6		
Oats per 45 lb.		
—Eng. potato		
—common		
Irish potato		
—common		
Scot. pot. to 5 6 to 6 0		
—common		
Welsh potato 5 0 to 5 8		
—common		
Oatmeal, per 240 lb.		
English		
Scotch		
Irish		
Beans, English		

Provisions, &c.

Beef, per tierce	105
—per barrel	66 to 70
Pork, per brl.	80 to 85
Bacon, per cwt.	
—Short middles	68 to 70
—Long ditto	64 to 66
Butter, p. cwt.	
—Belrast	84
—Culcraim	74 to 80
—Newry	76 to 78
—Drogheda	72 to 74
—Cork, 3d	90
—Buckled	80 to 88
Flaxseed, per	
—White	120 to 140
—Red	120 to 125
—hid, sowing	£5 10
Rapeseed, p. l.	240 to £45

EDINBURGH.—APRIL 9.

Wheat,	Barley,	Oats,	Pease & Beans.
1st.....57s. 0d.	1st.....14s. 0d.	1st.....44s. 0d.	1st.....38s. 0d.
2d.....47s. 0d.	2d.....40s. 0d.	2d.....35s. 0d.	2d.....35s. 0d.
3d.....38s. 0d.	3d.....36s. 0d.	3d.....30s. 0d.	3d.....32s. 0d.

Average of wheat, £3: 2: 11 1/2.

HADDINGTON.—APRIL 11.

Old.—Wheat, 72s. to 74s.—Pease, 34s. to 38s.—Beans, 34s. to 38s.

NEW.

Wheat,	Barley,	Oats,	Pease,	Beans,
1st.....54s. 0d.	1st.....46s. 0d.	1st.....42s. 0d.	1st.....37s. 0d.	1st.....37s. 0d.
2d.....40s. 0d.	2d.....40s. 0d.	2d.....36s. 0d.	2d.....35s. 0d.	2d.....35s. 0d.
3d.....26s. 6d.	3d.....33s. 0d.	3d.....31s. 0d.	3d.....31s. 0d.	3d.....31s. 0d.

Average of wheat, £1: 10: 14.

Note.—The bulk of wheat, barley, and pease, is about 4 per cent. more than half a quarter, or 4 Winchester bushels; that of barley and oats nearly 6 Winchester bushels.

AVERAGE PRICES OF CORN, FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

By the Quarter of Eight Winchester Bushels, and of Oatmeal per Boll of 140 lbs Avoirdupois, from the Official Returns received in the Week ending March 29, 1817.

ISLAND COUNTIES.

	Wheat.		Rye.		Barley.		Oats.		Beans.		Pease.		Oatm.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Middlesex.....	109	10	59	3	45	10	34	8	45	11	51	9	0	0
Surrey.....	105	4	54	6	46	2	33	8	46	8	49	4	0	0
Hertford.....	93	4	46	0	43	2	33	0	42	6	41	3	0	0
Bedford.....	96	10	63	2	46	2	34	10	46	0	53	0	0	0
Huntingdon.....	98	7	0	0	43	10	29	8	44	0	0	0	0	0
Northampton.....	108	4	0	0	43	6	29	2	58	8	0	0	0	0
Rutland.....	92	3	0	0	44	6	32	0	47	0	0	0	41	2
Leicester.....	103	11	60	0	56	4	37	4	67	6	69	0	29	10
Nottingham.....	102	4	75	0	58	0	35	10	61	8	71	0	0	0
Derby.....	98	0	0	0	55	0	37	6	66	8	56	0	0	0
Stafford.....	101	3	0	0	51	5	39	9	74	8	0	0	36	9
Salop.....	111	7	50	6	59	3	37	6	78	2	56	5	60	2
Hereford.....	113	0	64	0	52	3	28	5	46	0	45	10	46	1
Worcester.....	112	2	0	0	47	0	33	1	49	4	0	0	0	0
Warwick.....	123	8	0	0	51	8	36	0	64	5	78	9	36	6
Wilts.....	96	0	0	0	52	6	31	8	51	0	0	0	0	0
Berks.....	116	10	0	0	40	11	29	1	45	10	48	0	0	0
Oxford.....	124	0	0	0	50	4	33	0	60	0	70	0	0	0
Bucks.....	109	0	0	0	41	9	33	6	45	9	53	7	0	0
Brecon.....	105	7	60	9	62	4	0	0	0	0	64	0	42	8
Montgomery.....	111	2	0	0	64	0	32	9	0	0	57	7	39	2
Radnor.....	109	3	0	0	52	6	28	9	0	0	51	2	0	0

MARITIME COUNTIES.

Essex.....	98	0	56	0	43	2	32	4	56	6	45	6	0	0
Kent.....	102	6	0	0	44	8	38	8	49	0	56	6	0	0
Sussex.....	111	10	0	0	41	0	28	0	50	0	0	0	61	9
Suffolk.....	112	9	0	0	48	4	29	5	34	9	47	3	0	0
Cambridge.....	93	0	0	0	28	5	20	3	38	10	32	0	0	0
Norfolk.....	111	2	48	11	40	8	34	9	33	7	41	0	0	0
Lincoln.....	83	5	74	0	47	11	29	5	44	11	0	0	28	0
York.....	79	6	54	10	41	2	32	10	52	0	0	0	34	0
Durham.....	87	4	0	0	62	0	40	2	76	0	0	0	0	0
Northumberland.....	70	7	60	0	48	8	40	0	0	0	61	6	0	0
Cumberland.....	76	9	79	8	60	3	43	2	0	0	0	0	31	3
Westmorland.....	96	10	84	0	58	9	46	0	0	0	74	0	37	4
Lancaster.....	104	11	0	0	0	0	41	6	64	4	0	0	36	11
Chester.....	94	6	0	0	63	7	43	9	0	0	0	0	35	6
Flint.....	108	2	0	0	60	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Denbigh.....	98	5	0	0	59	9	40	11	0	0	0	0	55	10
Anglesea.....	0	0	0	0	60	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carnarvon.....	108	6	0	0	63	4	40	8	0	0	0	0	41	6
Merioneth.....	112	6	0	0	61	3	44	5	0	0	0	0	40	5
Cardigan.....	112	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pembroke.....	99	3	0	0	43	8	18	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carmarthen.....	114	0	0	0	54	3	18	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Glamorgan.....	104	8	0	0	60	0	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gloucester.....	123	8	0	0	58	11	29	5	79	9	0	0	0	0
Somerset.....	122	8	0	0	54	7	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Monmouth.....	123	4	0	0	61	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Devon.....	117	5	0	0	54	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cornwall.....	98	9	0	0	55	11	22	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dorset.....	114	10	0	0	45	8	28	10	58	9	0	0	0	0
Hants.....	123	0	0	0	52	11	28	2	50	4	0	0	0	0

All England and Wales.

Wheat, 104s. 9d.—Rye, 61s. 10d.—Barley, 52s. 8d.—Oats, 32s. 6d.—Beans, 54s. 1d.—Pease, 55s. 2d.
Oatmeal, 40s. 7d.—Beer or Big, 0s. 4d.

Average Prices of Corn, per quarter, of the Twelve Maritime Districts, for the Week ending March 22.

Wheat, 101s. 10d.—Rye, 63s. 3d.—Barley, 51s. 2d.—Oats, 32s. 1d.—Beans, 56s. 6d.—Pease, 55s.

Average of Scotland for the Four Weeks preceding 15th March.

Wheat, 74s. 1d.—Rye, 58s. 5d.—Barley, 47s. 1d.—Oats, 37s. 2d.—Beans, 60s. 3d.—Pease, 53s.
Oatmeal, 32s. 10d.—Beer or Big, 12s. 7d.

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE,

Extracted from the Register kept on the Banks of the Tay, four miles east from Perth, Latitude 56° 25', Elevation 185 feet.

JANUARY, 1817.

<i>Means.</i>		<i>Extremes.</i>		
Thermometer.	Mean of greatest daily heat,	43°.8	Thermometer. Greatest heat, 30th day,	56.0
	..... cold,	34.7	Greatest cold, 15th,	25.0
	..... temperature, 10 A. M.	38.8	Highest, 10 A. M. 30th,	52.0
	..... 10 P. M.	38.2	Lowest, 15th,	28.0
	..... of daily extremes,	39.2	Highest, 10 P. M. 10th,	46.5
	..... of 10 A. M. and 10 P. M.	38.5	Lowest, 14th,	27.0
Barometer.	Mean, 10 A. M. (temp. of mer. 48°)	29.467	Barometer. Highest, 10 A. M. 31st,	30.330
	..... 10 P. M. (temp. of mer. 54)	29.507	Lowest, 17th,	28.475
	..... of both, (temp. of mer. 51)	29.487	Highest, 10 P. M. 31st,	30.360
	..... of 4 daily observations,	38.9	Lowest, 20th,	28.340
Hygrometer (Lisle's).	Mean dryness, 10 A. M.	7°.8	Hygrometer. Highest, 10 A. M. 14th,	30.0
	..... 10 P. M.	7.1	Lowest, 4th,	0.0
	..... of both,	7.5	Highest, 10 P. M. 13th,	15.0
Rain, 1.904 in.	Evaporation, 1.400 in.		Lowest, 5th,	0.0

Fair days 19; rainy days 12. Wind West of meridian, including North, 24; East of meridian, including South, 7.

FEBRUARY.

<i>Means.</i>		<i>Extremes.</i>		
Thermometer.	Mean of greatest daily heat,	46°.7	Thermometer. Greatest heat, 26th day,	51°.5
	..... cold,	35.3	Greatest cold, 10th,	29.5
	..... temperature, 10 A. M.	41.6	Highest, 10 A. M. 17th,	60.0
	..... 10 P. M.	38.7	Lowest, 18th,	32.0
	..... of daily extremes,	41.0	Highest, 10 P. M. 7th,	49.5
	..... of 10 A. M. and 10 P. M.	40.1	Lowest, 22th,	27.0
Barometer.	Mean, 10 A. M. (temp. of mer. 50)	29.515	Barometer. Highest, 10 A. M. 1st,	30.450
	..... 10 P. M. (temp. of mer. 52)	29.481	Lowest, 21st,	28.900
	..... of both, (temp. of mer. 51)	29.498	Highest, 10 P. M. 1st,	30.410
	..... of 4 daily observations,	40.6	Lowest, 15th,	28.900
Hygrometer (Lisle's).	Mean dryness, 10 A. M.	12.1	Hygrometer. Highest, 10 A. M. 8th,	25.0
	..... 10 P. M.	7.8	Lowest, 13th,	2.0
	..... of both,	9.6	Highest, 10 P. M. 14th,	15.0
Rain, 1.684 in.	Evaporation, 1.753.		Lowest, 4th,	0.0

Fair days 13; rainy days 15. Wind West of meridian, including North, 27; East of meridian, including South, 1.

MARCH.

<i>Means.</i>		<i>Extremes.</i>		
Thermometer.	Mean of highest every day,	45.241	Thermometer. Greatest heat, 12th day,	62.500
	..... lowest,	33.872	Greatest cold, 20th,	22.000
	..... 10 A. M.	40.183	Highest, 10 A. M. 20th,	48.000
	..... 10 P. M.	36.903	Lowest, 20th,	26.000
	..... highest and lowest,	29.532	Highest, 10 P. M. 11th,	46.500
	..... of 10 A. M. and 10 P. M.	38.508	Lowest, 20th,	23.000
Barometer.	Mean of 10 A. M.	29.534	Barometer. Highest, 10 A. M. 17th,	30.250
	..... 10 P. M.	29.530	Lowest, 6th,	28.600
	..... of 2 daily observations,	28.582	Highest, 10 P. M. 17th,	30.150
	..... of 4 daily observations,	30.000	Lowest, 2d,	28.465
Hygrometer.	Mean of 10 A. M.	18.097	Hygrometer. Highest, 10 A. M. 5th,	30.000
	..... 10 P. M.	6.522	Lowest, 2th,	5.000
	..... of 4 daily observations,	12.209	Highest, 10 P. M. 18th,	16.000
Rain, .008 in.	Evaporation, 2.040 inches.		Lowest, 5d,	0.000

Number of fair days 18; rainy days 13. Wind from Western side of horizon, including the North, 28; from Eastern side, including the South, 3.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

1817. *Jan. 2*.—In Devonshire Place, the lady of Maj.-Gen. Sir Wm Anson, K.C.B. a son.—4. In Hertford Street, the Countess of Cloanell, a son and heir.—At Holycombe, Sussex, the wife of C. W. Taylor, Esq. M.P. a son and heir.—At Cortachy Castle, the lady of the Hon. Donald Ogilvy, a daughter.—At Montreal, the Countess of Selkirk, a daughter.—11. In Wimpole Street, the lady of Gen. J. T. Melville, a son.—14. In Wimpole Street, the lady of Right Hon. Lord Bridport, a daughter.—15. At Clova, Lady Niven Lumden, a daughter.—16. Viscountess Folkestone, a daughter.—26. At Salton Hall, Lady Eleanor Balfour, a daughter.—37. In Charlotte Street, Fimliss, the wife of Michael Countze, Esq. three boys and one girl.—31. At the Admiralty, the wife of John Wilson Croker, Esq. a son.

Feb. 4.—At Powerscourt House, Cheltenham, the lady of Sir Hungerford Hoakyns, Bart. of Hazwood House, co. Hereford, a son.—At Valenciennes, the wife of Lieut.-Col. Macgregor, 88th Regiment, a daughter.—6. At Edinburgh, the lady of Gen. Macpherson Grant, Esq. M.P. a daughter.—11. At Edinburgh, the wife of Geo. Francis Dundas, a son.—17. Viscountess Duncannon, a daughter.—30. At Brussels, the Princess of Orange, a son.—27. The wife of William Henry Ashhurst, Esq. M.P. a daughter.

March 3.—At Aqualate Hall, Salop, the lady of Sir John Fenton Boughay, Bart. a daughter.—5. At Guines, in France, the lady of John Abercromby, Esq. 3d Dragoon Guards, a son.—6. At Wells, the lady of the Hon. Dr Ryder, bishop of Gloucester, a daughter.—8. At Bath, the lady of Rear-Admiral Sir John Gore, K.C.B. a daughter.—12. At Runcorn, Cheshire, the wife of Captain Bradshaw, R. N. a son and heir.—13. At Yester House, the Marchioness of Tweeddale, a daughter.—14. Mrs Buchanan of Auchintorrie, a son and heir.—17. At Methley Park, co. York, Viscountess Pabington, a son.—21. At Melbury, the Countess of Ilchester, a son.

MARRIAGES.

Jan. 6.—Lord Huntingfield to Miss Blois, daughter of Sir C. Blois, Bart. of Cockfield Hall, Suffolk.—8. H. J. Conyers, Esq. only son of J. Conyers, Esq. of Copthall, Essex, to Harriot, second daughter of Right Hon. T. Steel.—9. At Strone, Captain William Cameron, 79th Regiment, to Miss Jane Cameron, daughter to Captain Donald Cameron of Strone.—Lieutenant-Colonel Beresford, deputy quarter-master-general in Nova Scotia, to Mary, daughter of the Rev. J. Gilby, rector of Barmston, county of York.—13. By special license, Lieut.-Col. Sir Guy Campbell, Bart. to Frances

Elizabeth, eldest daughter and co-heiress of Montague Burgoyne, Esq. of Mark Hall, Essex.—At Broadfield, Wm Macknight-Crawford, Esq. of Ratho, to Jean, second daughter of the late John Crawford, Esq. of Broadfield.—14. Rev. T. Clarke, vicar of Mitchel-dever, Hants, to Anna Maria, youngest daughter of the late Hon. John Gray.—20. John Becket, Esq. under secretary of state for the home department, to Lady Anne Lowther, third daughter of the Earl of Lonsdale.—21. Thomas Boswell, Esq. of Blackadder, co. Berwick, to Lucy Anne, eldest daughter of Robert Preston, Esq. of New Sidney Place, Bath.—22. The Earl of Longford to the Lady Georgiana Lygon, daughter of the late, and sister of the present, Earl of Beauchamp.—At Boulogne, Col. William Staveley, C.B. to Sarah, eldest daughter of T. Mather, Esq.—23. At Musselburgh, Major John Sutherland Sinclair of the Royal Artillery, to Frances, youngest daughter of Captain David Ramsay of the Royal Navy.—37. At Ugheside Park, Devon, Hon. Mr Langdale of Haughton, co. York, to the Hon. Charlotte Clifford, daughter of Lord Clifford.—28. Lieut.-Col. H. F. Muller, 1st Royal Scots Foot, to Susan, second daughter of the late P. Wyatt Crowther, Esq. comptroller of the city of London.—29. Captain Ord, Royal Artillery, second son of Craven Ord, Esq. of Greensted Hall, Essex, to Miss Blagrove, niece to the late Lady Cullum of Hardwicke House, Suffolk.—30. Peter Herve, Esq. founder of "the National Benevolent Institution," to Miss Nicholls of Hampstead, daughter of the late J. Nicholls, Esq. of Lincoln's Inn.

Feb. 1.—William Henry Layton, Esq. eldest son of Rev. T. Layton, vicar of Chigwell, to Frances Elizabeth, second daughter and co-heiress of Ellys Anderson Stephens, Esq. of Bower Hall, Essex.—3. Captain J. L. Stuart of the Bengal Army, grandson of Francis, late Earl of Moray, to Sarah, sixth daughter of the late Robert Morris, Esq. M.P. for Gloucester.—A. Donaldson Campbell, Esq. of Glasgow, to J. Maria, daughter of Colonel Dunlop of Househill, co. Renfrew.—4. At Ickham Church, Kent, and at the Chapel at Hales Place, Edward Quillinan, Esq. 3d Dragoon Guards, to Jewima, second daughter of Sir Egerton Brydges of 1st Priory, near Canterbury, Bart. M.P.—5. Sir Watkin Williams Wynne, Bart. to Lady Harriet Clive, eldest daughter of the Earl of Powis.—6. At Delvint, Robert Smythe, Esq. of Methven, to Susan, eldest daughter of Sir Alexander Muir Mackenzie, Bart.—11. Sir John Anstruther of Anstruther, Bart. M.P. to Jessie, third daughter of Major-General Dewar of Gilston.—15. Major-General Moore, to Cecilia, only child of W. Watson, Esq. of Queen's Square.—17. Philip Zacha-

riah Cox, Esq. Captain of 23d Lancers, to Louisa Frances, youngest daughter of the late Tho. Waleston, Esq. of Walton Hall, co. York.—22. Thomas Stamford Raffles, Esq. of Berner's Street, to Sophia, daughter of James Watson Hull, Esq. late of Great Baddow.—27. George Ulric Barlow, Esq. eldest son of Sir George Barlow, Bart. G. C. B. to Hilare, third daughter of Sir E. Barlow.

March 5.—At Albury Vale, Surrey, James Simpson, Esq. advocate, to Eliza, second daughter of the late Jonas Malkin, Esq. of Putney.

DEATHS.

Jan. 1.—At Berlin, the celebrated chemist Klaproth, in the 71st year of his age.—2. At Foveran-house, Andrew Robertson, Esq. of Foveran, aged 86.—In his 66th year, Sir Martin Stapylton, Bart. of Myton-hall, county of York.—4. In the 77th year of his age, Sir Arthur Owen, Bart. He is succeeded in his title by his nephew, William Owen, of the Temple, barrister at law.—8. At Hainfield, in Styria, Godfrey Winceslana, Count of Purgstall, &c. only son of the late Winceslana, Count of Purgstall, &c. and of Jane Anne, second daughter of the late Hon. Geo. Cranston.—9. At Wells, Tho. Clark, Esq. of Westholme-house. He was descended from a branch of the ancient and well-known family of his name of Pennicuik, near Edinburgh.—10. At West Ham, Essex, George Anderson, Esq. F.L.S. son of the late Dr James Anderson, author of Essays on Agriculture, The Bee, and other works.—At St Andrews, Rev. Dr. Robertson, professor of oriental languages.—11. At Edinburgh, Mr Moss, long the dramatic favourite of the Edinburgh public, and well known for the excellence with which he portrayed Lingo, and many other characters of the same stamp.—14. At Clifton, Lady Miller, widow of the late Sir Thomas Miller of Glenlee, Bart.—15. At Dundee, Charles Craig, weaver, at the advanced age of 108.—20. At Edinburgh, General Drummond of Strathallan.—21. At Johannisberg, aged 76, the Prince Hohenlohe-Waldenberg-Bartenstein, Bishop of Breslau.—23. At Turin, the Count de Barruel-Bauvert. He was one of the hostages for Louis XVI.—24. At Warsaw, General Bronickowski, who commanded the Polish legion of the Vistula, in France.—26. In Grosvenor-place, Caroline, Dowager Countess of Buckinghamshire.—28. Lieut.-Col. Norris, of the engineers in the East India Company's service.—Lieut.-Col. Findlayson.—Lately at Aron, Galway, in his 120th year, Mr Dirrane. He retained his faculties to the last, could read without spectacles, and till within the last three or four years, would walk some miles a day.

Feb. 2.—At Seagrove, near Leith, Dame Jane Hunter Blair, widow of the late Sir James Hunter Blair of Dunskey and Robertland, Bart.—Aged 85, General Carelton,

colonel of the 2d battalion 60th foot, and great uncle to the present Lord Dorchester.—3. Sir Isaac Pennington, Knt. M.D. Regius professor of physic, Cambridge.—4. Mrs Christiansa Howell, in her 107th year. She was sister to the late Colonel Monro of the royal marines.—5. The Right Hon. Lady Glenberdie, aged 74, at the Jews' Hospital, Mile-end, aged 104, Henry Cohen. He was taken ill in the morning, and expired in the evening, retaining his faculties to the last.—S. At Pisa, Francis Horner, Esq. M. P. (See our first article.)—In her 89th year, the Dowager Lady Carew.—11. Aged 82, Sir John Falner, Bart.—14. At Marseilles, Licut.-Gen. the Hon. Sir John Abercromby, G.C.B. and Member of Parliament for the county of Clackmannan.—At her hotel, in Paris, aged 85, the Countess of Coblin, formerly one of the attendants on the Queen of Louis XV. and grand-aunt of the duchess of Pia of Bavaria.—15. At Edinburgh, Lady Miller, wife of Sir William Miller of Glenlee, Bart.—17. Aged 80, Rear-Admiral Alexander Edgar. He was the last male descendant of the Edgars of Wedderle, in Berwickshire, one of the oldest families in Scotland, as appears by deeds as far back as 1170.—19. At Edinburgh, the Lady of Sir Alexander Don, of Newton-Don, Bart. M. P.—21. At Stirling, the Rev. John Russell, one of the ministers of that town, in the 44th year of his ministry.—At Little Dunkeld, Perthshire, aged 102, Mr J. Borrie.—23. The Right Hon. Lady Amelia Leslie, second daughter of the late Earl of Rothes.—24. Lady Henrietta Cecilia Johnstone.—Lately, at Rudding Park, in her 83d year, the Dowager Countess of Aberdeen.—At Camnau, in the parish of Llanhadrick, Anglesea, aged 105, Mary Zebulon.—At Trwynnydd, county of Merioneth, aged 110, Edmund Morgan, being, as it is believed, the oldest inhabitant of Wales. He retained his faculties to the hour of his death.—At Eglinton Castle, aged 74, Eleonora, Countess of Eglinton.—The ci-devant Prince Primatze of the Rhine, and Grand Duke of Frankfort.

March 2.—At Brighton, in her 74th year, Theodosia, Countess of Clanwilliam. Her ladyship was lineally descended from the illustrious Earl of Clarendon.—3. At Edinburgh, Maj.-Gen. William Lockhart, late of the 30th regiment.—5. At Gilcomston, Aberdeenshire, aged 101, John Mac-Bain. He was present at the battle of Culloden, and was attached to the corps brought into the field by Lady M'Innes.—9. In Bolton-row, in her 75th year, Jane, Countess of Uxbridge, mother of the present Marquis of Anglesea.—12. In his 84th year, G. P. Towry, Esq. commissioner of the Victualling-office, father of Lady Ellenborough.—13. Sir William Innes, Bart. of Balvenie, at the age of about 100 years. The title is now extinct.—15. At the encampment at Honiton, Mrs Boswell, sister to the Queen of the Gypsies. She was interred with great pomp.

THE
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No II.]

MAY 1817.

[Vol. I.

Contents.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

On the Nitrate of the Giffed of Marschal 123
 Account of Mr Ruthven's improved
 Printing Press 125
 Account of the Method of Engraving on
 Stone 128
 Anecdote of the Highlanders in 1746;
 by Mary Lady Clerk 129
 Inscription in the Church of St Hilary.....130
 On the Origin of Hospitals for the Sick ib.
 On "Sitting below the Belt" 132
 On the Fall of Volcanic Dust in the
 Island of Barbadoes 133
 Anecdotes of Antiquaries 136
 Chemical Process of Combustion 138
 On the Original of Milton's Satires 140
 White's New Invented Horizon 142
 Tales and Anecdotes of the Pastoral Life,
 No II. 148
 Remarks on Greek Tragedy, No II.
 (*Æschyl's Chæphori—Sophocle's Elec-*
tra) 147
 Shakespeare Club of Alloa 152
 Notices concerning the Scottish Gypsies
 (*continued*) 154

SELECT EXTRACTS.

Memoirs of the Somervilles 162

ANTIQUARIAN REPERTORY.

Letter from James IV. to the King of
 Denmark, in Favour of Anthony
 Gawine, Earl of Little Egypt, &c.
 1506 167
 Act of the Lords of Council, respecting
 John Law, &c. 1541 ib.
 Confessions of Witchcraft, 1623 ib.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

A Last Adieu 169
 The Past ib.
 The Mossy Seat ib.
 Stanzas 170
 A Night Scene ib.
 Lines written in Spring ib.
 The Mermaid (*From the German of*
Goethe) 171
 Geseece (*From the French of Ardens*) ib.

REVIEW OF NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Duchess of Angoulême's Journal 172
 Ricardo on the Principles of Political
 Economy and Taxation 175
 Bingley's Useful Knowledge 178

ANALYTICAL NOTICES.

Encyclopædia Britannica—Supplement,
 Vol. II. Part I. 180
 Edinburgh Encyclopædia, Vol. XI.
 Part I. 186

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC

INTELLIGENCE 189
 WORKS PREPARING FOR PUBLICATION 194
 MONTHLY LIST OF NEW PUBLICA-
 TIONS 196

MONTHLY REGISTER.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE 199
 PROCEEDINGS OF PARLIAMENT 206
 BRITISH CHRONICLE 211
 British Legislation 218
 Promotions and Appointments 219
 Commercial Report 221
 Agricultural Report 224
 Meteorological Report 226
 Births, Marriages, Deaths 227

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NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

THE curious "Antiquarian Notices" by the learned author of the article "On the Nature of the Office of Mareschal,"—and the letter relating to the compilation of a Gaelic Dictionary, will appear in our next.

The articles—"On the Utility of studying the Ancient and Foreign Languages"—"On the Origin of Whig and Tory"—"On the Detrition of Mountains, &c."—and the Review of a recent elegant Poem, transmitted by A. D.—are under consideration.

The Review of Dr Irving's Life of Buchanan has been unavoidably postponed.

The continuation of the "Memorandums of a View-Hunter,"—and the Letter relating to the proposed New Translation of the Psalms, were too late for insertion.

The obliging 'Hints' from N——s, and the Additional Communications from 'Strila,' and from "An unknown Friend," have been duly received:—Also several Gypsy Notices, which will be carefully attended to in our next.

The paper on 'Craniology,' by 'Peter Candid,' would have appeared in our present Number if it had not contained some improper personal allusions.

The "Memoirs of the House of Graham," in the shape in which they have been sent us, have nothing more to recommend them than the good intentions of the author.

The paper under the title of "Irish Literature," which announces the intended early publication of an "Irish-English Dictionary, in one volume quarto, by Edward O'Reilly," was omitted, to be noticed in another place. From the same quarter we have received some extracts from a new work, of which the object seems to be to prove an affinity between the Hebrew and Irish languages; but we know not well what to make of them, and our correspondent has not condescended to assist us.

N. B. As the Editors are resolved to observe punctually the day announced for Publication, they request that all Communications for the Magazine may be forwarded, at the latest, before the end of the month preceding that in which they are intended to appear.

No III. will be published in Edinburgh on the 20th of June, and in London on the 1st of July.

THE
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No II.]

MAY 1817.

[Vol. I.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

ON THE NATURE OF THE OFFICE OF
MARESCHAL.

THE learned Selden has traced the etymology of MARSHAL under all its variations of *Mariscaldus*, *Marscaldus*, and *Marscalcus*, from the Teutonic "schalk," a servant, and "maere," a horse, or rather a mare—the mare, it seems, being always the better horse*, and therefore very properly used generically to designate the species—adding, that the term strictly describes a person who busied himself about horses and the manege.

This popular derivation is, in some degree, countenanced by the epithet having been applied to innkeepers, grooms, farriers, and horse-doctors, as is proved by sundry passages from Becanus†, the capitularies of Charlemagne, and other authorities. It is, however, at the same time, evinced to have very early received other significations, having no reference either to the above quadrupeds or to their attendants.

Marshal notoriously denoted a civil officer whose jurisdiction lay alone within the state rooms of a palace—"marechal de palais"—an adept in the ceremonies and forms of court etiquette; and, at the same time, any superior domestic servant, or steward, in which last sense it is used in this passage from Barbour:

* "Marscalcus, equorum minister vel potius equarum, quod præstare olim videbatur genus femininum, ut apud Græcos in Jovis Olympiaci certaminibus," &c. Seld. Glossar.

† Bec. Lib. Francicorum.

"He callit his marschall till him tyt,
And bad him luke on all maner;
That he ma till his men gad cher;
For he wald in his chambre be,
A weil gret quhile in privatè."

BARBOUR, II. 4. M8. *

Edward the Second's valet is called "*marscallus aule regis*."† It was indiscriminately given to stewards of bishops and abbots, ‡ governors of jails and prisons, § and officers attending upon courts of law, || &c. &c.

These were not unfrequently deputies of the hereditary marshal of the kingdom, but most commonly they were "*servientes*," or functionaries of rather a higher order.

There was also an old English office, of a singular import to modern ears, held heritably by grand serjeantry, and attached to a manor,—"*marscallus de meretricibus in hospitio regis*."

An ancient roll of Edward the Third indicates, that "Johannes de Warblynton, filius et hæres Thomæ de Warblyntone, fecit finem cum rege, &c. quod dictus Thomas tenuit ma-

* Quoted by Dr Jameson under this word. Vid. also Du Cange, voce Marscallus.

† "Rex concessit valetto Galfrido de Mildenhall, *marscallus aule regis*, unum messagium—in Bredon." (17 Ed. II. Abbreviat. Rot. Orig. Scaccar.)

‡ "*Marscallus Episcopi*," "*Marscallus Abbatis*," with their explanations. Du Cange.

§ "*Marscallus Banci Regis*," in statuto Edwardi III. ar. 5, c. 8. Cui potissimum incarcerationum incumbabat. Inde "*Marschalcius*," dictus ipse carcer Londoniensis. Ib.

|| "*Marscallus Curie*," in Bulla Aurea Caroli IV. Imper. cap. 27. Ib.

nerium de Shirefield, tanquam *marescallus de meretricibus* in hospitio regis.*

Such an establishment was then an ordinary appendage of court etiquette; it was as indispensable as a foreign orchestra, or a regiment of grenadiers to any German prince and their imitators in our own time.

His most Christian Majesty, however, was not so very Turkish as to permit the superintendance to one of his own sex, as we find from the royal expenditure of his household at the commencement of the sixteenth century. †

“A Olive Sainte, *dame des filles de joye suivant la cour du roy* ‡, 90 livres, par lettres données a Watteville le 12. May 1535, pour lui aider, et auxdites filles a vivre et supporter les despenses qu’il leur conviast faire *a vivre ordinairement la cour*. Aius, an. 1539.—A Cecile Vieville, *dame des filles de joye suivant la cour*, 90 livres, par lettres du 6. Janv. 1538, tant pour elle, que pour les autres femmes, et filles de sa vacation, a departir entr’elles pour leur droit, du 1. jour de May dernier passé, qui estoit dû a cause *du bouquet qu’elles presenterent au roy ledit jour*, que pour leurs estrains, du 1. Janvier; ainsi qu’il est accoustumé de faire *de tout temps*. Eadem occurrunt annis 1540, 41, 42, 44, 46.”

The old adage in papal times, “*Judai vel meretricios*,” was not always equally vilifying. Carpentier remarks, “*Quæ (sc. meretricis) hic uti infames habentur, de comitatu regio fuerunt, pensionibus etiam donisque dotatæ.*” §

* It is noticed in Borthwick’s Remarks on British Antiquities, but more fully in Madoxe’s Baronia Angliæ, p. 243, note, where the office is proved to have existed as far back as the time of Henry II.

† Comput. erarii Reg. ap. Carpentier, voc. Meretricialis, Vestis.

‡ Hence the origin of *courtizan*, now only used in a restricted and bad sense.

§ Selden, quæst. Lord Lytton, (Life of Henry II. vol. iv. p. 48), would not have admitted among the grand sergentines Warbloton’s office, “*of the meanest and most dishonourable nature*,” and he is angry with Madox for having so classed it!—This is a good illustration of Chalmers’s remark, (Cal. vol. i. 626), that this lord’s “*notions and language are altogether modern*.” Independently of other considerations, it may be stated, that Bleunt, in his Tetractes, has treated an old deed, where it is expressly to be held by “*grand sergentie*.”

The said John Warblington must have been as versatile and expansive as Mercury; for he not only performed the more familiar duties of this delicate charge, but also the high legal office of coroner within the liberties of the palace—was clerk of the market to the household, or purveyor-general thereof—broke condemned felons upon the wheel—exercised the duties of a gauger, and enforced the observance of his self-regulated standard of weights and measures.*

The etymology, then, of the excellent Selden would appear hot to be altogether conclusive; and Wachter † would seem to be more fortunate, in deducing the term from “*mer, mar*,” major vel princeps, and *schalk*, as before, a servant, i. e. officer of any kind—thus making it to signify any considerable officer or superintendent, or, according to Jamieson (who seems rather to incline to this deduction), upper servant, or steward—not necessarily of the crown alone; a much more extended signification, and one which accounts for the term having characterised so many various and heterogeneous employments.

I have forgot to allude to the more ordinary sense, indicative of high military command, ‡ either as exercised by the marshal of Scotland over the royal guards, previous to the union, or by field marshals, or marshals of armies, personages familiar to all. An office of a similar nature,—to compare small things with great,—would appear formerly to have been common in the Highlands of Scotland, as we learn from the following amusing description in an ancient MS. History of the Name of Mackenzie, composed before the year 1667, by John Mackenzie of Applecross, extant in the Advocates’ Library.

“Alexander M’Kenzie of Coull was a natural son of Collin, the 12 laird of Kintail; gotten wyt Marie M’Ken-

* “*Johannes de Warblington, coronator marescallus ac clericus mercati hospitii regis ad placitum.*”

† “*Idem tenet in feodo serjantiam essendi marescalli meretricium in hospitio, et dismembrandi malefactores adjudicatos, et mensurandi galones et bussellos.*” Rot. Pat. 27 Ed. III.

‡ Wachter, Glossar. voc. Marescallus.

§ “*Marescalli—postea dicti, qui exercitibus, et copiis militaribus pænant.*” Du Cange.