THE EXPEDITION OF HUMPHRY CLINKER.

BY DR. SMOLLETT.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

LONDON:
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M DCC LXXXV.
TO

Mr. Henry Davis, Bookseller, in London.

RESPECTED SIR,

I have received your esteemed favour of the 13th ultimo, whereby it appeareth, that you have perused those same Letters, the which were delivered unto you by my friend the Reverend Mr. Hugo Behn; and I am pleased to find you think they may be printed with a good prospect of success; in as much as the objections you mention, I humbly conceive, are such as may be redargued, if not entirely removed. And, first, in the first place, as touching what prosecutions may arise from printing the private correspondence of persons still living, give me leave, with all due submission, to observe, that the Letters in question were not written and sent under the seal of secrecy; that they have no tendency to the mala fama, or prejudice of any person whatsoever; but rather to the information and edification of mankind: so that it becometh a sort of duty to promulgate them in usum publicum. Besides, I have consulted Mr. Davy Higgins, an eminent attorney of this place, who, after due inspection and consideration, declareth, That he doth not think the said Letters contain any matter which will be held actionable in the eye of the law. Finally, if you and I should come to a right understanding, I do declare, in verbo facerdotis, that, in case of any such prosecution, I will take the whole upon my own shoulders, even quoad sine and imprisonment; though, I must confess, I should not care to undergo flagellation: tam ad turpitudinem, quam ad amaritudinem pœna specieans. Secondly, concerning the personal resentment of Mr. Justice Lismahago, I may say, non foci, facio—I would not willingly villipend any Christian, if peradventure he deserveth that epithet: albeit, I am much surprized that more care is not taken to exclude from the commission all such vagrant foreigners as may be justly suspected of disaffection to our happy constitution, in church and state. God forbid that I should be so uncharitable as to affirm positively, that the said Lismahago is no better than a Jesuit in disguise; but this I will assert and maintain, totis viribus, that, from the day he qualified, he has never once been seen intra templi parietes, that is to say, within the parish-church.

Thirdly, with respect to what passed at Mr. Kendal's table, when the said Lismahago was so brutal in his reprehensions, I must inform you, my good Sir, that I was obliged to retire, not by fear arising from his minatory reproaches, which, as I said above, I value not of a ruff; but from the sudden effect produced by a barbel's row, which I had eaten at dinner, not knowing, that the said row is at certain seasons violently cathartic, as Galen observeth in his chapter praef. ix. 80.75.

Forthly,
THE EDITOR TO THE BOOKSELLER.

Fourthly, and lastly, with reference to the manner in which I got possession of these Letters, it is a circumstance that concerns my own conscience only: sufficeth it to say, I have fully satisfied the parties in whose custody they were; and, by this time, I hope, I have also satisfied you in such ways, that the last hand may be put to our agreement, and the work proceed with all convenient expedition; in which hope I rest, respected Sir,

Your very humble Servant,

JONATHAN DUSTWICH.

P. S. I propose, Deo volente, to have the pleasure of seeing you in the great city, towards All-hallow-tide; when I shall be glad to treat with you concerning a parcel of MS. sermons, of a certain clergyman deceased; a cake of the right leaven, for the present taste of the public. *Verbum sapienti, &c.*

J. D.
TO THE

Reverend Mr. Jonathan Duffwich, at ——.

SIR,

I Received yours in course of post, and shall be glad to treat with you for the MS. which I have delivered to your friend Mr. Behn; but can by no means comply with the terms proposed. Those things are so uncertain. Writing is all a lottery. I have been a loser by the works of the greatest men of the age. I could mention particulars, and name names, but do not chuse it. The state of the town is so changeable. Then there have been so many letters upon travels lately published: what between Smollett's, Sharp's, Derrick's, Thickefleer's, Baltimore's, and Barrett's, together with Shandy's Sentimental Travels, the publick seems to be cloyed with that kind of entertainment. Neverthelefs, I will, if you please, run the risque of printing and publishing, and you shall have half the profits of the impression. You need not take the trouble to bring up your sermons on my account; nobody reads sermons but Methodifs and Diffenters. Besides, for my own part, I am quite a stranger to that sort of reading; and the two persons whose judgment I depended upon in these matters are out of the way: one is gone abroad, carpenter of a man of war; and the other has been silly enough to abfcond, in order to avoid a prosecution for blasphemy. I am a great loser by his going off; he has left a manual of devotion half finished on my hands, after having received money for the whole copy. He was the soundest divine, and had the most orthodox pen, of all my people; and I never knew his judgment fail, but in flying from his bread and butter on this occasion.

By owning you was not put in bodily fear by Lismanaigo, you preclude yourself from the benefit of a good plea, over and above the advantage of binding him over. In the late war, I inserted in my evening paper a paragraph that came by the post, reflecting upon the behaviour of a certain regiment in battle. An officer of said regiment came to my shop, and, in the presence of my wife and journeyman, threatened to cut off my ears. As I exhibited marks of bodily fear more ways than one, to the conviction of the bye-standers, I bound him over; my action lay, and I recovered. As for flagellation, you have nothing to fear, and nothing to hope, on that head. There has been but one printer flogged at the cart's tail these thirty years; that was Charles Watson; and he assured me it was no more than a flea-bite. C—— S—— has been threatened several times by the House of L——; but it came to nothing. If an information should be moved for, and granted against you, as the editor of those letters, I hope you will have honestly
honesty and wit enough to appear and take your trial. If you should be sentenced to the pillory, your fortune is made. As times go, that is a sure step to honour and preferment. I shall think myself happy if I can lend you a lift; and am, very sincerely,

Yours,

HENRY DAVIS.

LONDON, Aug. 10th.

Please my kind service to your neighbour, my cousin Maddoc. I have sent an Almanack and Court Kalendar, directed for him at Mr. Sutton's, bookseller, in Gloucester, carriage-paid; which he will please to accept as a small token of my regard. My wife, who is very fond of toasted cheese, presents her compliments to him, and begs to know if there is any of that kind, which he was so good as to send us last Christmas, to be sold in London.

H. D.
THE

EXPEDITION

OF

HUMPHRY CLINKER.

VOLUME THE FIRST.

TO DR. LEWIS.

DOCTOR,

The pills are good for nothing; I might as well swallow snow-balls to cool my reins. I have told you over and over how hard I am to move; and, at this time of day, I ought to know something of my own constitution. Why will you be so positive? Pr'ythee send me another prescription. I am as lame and as much tortured in all my limbs as if I was broke upon the wheel. Indeed, I am equally distressed in mind and body. As if I had not plagues enough of my own, those children of my sister are left me for a perpetual source of vexation. What bufinefs have people to get children to plague their neighbours? A ridiculous incident that happened yesterday to my niece Liddy, has disordered me in such a manner, that I expect to be laid up with another fit of the gout. Perhaps I may explain myself in my next. I shall set out tomorrow morning for the Hot Well at Bristol; where, I am afraid, I shall stay longer than I could wish. On the receipt of this, fend Williams thither, with my saddle-horse and the demi pique. Tell Barns to thrench out the two old ricks, and fend the corn to market, and sell it off to the poor at a shilling a bushel under market-price. I have received a sniveling letter from Griffin, offering to make a publick submission, and pay costs. I want none of his submissions; neither will I pocket any of his money. The fellow is a bad neighbour, and I desire to have nothing to do with him: but as he is purfe-proud, he shall pay for his infolence. Let him give five pounds to the poor of the parish, and I will withdraw my action; and, in the mean time, you may tell Prig to stop proceedings. Let Morgan's widow have the Alderney cow, and forty shillings to cloath her children; but do not say a syllable of the matter to any living soul: I will make her pay when she is able. I desire you will lock up all my drawers, and keep the keys till meeting; and be sure you take the iron-chest with my papers into your own custody. Forgive all this trouble from, dear Lewis, your affectionate

M. BRAMBLETON.

GLOUCESTER, APRIL 2.

TO MRS. GWYLLIM, HOUSEKEEPER
AT BRAMBLETON-HALL.

MRS. GWYLLIM,

WHEN this comes to hand, be sure
to pack up in the trunk male that
stands in my closet, to be sent me in the
Bristol waggon without los: of time, the

following
TO MR. MARY JONES, AT BRAMBLE-TON-HALL.

DEAR MOLLY,

Having this opportunity, I send my love to you and Saul, being in good health, and hoping to hear the fame from you; and that you and Saul will take my poor kitten to bed with you this cold weather. We have been all in a sad taking here at Gloster. Miss Liddy had like to have run away with a player-man, and young matter; and he would adorn themselves a miser's; but the squire applied to the mare, and they were bound over. Mistrels bid me not speak a word of the matter to any Christian soul; no more I shall; for we servants should see all and say nothing. But, what was worse than all this, Chowder has had the misfortune to be worried by a butcher's dog, and came home in a terrible pickle. Mistrel's was taken with the afterkicks; but they soon went off. The doctor was sent for to Chowder, and he subscribed a repository, which did him great service. Thank God, he is now in a fair way to do well. Pray take care of my box and the pillyber, and put them under your own bed; for, I do suppose, Madam Gwyllim will be a prying into my secrets, now my back is turned. John Thomas is in good health, but full of The squire gave away an old coat to a poor man; and John says as how tis robbing him of his parquisites. I told him, by his agreement he was to receive no vails; but he says as how there's a difference betwixt vails and parquisites: and so there is for farman. We are all going to the Hot Well; where I shall drink your health in a glass of water; being, dear Molly, your humble servant to command,

W. JENKINS.

GLOSTAR, APRIL 2.

TO SIR WATKIN PHILLIPS, BART. OF JESUS COLLEGE, OXON.

DEAR PHILLIPS,

As I have nothing more at heart than to convince you I am incapable of forgetting or neglecting the friendship I made at college, I now begin that correspondence by letters which you and I agreed, at parting, to cultivate. I begin it sooner than I intended, that you may have it in your power to return any idle reports which may be circulated to my prejudice at Oxford, touching a foolish quarrel, in which I have been involved on account of my sister, who had been some time settled here in a boarding-school. When I came hither with my uncle and aunt (who are our guardians) to fetch her away, I found her a fine, tall girl, of seventeen, with an agreeable person; but remarkably simple, and quite ignorant of the world. This disposition, and want of experience, had exposed her to the addresses of a young man (I know not what to call him) who had seen her at a play; and, with a confidence and dexterity peculiar to himself, found means to be recommended to her acquaintance. It was by the greatest accident I intercepted one of his letters. As it was my duty to tithe this correspondence in it's birth, I made it my business to find him out, and tell him very freely my sentiments of the matter. The spark did not like the title I used,
I used, and behaved with abundance of mettle. Though his rank in life (which, by the bye, I am ashamed to declare) did not entitle him to much deference; yet, as his behaviour was remarkably spirited, I admitted him to the privilege of a gentleman; and something might have happened, had we not been prevented. In short, the buffets took air; I know not how, and made abundance of noise. Re- course was had to justice: I was obliged to give my word and honour, &c. and to-morrow morning we let out for Bristol Wells, where I expect to hear from you by the return of the post. I have got into a family of originals, whom I may one day attempt to describe for your amusement. My aunt, Mrs. Tabitha Bramble, is a maiden of forty-five, exceedingly starchy, vain, and ridiculous. My uncle is an odd kind of humorist, always on the fire, and so unpleasant in his manner, that, rather than be obliged to keep him company, I would resign all claim to the inheritance of his estate. Indeed, his being tortured by the gout may have foured his temper; and, perhaps, I may like him better on farther acquaintance. Certain it is, all his servants and neighbours in the country are fond of him, even to a degree of enthusiasm; the reason of which I cannot as yet comprehend. Remember me to Griffy Price, Gwyn, Man- tel, Basset, and all the rest of my old Cambrian companions. Salute the bed- maker in my name; give my service to the cook; and, pray, take care of poor Ponto, for the sake of his old master; who is, and ever will be, dear Phillips, your affectionate friend, and humble serv- ant,

JER. MELFORD.

GLOUCESTER, APRIL 2.

TO MRS. JERMYN, AT HER HOUSE IN GLOUCESTER.

NEAR MADAM,

HAVING no mother of my own, I hope you will give me leave to disburden my poor heart to you, who have always acted the part of a kind pa- rent to me; ever since I was put under your care. Indeed, and indeed, my wor- thy governess may believe me, when I assure you, that I never harboured a thought that was otherwise than virtuous; and, if God will give me grace, I shall never behave so as to cast a reflection on the care you have taken in my education. I confess I have given just cause of offence by my want of prudence and experience. I ought not to have listened to what the young man said; and it was my duty to have told you all that passed; but I was ashamed to mention it: and then he behaved so modest and respect- ful, and seemed to be so melancholy and timidous, that I could not find in my heart to do any thing that should make him miserable and desperate. As for fa- miliarities, I do declare, I never once al- lowed him the favour of a salute; and as to the few letters that passed between us, they are all in my uncle's hands; and I hope they contain nothing contrary to innocence and honour. I am still per- suaded that he is not what he appears to be; but time will discover. Meanwhile, I will endeavour to forget a connexion which is so displeasing to my family. I have cried without ceasing, and have not tasted anything but tea, since I was hurried away from you; nor did I once close my eyes for three nights running. My aunt continues to chide me severely when we are by ourselves; but I hope to soften her in time by humility and sub- mission. My uncle, who was so dread- fully passionate in the beginning, has been moved by my tears and dilates, and is now all tenderness and compa- nion; and my brother is reconciled to me, on my promise to break off all cor- respondence with that unfortunate youth: but, notwithstanding all their indulgence, I shall have no peace of mind till I know my dear and ever-honoured governess has forgiven her poor, disconsolate, for- lorn, affectionate, humble servant, till death,

LYDIA MELFORD.

CLIFTON, APRIL 6.

TO MISS LÆTITIA WILLIS, AT GLOUCESTER.

MY DEAREST LETTY,

I Am in such a fright, left this should not come safe to hand by the convey- ance of Jarvis the carrier, that I beg you will write me on the receipt of it, directing to me, under cover, to Mrs. Wini- fred Jenkins, my aunt's maid, who is a good girl, and has been so kind to me in my affliction, that I have made her
my confidante. As for Jarvis, he was very fhy of taking charge of my letter and the little parcel, because his sister Sally had like to have lost her place on my account. Indeed, I cannot blame the man for his caution, but I have made it worth his while. My dear companion and bed-fellow, it is a grievous addition to my other misfortunes that I am deprived of your agreeable company and conversation; at a time when I need so much the comfort of your good humour and good sense: but, I hope, the friendship we contracted at boarding-school will last for life. I doubt not but on my side it will daily increase and improve, as I gain experience, and learn to know the value of a true friend. O my dear Letty! what shall I say about poor Mr. Wilton? I have promised to break off all correspondence, and, if possible, to forget him; but alas! I begin to perceive that will not be in my power. As it is by no means proper that the picture should remain in my hands, left it should be the occasion of more mischief, I have sent it to you by this opportunity, begging you will either keep it safe till better times, or return it to Mr. Wilton himself, who, I suppose, will make it his business to see you at the usual place. If he should be low-spirited at my sending back his picture, you may tell him I have no occasion for a picture, while the original continues engraved on my —- But, no! I would not have you tell him that neither, because there must be an end of our correspondence. I wish he may forget me, for the sake of his own peace; and yet, if he should, he must be a barbarous —- But it is impossible! Poor Wilton cannot but be false and unconfident! I believe him not to write to me, nor attempt to see me for some time; for, considering the resentment and passionate temper of my brother Jery, such an attempt might be attended with consequences which would make us all miserable for life. Let us trust to time and the chapter of accidents; or rather to that Providence which will not fail, sooner or later, to reward those that walk in the paths of honour and virtue. I would offer my love to the young ladies; but it is not fit that any of them should know you have received this letter. If we go to Bath, I shall send you my simple remarks upon that famous centre of polite amusement, and every other place we may chance to visit; and I flatter myself that my dear Miss Willis will be punctual in answering the letters of her affectionate

LYDIA MELFORD.

CLIFTON, APRIL 6.

TO DR. LEWIS.

I have followed your directions with some success, and might have been upon my legs by this time, had the weather permitted me to use my saddle-horse. I rode out upon the Downs last Tuesday, in the forenoon, when the sky, as far as the visible horizon, was without a cloud; but before I had gone a full mile, I was overtaken instantaneously by a storm of rain that wet me to the skin in three minutes. Whence it came the devil knows; but it has laid me up, I suppose, for one fortnight. It makes me sick to hear people talk of the fine air upon Clifton Downs. How can the air be either agreeable or salutary, where the demon of vapours descends in a perpetual drizzle? My confinement is the more intolerable, as I am surrounded with domestic vexations. My niece has had a dangerous fit of illness, occasioned by that cursed incident at Gloucester, which I mentioned in my last. She is a poor good-natured simpleton, as soft as butter, and as easily melted: not that she is a fool; the girl's parts are not despicable, and her education has not been neglected; that is to say, she can write and spell, and speak French, and play upon the harpsichord; then she dances finely, has a good figure, and is very well inclined; but she is deficient in spirit, and so susceptible, and so tender, forsooth! Truly, she has got a languishing eye, and reads romances. Then there is her brother, Squire Jery, a pert jackanapes, full of college petulance and self-conceit; proud as a German count, and as hot and haughty as a Welsh mountaineer. As for that fantastical animal my sister Tabby, you are no stranger to her qualifications: I vow to God, she is sometimes so intolerable, that I almost think she is the devil incarnate come to torment me for my sins; and yet I am conscious of no sins that ought to entail such family-plagues upon me. Why the devil should not I shake off these torments at once? I an't
I am married to Tabby, thank Heaven! nor did I begot the other two. Let them chafe another guardian: for my part, I am’t in a condition to take care of myself, much lefs to superintend the conduct of giddy-headed boys and girls. You earnestly desire to know the particulars of our adventure at Gloucester; which are briefly these, and I hope they will go no farther. Liddys had been so long coop’d up in a boarding-school, which, next to a nunnery, is the worst kind of seminary that ever was contrived for young women, that she became as inflammable as touch-wood; and going to a play in holiday-time—’Sdeath, I am ashamed to tell you,—she fell in love with one of the actors, a handsome young fellow, that goes by the name of Wilfon. The rash boy soon perceived the impression he had made; and managed matters so as to see her at a house where she went to drink tea with her governess. This was the beginning of a correspondence which they kept up by means of a jade of a milliner, who made and dressed caps for the girls at the boarding-school. When we arrived at Gloucester, Liddy came to stay at lodgings with her aunt, and Wilfon bribed the maid to deliver a letter into her own hands; but it seems Jery had already acquired so much credit with the maid, (by what means he best knows) that the carried the letter to him; and so the whole plot was discovery. The rash boy without laying a word of the matter to me, went immediately in search of Wilfon; and, I suppose, treated him with insolence enough. The theatrical hero was too far gone in romance to brook such usage: he replied in blank verse, and a formal challenge ensued. They agreed to meet early next morning, and decide the dispute with sword and pistol. I heard nothing at all of the affair, till Mr. Morley came to my bed-side in the morning, and told me he was afraid my nephew was going to fight, as he had been over-heard talking very loud, and vehement with Wilfon at the young man’s lodgings the night before, and afterwards went and bought powder and ball at a chop in the neighbourhood. I got up immediately; and, upon enquiry, found he was just gone out. I begged him to knock up the mayor, that he might interpose as a magistrate; and in the mean time I hobbed after the fquire, whom I saw at a distance walking at a great pace towards the city-gate. In spite of all my efforts, I could not come up till our two combatants had taken their ground, and were priming their pistols. An old house luckily screened me from their view; so that I rushed upon them at once, before I was perceived. They were both confounded, and attempted to make their escape different ways; but Morley coming up with constables at that instant, took Wilfon into custody, and Jery followed him quietly to the mayor’s house. All this time, I was ignorant of what had pass’d the preceding day; and neither of the parties would discover a title of the matter.

The mayor observed that it was great presumption in Wilfon, who was a stroller, to proceed to such extremities with a gentleman of family and fortune; and threatened to commit him on the vagrant act. The young fellow bussied up with great spirit, declaring he was a gentleman, and would be treated as such: but he refused to explain himself farther. The matter of the company being sent for, and examined touching the said Wilfon, said the young man had engage’d with him at Birmingham about six months ago, but never would take his salary; that he had behaved so well in his private character, as to acquire the respect and good-will of all his acquaintance; and that the publick owned his merit, as an actor, was altogether extraordinary. After all, I fancy, he will turn out to be a run-away prentice from London. The manager offered to bail him for any sum, provided he would give his word and honour that he would keep the peace: but the young gentleman was on his high ropes, and would by no means lay himself under any restrictions. On the other hand, Hopeful was equally obdinate; till at length the mayor declair’d, that, if they both refused to be bound over, he would immediately commit Wilfon as a vagrant to hard labour. I own I was much pleas’d with Jery’s behaviour on this occasion: he said, that, rather than Mr. Wilfon should be treated in such an ignominious manner, he would give his word and honour to prosecute the affair no farther while they remained at Gloucester. Wilfon was thanked him for his generous manner of proceeding, and was discharged. On our return to our lodgings, my nephew explained the whole mystery; and I own I was exceedingly incensed. Liddy being questioned on the subject, and very severely
verely reproached by that wild-cat my
fitter Tabby, first swooned away; then,
dissolving in a flood of tears, confessed
all the particulars of the correspondence;
at the same time giving up three letters,
which was all the had received from her
admire. The last, which Jery inter-
cepted, I fend you inclosed; and when
you have read it, I dare say you will not
wonder at the progress the writer had
made in the heart of a simple girl, utterly
unacquainted with the characters of man-
kind. Thinking it was high time to re-
move her from such a dangerous con-
nexion, I carried her off the very next
day to Brifol: but the poor creature was
so frightened and fluttered by our threats
and expoliations, that she fell sick the
fourth day after our arrival at Clifton;
and continued fo ill for a whole week,
that her life was defpaired of. It was
not till yesterday that Dr. Rigge declared
her out of danger. You cannot imagine
what I have suffered, partly from the in-
discretion of this poor child, but much
more from the fear of losing her entirely.
This air is intolerably cold, and the place
quite solitary. I never go down to the
Well without returning low-spirited; for
there I meet with half a dozen poor ema-
ciated creatures, with ghoftly looks, in
the laft stage of a consumption, who have
made shift to linger through the winter,
lit fo many exotick plants languishing
in a hot-house; but, in all appearance,
will drop into their graves before the sun
has warmth enough to mitigate the ri-
gour of this ungenial spring. If you
think the Bath water will be of any ser-
tice to me, I will go thither as soon as
my niece can bear the motion of the
coach. Tell Barns I am obliged to him
for his advice, but do not chufe to follow
it. If Davis voluntarily offers to give up
the farm, the other shall have it: but I
will not begin at this time of day to dif-
trefs my tenants, because they are unfor-
tunate, and cannot make regular pay-
ments. I wonder that Barns should think
me capable of fuch oppreffion. As for
Higgins, the fellow is a notorious poacher,
to be fure; and an impudent rafcal
to fet his fnare in my own paddock;
but, I fuppofe, he thought he had some
right (efpecially in my abfence) to par-
take of what Nature seems to have in-
tended for common ufe. You may
threaten him, in my name, as much as
you pleafe; and if he repeats the offence,
let me know it before you have recourse
to justice. I know you are a great sport-
man, and oblige many of your friends; I
need not tell you to make ufe of my
grounds; but it may be neceffary to
hint, that I am more afraid of my fow-
ing-piece than of my game. When you
can fpare two or three brace of par-
tridges, fend them over by the flage-
coach; and tell Gwyllim that he forgot
to pack up my flannels and wide shoes
in the trunk-mail. I fhall trouble you,
as usual, from time to time; till at last, I
fuppofe, you will be tired of correffpond-
ing with your affured friend,

M. Bramble.

Clifton, April 17.

TO MISS LYDIA MELFORD.

MISS Willis has pronounced my
doom! You are going away, dear
Miss Melford! you are going to be re-
moved, I know not whether! What fhall
I do? Which way fhall I turn for con-
folution? I know not what I fhall! All
night long have I been toiled in a fea of
doubts and fears, uncertainty and dif-
traction, without being able to connect
my thoughts, much less to form any con-
ffent plan of conduct. I was even
tempted to wish that I had never seen
you; or that you had been less amiable,
or lefs compaffionate to your poor Wil-
fon: and yet it would be deteftable in-
gratitude in me to form fuch a wish, con-
ffidering how much I am indebted to your
goodness, and the ineffable pleafure I
have derived from your indulgence and
affiliation. Good God! I never heard
your name mentioned without emotion!
The moft diftant prospect of being ad-
mitted to your company, filled my whole
foul with a kind of pleafing alarm! As
the time approached, my heart beat with
redoubled force, and every nerve thrilled
with a transport of expectation: but
when I found myfelf actually in your
prefence—when I heard you fpeak—
when I faw you smile—when I beheld
your charming eyes turned favourably
upon me—my boofh was filled with fuch
tumults of delight, as wholly deprived
me of the power of utterance, and wrap-
ped me in a delirium of joy! Encour-
gaged by your sweetness of temper and
affability, I ventured to defcribe the feel-
ings of my heart. Even then you did not
check my preffumption; you pitted my
fufferings,
sufferings, and gave me leave to hope—you put a favourable, perhaps too favourable a construction, on my appearance. Certain it is, I am no player in love. I speak the language of my own heart; and have no prompter but nature. Yet there is something in this heart, which I have not yet disclosed. I flattered myself—but, I will not—I must not proceed. Dear Miss Liddy! for Heaven's sake, contrive, if possible, some means of letting me speak to you before you leave Gloucester; otherwife, I know not what will—but I begin to rave again—I will endeavour to bear this trial with fortitude. While I am capable of reflecting upon your tenderness and truth, I rarely have no caufe to despair: yet I am strangely affected. The fun seems to deny me light; a cloud hangs over me, and there is a dreadful weight upon my spirits! While you stay in this place, I shall continually hover about your lodgings, as the parted soul is faid to linger about the grave where it's mortal comfort lies. I know, if it is in your power, you will talk your humanity—your compassion—shall I add, your affection?—in order to allage the almost intolerable difficulty that torments the heart of your afflicted,

WILSON.

GLouceSTER, March 31.

TO SIR WATKIN PHILLIPS, OF JESUS COLLEGE, OXON.

NOT-WELL, APRIL 13.

DEAR PHILLIPS,

I give Manfrel credit for his invention, in propagating the report that I had a quarrel with a mountebank's merry Andrew at Gloucester: but I have too much respect for every appendage of wit, to quarrel even with the lowest buffoonery; and therefore I hope Manfrel and I shall always be good friends. I cannot, however, approve of his drowning my poor dog Ponto, on purpose to confume Ovid's pleonasm into a punning epithet: *Deorant quoque littera Ponto;* for, that he threw him into the flis, when it was fo high and impetuous, with no other view than to kill the feas, is an excufe that will not hold water. But I leave poor Ponto to his fate, and hope Providence will take care to accommodate Manfrel with a drier death.

As there is nothing that can be called company at the Well, I am here in a state of absolute rufcification. This, however, gives me leifure to observe the singularities in my uncle's character, which seems to have interefted your curiosity. The truth is, his disposition and mine, which, like oil and vinegar, repelled one another at first, have now begun to mix by dint of being beat up together. I was once apt to believe him a compleat Cynic; and that nothing but the necessity of his occasions could compel him to get within the pale of society. I am now of another opinion. I think his peevifhness arises partly from bodily pain, and partly from a natural excess of mental feliibility; for, I fuppofe, the mind as well as the body is in fome cases endangered with a morbid excess of fentiment.

I was the other day much diverted with a conversation that pafl'd in the Pump-room, betwixt him and the famous Dr. L—n, who is come to ply at the Well for patients. My uncle was complaining of the fink, occasioned by the vaf quantity of mud and slime, which the river leaves at low ebb under the windows of the Pump-room. He observed, that the exhalations arifing from fuch a nuisance could not but be prejudicial to the weak lungs of many consumptive patients, who came to drink the water. The doctor overhearing this remark, made up to him, and affurred him he was miftaken. He faid, people in general were fo misled by vulgar prejudices, that philosophy was hardly fufficient to undeceive them. Then humming thrice, he afumed a moft ridiculous solemnity of afpeft, and entered into a learned investigation of the nature of fink. He observed, that fink, or fench, meant no more than a strong impression on the olfactory nerves, and might be applied to substances of the moft opposite qualities; that, in the Dutch language, *finken* signifies the moft agreeable perfume, as well as the moft fetic odour, as appears in Van Vloedel's translation of Horace, in that beautiful ode, *Quis multa gracitis.* &c. The words *liquidis perfusis odoribus,* he tranlates *van cive et mofcheta gejinken:* that indi viduals differed *feto ecolo* in their opinion of finells, which, indeed, was altogether as arbitrary as the opinion of beauty; that the French were pleased with the putrid effluvia of animal food; and fo were the Hottentots in Africa, and the Savages in Greenland; and that the Negroes on the coast
coast of Senegal would not touch fish till it was rotten; strong presumptions in favour of what is generally called flink, as those nations are, in a state of nature, undebauched by luxury, uninduced by whim and caprice: that he had reason to believe the stercoareous flavour, condemned by prejudice as a stink, was, in fact, most agreeable to the organs of smelling; for, that every person who pretended to navigate the smell of another's excretions, stuffed up his own with particular complacency; for the truth of which he appealed to all the ladies and gentlemen then present. He said the inhabitants of Madrid and Edinburgh found particular satisfaction in breathing their own atmosphere, which was always impregnated with stercoareous effluvia; that the learned Dr. B—, in his treatise on the Four Digestions, explains in what manner the volatile effluvia from the intestines accumulate and promote the operations of the animal economy: he affirmed, the late Grand Duke of Tuscany, of the Medici family, who refined upon sensuality with the spirit of a philosopher, was so delighted with that odour, that he caused the effluence of ordure to be extracted, and used it as the most delicious perfume; that he himself (the doctor) when he happened to be low-spirited, or fatigued with business, found immediate relief and uncommon satisfaction from hanging over the effluvia contents of a close-stool, while his fervant stirred it about under his nose; nor was this effect to be wondered at, when we consider that this substance abounds with the self-fame volatile salts that are so greedily smelted by the most delicate invalids, after they have been extracted and sublimed by the chemists. By this time the company began to hold their noses; but the doctor, without taking the least notice of this signal, proceeded to shew, that the many fetid substances were not only agreeable but salutary; such as affa-fetida, and other medicinal gums, resins, roots, and vegetables, over and above burnt feathers, tan-pits, candle-snuffs, &c. In short, he used many learned arguments to persuade his audience out of their tenets; and from flench made a transition to filth, which he affirmed was also a mistaken idea, in as much as objects so called were no other than certain modifications of matter, consisting of the same principles that enter into the composition of all created essences, whatever they may be: that in the filthiest production of nature, a philosopher considered nothing but the earth, water, salt, and air of which it was compounded; that, for his own part, he had no more objection to drinking the dirtiest ditch water, than he had to a glass of water from the Hot Well, provided he was assured there was nothing poisonous in the concrete. Then addressing himself to my uncle—' Sir,' said he, 'you seem to be of a drophical habit, and probably will soon have a confirmed afhites: if I should be present when you are tapped, I will give you a convincing proof of what I assert, by drinking without hesitation the water that comes out of your abdomen.' The ladies made way faces at this declaration; and my uncle, changing colour, told him he did not desire any such proof of his philosophy. 'But I' should be glad to know,' said he, 'what makes you think I am of a drophical habit?'—' Sir, I beg pardon,' replied the doctor; 'I perceive your ankles are swelled, and you seem to have the facies leucophlegmatica. Perhaps, indeed, your disorder may be venumatous, or gouty; or it may be the lues venera: if you have any reason to flatter yourself it is this last, Sir, I will undertake to cure you with three small pills, even if the disease should have attained it's utmost inveteracy. Sir, it is an arcanum which I have discovered, and prepared with infinite labour. Sir, I have lately cured a woman in Brifol, a common prostitute, Sir, who had got all the worst symptoms of the disorder; such as nodi, tophi, and gumma, verrues, criles Galli, and a ferpigineous eruption, or rather a pocky itch all over her body. By that time the had taken the second pill, Sir, by Heaven! she was as smooth as my hand, and the third made her as found and as fresh as a new-born infant.'—' Sir,' cried my uncle peevishly, 'I have no reason to flatter myself that my disorder comes within the efficacy of your nostrum. But this patient you talk of, may not be fo found at bottom as you imagine.'—' I cannot possibly be mistaken,' rejoined the philosopher; for I have had communication with her three times. I always ascertain my cures in that manner.' At this remark, all the ladies retired to another corner of the room, and some of them began to spit. As to my uncle, though he was ruffled at first by the doctor's saying he was drophical,
The present collection of verse, as I could not help smiling at this ridiculous confession; and, I suppose, with a view to punish this original, told him there was a wart upon his nose, that looked a little suspicious. 'I do not pretend to be a judge of those matters,' said he; 'but I understand that warts are often produced by the distemper; and that one upon your nose seems to have taken possession of the very key-tone of the bridge, which I hope is in no danger of falling.' L——n seemed a little confounded at this remark, and assured him it was nothing but a common excrecence of the cuticula, but that the bones were all found below; for the truth of this assertion he appealed to the touch, desiring he would feel the part. My uncle said it was a matter of such delicacy to meddle with a gentleman's nose, that he declined the office; upon which the doctor, turning to me, intreated me to do him that favour. I complied with his request, and handled it so roughly, that he sneezed, and the tears ran down his cheeks, to the no small entertainment of the company, and particularly of my uncle, who burst out a-laughing for the first time since I have been with him; and took notice, that the part seemed to be very tender. 'Sir,' cried the doctor, 'it is naturally a tender part; but to remove all possibility of doubt, I will take off the wart this very night.'

So saying, he bowed with great solemnity all round, and retired to his own lodgings, where he applied caustic to the wart; but it spread in such a manner as to produce a considerable inflammation, attended with an enormous swelling, so that when he next appeared, his whole face was overshadowed by this tremendous nozzle; and the rueful cageriness with which he explained this unlucky accident, was ludicrous beyond all description. I was much pleased with meeting the original of a character, which you and I have often laughed at in description; and what surprises me very much, I find the features in the picture, which has been drawn for him, rather softened than over-charged.

As I have something else to say, and this letter has run to an unconscionable length, I shall now give you a little respite, and trouble you again by the very first post. I wish you would take it in your head to retaliate these double strokes upon your's always,

J. MELFORD

TO SIR WATKIN PHILLIPS, OF JESUS COLLEGE, OXON.

DEAR KNIGHT,

I now sit down to execute the threat in the tail of my last. The truth is, I am big with the secret, and long to be delivered. It relates to my guardian, who, you know, is at present our principal object in view.

The other day, I thought I had detected him in such a state of frailty, as would but ill become his years and character. There is a decent sort of a woman, not disagreeable in her person, that comes to the Well, with a poor, married child; far gone in a consumption. I had caught my uncle's eye several times directed to this person, with a very suspicious expression in them, and every time he saw himself observed, he hastily withdrew them, with evident marks of confusion. I resolved to watch him more narrowly, and saw him speaking to her privately in a corner of the walk. At length, going down to the Well one day, I met her half way up the hill to Clifton, and could not help suspecting she was going to our lodgings by appointment, as it was about one o'clock, the hour when my sister and I are generally at the Pump-room. This notion exciting my curiosity, I returned by a back way, and got unperceived into my own chamber, which is contiguous to my uncle's apartment. Sure enough, the woman was introduced, but not into his bed-chamber; she gave her audience in a parlour; so that I was obliged to shift my station to another room, where, however, there was a small chink in the partition, through which I could perceive what passed. My uncle, though a little lame, rose up when the came in, and setting a chair for her, desired she would sit down; then he asked if she would take a dish of chocolate, which she declined with much acknowledgment. After a short pause, he said, in a croaking tone of voice, which confused me not a little——Madam, I am truly concerned for your misfortunes; and if this trifle can be of any service to you, I beg you will accept it without ceremony. So saying, he put a bit of paper into her hand, which she opened with great trepidation, exclaimed in an ecstasy——'Twenty pounds! O, Sir!' and sinking down into a fettuc, fainted away. Frightened at this fit, and, I suppose, afraid of calling for assistance, left her
her situation should give rise to unfavourable conjectures, he ran about the room in distraction, making frightful grimaces, and, at length, had recollection enough to throw a little water in her face; by which application she was brought to herself; but then her feelings took another turn. She shed a flood of tears, and cried aloud—'I know not who you are! but safe—worthy, Sir!—generous, Sir!—
the debris of me and my poor dying child—Oh! if the widow's prayers—if the orphan's tears of gratitude can ought avail—gracious Providence! Blessings!
shower down eternal blessings—Here she was interrupted by my uncle, who muttered in a voice still more and more discordant—'For Heaven's fake be quiet, Madam; consider—the people of the house—'fdeath! can't you—All this time she was struggling to throw herself on his knees, while he feizing her by the wrists, endeavour'd to seat her upon the settle, saying—'Pr'ythee—good now—hold your tongue.' At that instant, who should burst into the room but our aunt Tabby! of all antiquated maids—ens the most diabolically capricious. Ever plying into other people's affairs, she had seen the woman enter, and followed her to the door, where the flood listening, but probably could hear nothing distinctly, except my uncle's last exclamation; at which she bounded into the parlour in a violent rage, that dyed the tip of her nose of a purple hue: 'Fie upon you, Matt!' cried she; 'what doings are these, to dis grace your own character, and dis parage your family?' Then, snatch'd the bank-note out of the stranger's hand, she went on—'How now, twenty pounds! Here is temptation with a withe!—Good woman, go about your business—Brother, brother, I know not which most to admire; your concupis fns, or your extravagance!'—'Good God!' exclaimed the poor woman, shall a worthy gentleman's character suffer for an action that does honour to humanity? By this time, uncle's indignation was effectually roused. His face grew pale, his teeth chattered, and his eyes flashed: 'Sister!' cried he, in a voice like thunder, 'I vow to God your im pertinence is exceedingly provoking! With these words, he took her by the hand, and, opening the door of communication, thrust her into the chamber where flood, so affected by the scene, that the tears ran down my cheeks. Ob serving these marks of emotion,—'I don't wonder,' said she, 'to see you concerned at the back-flidings of fo near a relation; a man of his years and infirmities! These are fine doings truly! This is a rare example set by a guardian for the bene fit of his pupils. Monstrous! incon gruous! sophistical!' I thought it was but an act of justice to let her to rights; and therefore explained the mystery. But she would not be undeceived. 'What,' said she, 'would you go for to offer for to argue me out of my fenses? Didn't I hear him whispering to her to hold her tongue? Didn't I see her in tears? Didn't I see him struggling to throw her upon the couch? O filthy! hideous! abominable! Child, child, talk not to me of charity. Who gives twenty pounds in charity? But you are a stippling. You know nothing of the world. Besides, charity begins at home. Twenty pounds would buy me a complete suit of flowered silk, trimmings and all.'
In short, I quitted the room; my contempt for her, and my respect for her brother, being encreased in the same proportion. I have since been informed, that the person, whom my uncle so generously relieved, is the widow of an ensign, who has nothing to depend upon but the pension of fifteen pounds a year. The people of the Well-house give her an excellent character. She lodges in a garret, and works very hard at plain-work, to support her daughter, who is dying of a consumption. I must own, to my shame, I feel a strong inclination to follow my uncle's example, in relieving this poor widow; but, betwixt friends, I am afraid of being detected in a weaknels, that might entail the ridicule of the company upon, dear Phillips, your's always.

J. MELFORD.

Direct your next to me at Bath; and remember me to all our fel low-jeuits.

TO DR. LEWIS.

NOT WELLS, APRIL 20.

I understand your hint. There are mysteries in physick; as well as in religiion, which we of the prohane have no right to investigate. A man must not presume to use his reason, unless he has studied the categories, and can chop logick by mode and figure. Between friends,
friends, I think every man of tolerable parts ought, at my time of day, to be both physician and lawyer, as far as his own constitution and property are concerned. For my own part, I have had an hospital these fourteen years within myself, and have studied my own case with the most painful attention; consequently may it supersede to know something of the matter, although I have not taken regular courses of phsyology, et cetera, et cetera. In short, I have for some time been of opinion, (no offence, dear doctor) that the fun of all your medical discoveries amounts to this; that the more you study, the less you know. I have read all that has been written on the Hot Wells; and what I can collect from the whole is, that the water contains nothing but a little salt and calcareous earth, mixed in such inconsiderable proportion, as can have very little, if any, effect on the animal economy. This being the case, I think the man deserves to be fitted with a cap and bells, who, for such a paltry advantage as this spring affords, sacrifices his precious time, which might be employed in taking more effectual remedies, and exposes himself to the dirt, the stench, the chilling blasts, and perpetual rains, that render this place to me intolerable. If these waters, from a small degree of affinity, are of some service in the diabetes, diarrhoea, and night-sweats, when the secretions are too much encreased, must not they do harm in the same proportion where the humours are obstructed, as in the ahima, feurvy, gout, and dropfy? Now we talk of the dropfy, here is a strange, fantastical oddity, one of your brethren, who harangues every day in the Pump-room, as if he was hired to give lectures on all subjects whatsoever. I know not what to make of him. Sometimes he makes shrewd remarks; at other times he talks like the greatest simpleton in nature. He has read a great deal, but without method or judgment; and digested nothing. He believes everything he has read, especially if it has any thing of the marvellous in it; and his conversation is a surprising hotch-potch of erudition and extravagance. He told me the other day, with great confidence, that my cafe was dropical; or, as he called it, leuco-phlegmatic; a sure sign that his want of experience is equal to his presumption; for, you know, there is nothing analo-

gous to the dropfy in my disorder. I wish these imperient fellows, with their rickety understandings, would keep their advice for those that ask it. Dropfy, indeed! Sure I have not lived to the age of fifty-five, and had such experience of my own disorder, and confounded you and other eminent physicians so often and so long, to be undeceived by such a —— But without all doubt the man is mad, and therefore what he says is of no consequence. I had yesterday a visit from Higgins, who came hither under the terror of your threats, and brought me in a present a brace of hares, which he owned he took in my ground; and I could not pernkeule the fellow that he did wrong, or that I would ever prosecute him for poaching. I must desire you will wink hard at the practices of this rascallion, otherwise I shall be plagued with his presents, which cost me more than they are worth. If I could wonder at any thing Fitzwollen does, I should be surprized at his assurance in defuring you to solicit my vote for him at the next election for the county; for him, who oppos'd me on the like occasion with the most illiberal competition. You may tell him civilly that I beg to be excused. Direct your next for me at Bath, whither I propose to remove to-morrow; not only on my own account, but for the sake of my niece Liddy, who is like to relapse. The poor creature fell into a fit yesterday, while I was cheapening a pair of spectacles with a Jew-pedlar. I am afraid there is something still lurking in that little heart of her's, which I hope a change of objects will remove. Let me know what you think of this half-witted doctor's impertinent, ridiculous, and abhiorrd notion of my disorder. So far from being dropical, I am as lank in the belly as a greyhound; and, by measuring my ankle with a packthread, I find the fluid is about the same as in the Pump-room. Every day, from such doctors good Lord deliver us! I have not yet taken any lodgings in Bath; because there we can be accommodated at a minute's warning, and I shall chuse for myself. I need not say your directions for drinking and bathing will be agreeable, to dear Lewis, yours ever,

MAT. BRAMBLE.

P. S. I forgot to tell you that my right-ankle pits; a symptom, as I take it, of it's being aedematous, not leuco-phlegmatic.
TO MISS LETTY WILLIS, AT GLouceSTER.

NOT WELL, APRIL 21.

MY DEAR LETTY.

I did not intend to trouble you again till we should be settled at Bath; but having the occasion of Jarvis, I could not let it slip, especially as I have something extraordinary to communicate. O, my dear companion! what shall I tell you? For several days past there was a Jew-looking man, that plied at the Wells with a box of spectacles; and he always eyed me so earnestly, that I began to be very uneasy. At last, he came to our lodgings at Clifton, and lingered about the door as if he wanted to speak to somebody. I was seized with an odd kind of flattering, and begged Win to throw herself in his way; but the poor girl has weak nerves, and was afraid of his beard. My uncle, having occasion for new glasses, called him up stairs, and was trying a pair of spectacles, when the man, advancing to me, said, in a whisper—O gracious! what do you think he said?—"I am 'Wilfon!' His features struck me that very moment: it was Wilfon fure enough; but so disguised, that it would have been impossible to know him, if my heart had not been aflifted in the disfcovery. I was so surprized, and so frightened, that I fainted away; but soon recovered, and found myself supported by him on the chair, while my uncle was running about the room, with the spectacles on his nose, calling for help. I had no opportunity to speak to him; but our looks were sufficiently expressive. He was paid for his glasses, and went away. Then I told Win who he was, and sent her after him to the Pump-room; where she spoke to him, and begged him in my name to withdraw from the place, that he might not incur the suspicion of my uncle or my brother, if he did not want to see me die of terror and vexation. The poor youth declared, with tears in his eyes, that he had something extraordinary to communicate; and asked if she would deliver a letter to me: but this she absolutely refused, by my order. Finding her obfinate in her refufal, he defired she would tell me, that he was no longer a player, but a gentleman; in which character he would very soon avow his passion for me, without fear of cenfure or reproach. Nay, he even discovered his name and family; which, to my great grief, the fimple girl forgot, in the confusion occasioned by her being teen talking to him by my brother; who stopped her on the road, and asked what business he had with that rafically Jew. She pretended she was cheapening a try-book; but was thrown into such a quandary, that she forgot the most material part of the information; and, when the came home, went into an hysteric fit of laughing. This transaction happened three days ago, during which he has not appeared; fo that I fuppofe he is gone. Dear Letty! you fee how Fortune takes pleafure in perforcuting your poor friend. If you fhould fee him at Gloucefer, or if you have feen him, and know his real name and family, pray keep me no longer in fufpence. And yet, if he is under no obligation to keep himself longer concealed, and has a real affection for me, I fhould hope he will, in a little time, declare himself to my relations. Sure, if there is nothing unfuitable in the match, they will not be fo cruel as to thwart my inclinations. O what happiness would then be my portion! I cannot help indulging the thought, and pleasing my fancy with fuch agreeable ideas; which, after all, perhaps, will never be realized. But why fhould I de- fpair? Who knows what will happen? We fet out for Bath to-morrow; and I am almoft forry for it, as I begin to be in love withSollitude, and this is a charming romantick place. The air is fo pure; the Downs fo agreeable; the furze in full bloom; the ground emalled with dafies, and primroses, and cowflips; all the trees burfling into leaves, and the hedges already clothed with their vernal livery; the mountains covered with flocks of sheep, and tender bleeding wanton lammkins, playing, frigking, and skipping, from fide to fide; the groves refound with the notes of the black-bird, thrush, and linnet; and all night long sweet Philomel pours forth her ravifhingly delightful fong. Then, for variety, we go down to the nymph of Bristol spring, where the company is assembled before dinner; fo good-natured, fo free, fo easy; and therewe drink the water fo clear, fo pure, fo mild, fo charmingly maukifh. There the fun is fo cheerful and reviving; the weather fo soft; the walk fo agreeable; the profpeft fo amufing; and the fhips and boats going up and down the river, clofe under the windows of the Pump-room, afford
ford such an enchanting variety of moving pictures, as require a much abler pen than mine to describe. To make this place a perfect paradise to me, nothing is wanting: but an agreeable companion and sincere friend; such as my dear Miss Willis hath been, and I hope still will be, to her ever-faithful

**Lydia Melford.**

Direct for me, still under cover, to Win; and Jarvis will take care to convey it safe. Adieu.

**TO SIR WATKIN PHILLIPS, OF JESUS COLLEGE, OXON.**

**DEAR PHILLIPS,**

YOU have, indeed, reason to be surprised, that I should have concealed my correspondence with Miss Blackerby from you, to whom I disclosed all my other connexions of that nature; but the truth is, I never dreamed of any such commerce, till your last informed me that it had produced something which could not be much longer concealed. It is a lucky circumstance, however, that her reputation will not suffer any detriment, but rather derive advantage, from the discovery; which will prove, at least, that it is not quite so rotten as most people imagined. For my own part, I declare to you, in all the sincerity of friendship, that, far from having any amorous interest in the object in question, I never had the least acquaintance with her person; but, if she is really in the condition you describe, I suspect Mansfield to be at the bottom of the whole. His visits to that shrine were no secret; and this attachment, added to some good offices which you know he has done me since I left Abna-mater, give me a right to believe him capable of flattering me with this scandal when my back was turned. Nevertheless, if my name can be of any service to him, he is welcome to make use of it; and if the woman should be abandoned enough to swear his bantling to me, I must beg the favour of you to compound with the parish: I shall pay the penalty without repining; and you will be so good as to draw upon me immediately for the sum required. On this occasion, I ask by the advice of my uncle; who says I shall have good luck, if I pass through life without being obliged to make many more compositions of the same kind. The old gentleman told me last night, with great good-humour, that, betwixt the age of twenty and forty, he had been obliged to provide for nine bairds, sworn to him by women whom he never saw. Mr. Bramble's character, which seems to interest you greatly; opens and improves upon me every day. His singularity affords a rich mine of entertainment. His understanding, so far as I can judge, is well cultivated: his observations on life are equally just, pertinent, and uncommon. He affects misanthropy, in order to conceal the sensibility of a heart which is tender even to a degree of weakness. This delicacy of feeling, or forenses of the mind, makes him timsorous and fearful; but then he is afraid of nothing so much as of dishonour; and although he is exceedingly cautious of giving offence, he will fire at the least hint of insidenes or ill-breding. Respectable as he is upon the whole, I cannot help being sometimes diverted by his little distresses; which provoke him to let fly the shafts of his satire, keen and penetrating as the arrows of Teucer. Our aunt Tabitha acts upon him as a perpetual grind-stone; she is, in all respects, a striking contrast to her brother: but I refer her portrait for another occasion.

Three days ago we came hither from the Hot Well, and took possession of the first floor of a lodging-house on the South Parade; a situation which my uncle chose for it's being near the bath, and remote from the noise of carriages. He was scarce warm in the lodgings, when he called for his night-cap, his wide shoes, and flannels, and declared himself invested with the gout in his right-foot, though I believe it had as yet reached no farther than his imagination. It was not long before he had reason to repent his premature declaration; for our aunt Tabitha found means to make such a clamour and confusion before the flannels could be produced from the trunk, that one would have imagined the house was on fire. All this time, uncle fat boiling with impatience, biting his fingers, throwing up his eyes, and muttering ejaculations; at length he burst into a kind of convulsive laugh, after which he hummed a song; and, when the hurricane was over, exclaimed—'Blessed be God for all things!' This, however, was but the beginning of his troubles. Mrs. Tabitha's favourite dog
dog Chowder, having paid his compliments to a female turnip of his own species in the kitchen, involved himself in a quarrel with no fewer than five rivals, who let upon him at once, and drove him up stairs to the dining-room door with a hideous noise: there our aunt and her woman, taking arms in his defence, joined the concert; which became truly diabolical. This fray being with difficulty suppressed, by the intervention of our own footman and the cook-maid of the house, the squire had just opened his mouth to expostulate with Tabby, when the town-waits, in the passage below, struck up their musick, if musick it may be called, with such a sudden burst of sound, as made him start and stare, with marks of indignation and disquiet. He had recollection enough to lend his servant with some money to silence those noisy intruders; and they were immediately dismissed, though not without some opposition on the part of Tabitha, who thought it but reasonable that he should have more musick for his money. Scarcely had he settled this knotty point, when a strange kind of thumping and bouncing was heard right over-head, in the second story, so loud and violent as to shake the whole building. I own I was exceedingly provoked at this new alarm; and, before my uncle had time to express himself on the subject, I ran up stairs to see what was the matter. Finding the room-door open, I entered without ceremony, and perceived an object which I cannot now recollect without laughing to excess; it was a dancing-master with his scholar, in the act of teaching. The master was blind of one eye, and lame of one foot, and led about the room his pupil, who seemed to be about the age of three-score, stooped mortally, was tall, raw-boned, hard-favoured, with a woollen night-cap on his head; and he had stripped off his coat, that he might be more nimble in his motions. Finding himself intruded upon by a peron he did not know, he forthwith girded himself with a long iron sword; and advancing to me, with a peremptory air, pronounced, in a true Hibernian accent—'Mister What's ye call; am very glad to tea you, if you are after coming in the way of friendship; and indeed, and indeed now, I believe you are my friend sure enough, gra; though I never had the honour to tea your face before, my dear; for because you come like a friend, without any ceremony at all, at all—' I told him the nature of my visit would not admit of ceremony; that I was come to-defire he would make less noise, as there was a sick gentleman below whom he had no right to disturb with such preposterous doings.

Why, look ye now, young gentleman,' replied this original, perhaps, upon another occasion, I might shivily request you to explain the meaning of that hard word preposterous: but there is a time for all things, honey.' So saying, he pulled me with great agility; and, running down stairs, found our footman at the dining-room door, of whom he demanded admittance to pay his respects to the stranger. As the fellow did not think proper to refuse the request of such a formidable figure, he was immediately introduced, and addressed himself to my uncle in these words: 'Your humble servant, good Sir. I am not so preposterous, as your son calls it, but I know the rules of shivility. I am a poor knight of Ireland; my name is Sir Ulic Mackilligut, of the county of Galway. Being your fellow-lodger, I am come to pay my respects, and to welcome you to the South Parade, and to offer my best services to you, and your good lady, and your pretty daughter; and even to the young gentleman your son, though he thinks me a preposterous fellow. You must know I am to have the honour to open a ball next door to-morrow with Lady Mac Manus; and being rufted in my dancing, I was refreshing my memory with a little exercise; but if I had known there was a sick peron below, by Christ! I would have sooner danced a hornpipe upon my own head, than walk the foftest minut over yours.' My uncle, who was not a little startled at his first appearance, received his compliment with great complacency, inſifted upon his being teated, thanked him for the honour of his visit, and reprimanded me for my abrupt expofulation with a gentleman of his rank and character. Thus tutored, I asked pardon of the knight; who forthwith flarting up, embraced me fo close, that I could hardly breathe; and affured me he loved me as his own soul. At length, recollecting his night-cap, he pulled it off in some confusion; and, with his bald pate uncovered, made a thousand
thousand apologies to the ladies, as he retired. At that instant, the Abbey bells began to ring so loud, that we could not hear one another speak; and this peal, as we afterwards learned, was for the honour of Mr. Bullock, an eminent cow-keeper of Tottenham, who had just arrived at Bath to drink the waters for indigestion. Mr. Bramble had not time to make his remarks upon the agreeable nature of this serenade, before his ears were saluted with another concert that interested him more nearly. Two negroes, belonging to a Creole gentleman who lodged in the same house, taking their station at a window in the stair-cave, about ten feet from our dining-room door, began to practice upon the French horn; and being in the very first rudiments of execution, produced such discordant sounds, as might have discomposed the organs of an ass. You may guess what effect they had upon the irritable nerves of uncle; who, with the most admirable expression of spleenick surprize in his countenance, sent his man to silence those dreadful blasts; and desire the musicians to practice in some other place, as they had no right to stand there and disturb all the lodgers in the house. Those fable performers, far from taking the hint and withdrawing, treated the messenger with great insolence, bidding him carry his compliments to their master, Colonel Rigworm, who would give him a proper answer, and a good drubbing into the bargain; in the mean time they continued their noise, and even endeavoured to make it more disagreeable; laughing between whiles at the thoughts of being able to torment their betters with impunity. Our squire, incensed at the additional insult, immediately dispatched the servant with his compliments to Colonel Rigworm, requesting that he would order his blacks to be quiet, as the noise they made was altogether intolerable. To this message the Creole colonel replied, that his horns had a right to sound on a common stair-cave; that there they should play for his diversion; and that those who did not like the noise, might look for lodgings elsewhere. Mr. Bramble no sooner received this reply, than his eyes began to glister, his face grew pale, and his teeth chattered. After a moment's pause, he slipped on his shoes without speaking a word, or seeming to feel any farther disturbance from the gout in his toes; then snatching his cane, he opened the door, and proceeded to the place where the black trumpeters were posted. There, without further hesitation, he began to labour them both; and exerted himself with such astonishing vigour and agility, that both their heads and horns were broken in a twinkling, and they ran howling down stairs to their master's parlour-door. The squire, following them half way, called aloud, that the colonel might hear him—'Go, rascals, and tell your master what I have done! If he thinks himself injured, he knows where to come for satisfaction. As for you, this is but an earnest of what you shall receive, if ever you presume to blow a horn again here while I stay in the house.' So saying, he retired to his apartment, in expectation of hearing from the West Indian; but the colonel prudently declined any farther prosecution of the dispute. My sister Liddy was frightened into a fit; from which she was no sooner recovered, than Mrs. Tabitha began a lecture upon patience; which her brother interrupted with a most significant grin, exclaiming—'True, sister; God increase my patience and your discretion!' I wonder,' added he, 'what fort of sonata we are to expect from this overture, in which the devil, that prefaces over horrid sounds, hath given us such variations of discord. The trampling of porters, the creaking and clashing of trunks, the snarling of curs, the scolding of women, the squeaking and squalling of fiddles and hautboys out of tune, the bouncing of the Irish baronet over head, and the burting, belching, and bratling of the French horns in the piaffage, not to mention the harmonious peal that still thunders from the Abbey steeple, succeeding one another without interruption, like the different parts of the same concert, have given me such an idea of what a poor invalid has to expect in this temple, dedicated to Silence and Repose, that I shall certainly shift my quarters tomorrow, and endeavour to effectuate my retreat before Sir Ulick opens the ball with my Lady Mac Manus; a conjunction that bodes me no good.' This intimation was by no means agreeable to Mrs. Tabitha, whose ears were not quite so delicate as those of her brother; she said it would be great folly to move
move from such agreeable lodgings, the moment they were comfortably settled. She wondered he should be such an enemy to music and mirth; she heard no noise but of his own making: it was impossible to manage a family in dumb-show. He might harp as long as he pleased upon his scolding; but he never scolded, except for his advantage: but he would never be satisfied, even tho' she should sweat blood and water in his service. I have a great notion that our aunt, who is now declining into the most desperate state of celibacy, had formed some design upon the heart of Sir Ulric Mackilligut, which she feared might be frustrated by our abrupt departure from these lodgings. Her brother, eyeing her afiance—'Pardon me, sister,' said he; 'I should be a savage indeed, were I insensible of my own felicity, in having such a mild, complacent, good-humoured, and considerate companion and housekeeper; but, as I have got a weak head, and my sense of hearing is painfully acute, before I have recourse to plugs of wool and cotton, I will try whether I cannot find another lodging where I shall have more quiet and less муick.' He accordingly dispatched his man upon this service; and next day he found a small house in Millham Street, which he hires by the week. Here, at least, we enjoy convenience and quiet within doors, as much as Tabby's temper will allow; but the squire still complains of flying pains in the stomach and head, for which he bathes and drinks the waters. He is not so bad, however, but that he goes in person to the pump, the rooms, and the coffee-houses; where he picks up continual food for ridicule and satire. If I can glean any thing for your amusement, either from his observation or my own, you shall have it freely; though I am afraid it will poorly compensate the trouble of reading these tedious infipid letters of, dear Phillips, yours always,

Jer. Melford.

TO DR. LEWIS.

BATH, APRIL 23.

DEAR DOCTOR,

If I did not know that the exercise of your profession has habituated you to the hearing of complaints, I should make confidence of troubling you with my correspondence, which may be truly called The Lamentations of Matthew Bramble. Yet I cannot help thinking I have some right to discharge the over-flowings of my spleen upon you, whose province it is to remove those disorders that occasioned it; and, let me tell you, it is no small alleviation of my grievances that I have a sensible friend, to whom I can communicate my cruyt humour; which, by retention, would grow intolerably acrimonious.

You must know, I find nothing but disappointment at Bath; which is so altered, that I can scarce believe it is the same place that I frequented about thirty years ago. Methinks I hear you say—'Altered it is, without all doubt; but then it is altered for the better: a truth which, perhaps, you would own with out hesitation, if you yourself was not altered for the worse.' The reflection may, for ought I know, be just. The inconveniences which I overlooked in the high day of health, will naturally strike with exaggerated impression on the irritable nerves of an invalid, surprized by premature old age, and shattered with long-suffering. But, I believe, you will not deny that this place, which Nature and Providence seem to have intended as a refuge from distemper and disquiet, is become the very center of racket and dissipation. Instead of that peace, tranquillity, and ease, so necessary to those who labour under bad health, weak nerves, and irregular spirits; her we have nothing but noise, tumult, and hurry; with the fatigue and labour of maintaining a ceremonial, more stiff, formal, and oppressive, than the etiquette of a German elector. A national hospital it may be; but one would imagine that none but lunatics are admitted; and, truly, I will give you leave to call me so, if I stay much longer at Bath. But I shall take another opportunity to explain my sentiments at greater length on this subject. I was impatient to see the boasted improvements in architecture, for which the upper parts of the town have been so much celebrated; and the other day I made a circuit of all the new buildings. The Square, though irregular, is, on the whole, pretty well laid out, spacious, open, and airy; and, in my opinion, by far the most wholesome and agreeable situation in Bath, especially the upper-square of it; but the avenues to it are mean, dirty, dangerous, and indirect. It's communication with the baths is through the
the yard of an inn, where the poor trembling valetudinarian is carried in a chair, betwixt the heels of a double row of horses, wincing under the curr'y-combs of grooms and potillions, over and above the hazard of being obstructed, or overturned, by the carriages which are continually making their exit or their entrance. I suppose, after some chairmen shall have been maimed, and a few lives lost by those accidents, the corporation will think, in earnest, about providing a more safe and commodious passage.

The Circus is a pretty bubble; contrived for show, and looks like Vespaian's amphitheatre turned outside. If we consider it in point of magnificence, the great number of small doors belonging to the separate houses, the inconsiderable height of the different orders, the affected ornaments of the architrave, which are both childish and misplaced, and the areas projecting into the street, surrounded with iron-rails, destroy a good part of it's effect upon the eye; and, perhaps, we shall find it still more defective, if we view it in the light of convenience. The figure of each separate dwelling-house, being the segment of a circle, must spoil the symmetry of the rooms, by contrácting them towards the street-windows; and leaving a larger sweep in the space behind. If, instead of the areas and iron-rails, which seem to be of very little use, there had been a corridor with arcades all round, as in Covent Garden, the appearance of the whole would have been more magnificent and striking: those arcades would have afforded an agreeable covered-walk, and sheltered the poor chairmen and their carriages from the rain, which is here almost perpetual. At present, the chairs stand foaking in the open street, from morning to night, till they become so many boxes of wet leather, for the benefit of the gouty and rheumatick, who are transported in them from place to place. Indeed, this is a throbbing inconvenience that extends over the whole city; and, I am persuaded, it produces infinite mischief to the delicate and infirm: even the close-chairs; contrived for the sick, by standing in the open air, have their frize-linings impregnated, like so many spunges, with the moisture of the atmosphere; and those cases of cold vapour must give a charming check to the perspiration of a patient, piping hot from the Bath, with all his pores wide open.

But, to return to the Circus. It is inconvenient from it's situation, at so great a distance from all the markets, baths, and places of publick entertainment. The only entrance to it, through Gay Street, is so difficult, steep, and slippery, that, in wet weather, it must be exceedingly dangerous, both for those that ride in carriages, and those that walk a-foot; and when the street is covered with snow, as it was for fifteen days successively this very winter, I do not see how any individual could go either up or down, without the most imminent hazard of broken bones. In blowing weather, I am told, most of the houses on this hill are smothered with smoke, forced down the chimneys by the gusts of wind reverberated from the hill behind, which (I apprehend likewise) must render the atmosphere here more humid and unwholesome than it is in the square below: for the clouds, formed by the constant evaporation from the baths and rivers in the bottom, will, in their ascent this way, be first attracted and detained by the hill that rises close behind the Circus, and load the air with a perpetual succession of vapours. This point, however, may be easily ascertained by means of a hygrometer, or a paper of salt of tartar exposed to the action of the atmosphere. The same artist who planned the Circus, has likewise projected a Crescent: when that is finished, we shall probably have a Star; and those who are living thirty years hence, may, perhaps, see all the signs of the Zodiac exhibited in architecture at Bath. These, however fantastical, are still designs that denote some ingenuity and knowledge in the architect: but the rage of building has laid hold on such a number of adventurers, that one sees new houses starting up in every out-lot and every corner of Bath; contrived without judgment, executed without solidity, and stuck together with so little regard to plan and propriety, that the different lines of the new rows and buildings interfere with and interfere one another in every different angle of conjunction. They look like the wreck of streets and squares disjointed by an earthquake, which hath broken the ground into a variety of holes and hillocks; or, as if some Gothick devil had fluffed them all together in a bag, and left them to stand higgledy-piggledy, just as chance directed. What sort of a monster Bath will become in a few years, with those growing
ing excrencences, may be easily conceived. But the want of beauty and proportion is not the worst effect of these new mansions; they are built so slight, with the soft crumbling stone found in this neighbourhood, that I should never sleep quietly in one of them, when it blew (as the sailor's lay) a cap-full of wind: and I am persuaded, that my kind Roger Williams, or any man of equal strength, would be able to pull his foot through the strongest part of their walls, without any great exertion of his muscles. All these absurdities arise from the general tide of luxury, which hath overspread the nation, and swept away all, even the very dregs of the people. Every upfront of fortune, hayned in the trappings of the mode, presents himself at Bath as in the very focus of observation. Clerks and factors from the East Indies, loaded with the spoil of plundered provinces; planters, negro-drivers, and hucksters, from our American plantations, enriched they know not how; agents, commissaries, and contractors, who have fattened, in two successive wars, on the blood of the nation; ufeurs, brokers, and jobbers, of every kind; men of low birth and no breeding, have found themselves suddenly translated into a state of affluence, unknown to former ages: and no wonder that their brains should be intoxicated with pride, vanity, and presumption. Knowing no other criterion of greatness but the ostentation of wealth, they discharge their affluence, without taste or conduct, through every channel of the most absurd extravagance; and all of them hurry to Bath, because here, without any farther qualification, they can mingle with the princes and nobles of the land. Even the wives and daughters of low tradesmen, who, like shovel-nosed sharks, prey upon the blubber of those uncouth whales of fortune, are infected with the same rage of displaying their importance; and the slightest indisposition serves them for a pretext to infilt upon being conveyed to Bath, where they may hobble country-dances and cotillons among lodlings, squires, counsellors, and clergy. These delicate creatures from Bedfordbury, Butcher-Row, Crucified-Friars, and Botolph-Lane, cannot breathe in the gross air of the Lower Town, or conform to the vulgar rules of a common lodging-house; the husband, therefore, must provide an entire house, or elegant apartments in the new buildings. Such

is the composition of what is called the fashionable company of Bath; where a very inconsiderable proportion of genteel people are lost in a mob of impudent plebeians, who have neither understanding nor judgment, nor the least idea of propriety and decorum; and seem to enjoy nothing so much as an opportunity of insulating their better.

Thus the number of people and the number of houses continue to encrease; and this will ever be the case, till the streams that swell this irresistible torrent of folly and extravagance shall either be exhausted, or turned into other channels, by incidents and events which I do not pretend to foresee. This, I own, is a subject on which I cannot write with any degree of patience; for the mob is a monster. I never could abide, either in it's head, tail, midriff, or members; I detect the whole of it as a mass of ignorance, presumption, malice, and brutality: and, in this term of reprobation, I include, without respect to rank, faction, or quality, all those of both sexes, who affect it's manners, and court it's society.

But I have written till my fingers are cramped, and my patience begins to return. By your advice, I went to London a few days ago for half a pound of geng-zeng; though I doubt much whether that which comes from America is equally efficacious with what is brought from the East Indies. Some years ago, a friend of mine paid sixteen guineas for two ounces of it; and, in six months after, it was sold in the same shop for five shillings the pound. In short, we live in a vile world of fraud and sophistication; so that I know nothing of equal value with the genuine friendship of a sensible man; a rare jewel! which I cannot help thinking myself in possession of, while I repeat the old declaration, that I am, as usual, dear Lewis, your affectionate

M. Bramble.

After having been agitated in a short hurricane, on my first arrival, I have taken a small house in Milnham Street, where I am tolerably well lodged, for five guineas a week. I was yesterday at the Pump-room, and drank about a pint of the water, which forms to agree with my stomach; and to-morrow morning I shall bathe, for the first time; so that
that in a few posts you may expect further trouble: meanwhile, I am glad to find that the inoculation has succeeded so well with poor Joyce, and that her face will be but little marked. If my friend Sir Thomas was a single man, I would not trust such a handsome wench in his family; but, as I have recommended her, in a particular manner, to the protection of Lady G——, who is one of the best women in the world, she may go thither, without hesitation, as soon as she is quite recovered, and fit for service. Let her mother have money to provide her with necessaries; and she may ride behind her brother on Bucks: but you must lay strong injunctions on Jack to take particular care of the trusty old veteran, who has faithfully earned his present ease by his past services.

TO MISS WILLIS, AT GLOUCESTER.

BATH, APRIL 26.

MY DEAREST COMPANION,

The pleasure I received from yours, which came to hand yesterday, is not to be expressed. Love and friendship are, without doubt, charming passions; which absence serves only to heighten and improve. Your kind present of the garnet-bracelets I shall keep as carefully as I preserve my own life: and I beg you will accept, in return, of my heart-houfewife, with the tortoife-fluell memorial-便是-book, as a trifling pledge of my unalterable affection.

Bath is to me a new world; all is gaiety, good-humour, and diversion: the eye is continually entertained with the splendor of drefs and equipage; and the ear with the sound of coaches, chariots, chairs, and other carriages. The merry bells ring round from morn till night. Then we are welcomed by the city-waits in our own lodgings: we have musick in the Pump-room every morning; cotillons every forenoon in the rooms; balls twice a week; and concerts every other night; besides private affembles and parties without number. As soon as we were settled in lodgings, we were visited by the matter of the ceremonies; a pretty little gentleman, so sweet, so fine, so civil, and polite, that in our country he might pass for the Prince of Wales: then he talks so charmingly, both in verse and prose, that you would be delighted to hear him discourse; for, you must know, he is a great writer, and has got five tragedies ready for the stage. He did us the favour to dine with us, by my uncle’s invitation; and next day quizzed my aunt and me to every part of Bath; which, to be sure, is an earthly paradise. The Square, the Circus, and the Parades, put you in mind of the sumptuous palaces represented in prints and pictures; and the new buildings, such as Princes-row, Harlequin's-row, Bladud's-row, and twenty other rows, look like so many enchanted caftles, raised on hanging terraces.

At eight in the morning, we go in difhability to the Pump-room, which is crowded like a Welsh fair; and there you see the highest quality and the lowest trades-folk jostling each other, without ceremony, hail-fellow well met. The noife of the musick playing in the gallery, the heat and flavour of such a crowd, and the hum and buzz of their conversation, gave me the head-ache and vertigo the first day; but, afterwards, all these things became familiar, and even agreeable. Right under the Pump-room windows is the King's-Bath; a huge ciftren, where you see the patients up to their necks in hot-water. The ladies wear jackets and petticoats of brown linen, with chip hats, in which they fix their handkerchiefs to wipe the sweat from their faces: but, truly, whether it is owing to the steam that surrounds them, or the heat of the water, or the nature of the drefs, or to all these causes together, they look so flushed, and so frightful, that I always turn my eyes another way. My aunt, who says every perfon of fashion should make her appearance in the bath, as well as in the abbey-church, contrived a cap with cherry-coloured ribbands to futher com- plexion, and obliged Win to attend her yesterday morning in the water. But, really, her eyes were so red, that they made meke water as I viewed her from the Pump-room; and as for poor Win, who wore a hat trimmed with blue, what betwixt her wan comphexiou and her fear, she looked like the ghoul of some pale maiden, who had drowned herself for love. When she came out of the bath, she took affafted to drop, and was fluttered all day; so that we could hardly keep her from going into hystericks; but
HUMPHRY CLINKER.

her mistress says it will do her good; and poor Win curries with the tears in her eyes. For my part, I content myself with drinking about half a pint of the water every morning.

The pumper, with his wife and servant, attend within a bar; and the glasses, of different sizes, stand ranged in order before them; so you have nothing to do but to point at that which you choose, and it is filled immediately, hot and sparkling from the pump. It is the only hot water I could ever drink without being sick. Far from having that effect, it is rather agreeable to the taste, grateful to the stomach, and reviving to the spirits. You cannot imagine what wonderful cures it performs. My uncle began with it the other day; but he made very faces in drinking; and I am afraid he will leave it off. The first day we came to Bath, he fell into a violent passion; beat two black-a-moors, and I was afraid he would have fought with their master; but the stranger proved a peaceable man. To be sure, the goat had got into his head, as my aunt observed: but, I believe, his passion drove it away; for he has been remarkably well ever since. It is a thousand pities he should ever be troubled with that ugly distemper; for, when he is free from pain, he is the best-tempered man upon earth; so gentle, so generous, so charitable, that every body loves him; and so good to me, in particular, that I shall never be able to shew the deeper sense I have of his tenderness and affection.

Hard by the Pump-room is a coffee-house for the ladies; but my aunt says young girls are not admitted, inasmuch as the conversation turns upon politics, scandal, philosophy, and other subjects above our capacity: but we are allowed to accompany them to the booksellers-shops, which are charming places of resort; where we read novels, plays, pamphlets, and newspapers, for so small a subscription as a crown a quarter: and in these offices of intelligence, (as my brother calls them) all the reports of the day, and all the private transactions of the Bath, are first entered and diffused. From the bookseller's-shop, we make a tour through the milliners and toy-men; and commonly stop at Mr. Gill's the pastry-cook, to take a jelly, a tart, or a small bason of vermicelli. There is, moreover, another place of entertainment on the other side of the water, opposite to the Grove; to which the company crost over in a boat: it is called Spring-Garden; a sweet retreat, laid out in walks and ponds, and parterres of flowers; and there is a long-room for breakfasting and dancing. As the situation is low and damp, and the season has been remarkably wet, my uncle will not suffer me to go thither, lest I should catch cold: but my aunt says it is all a vulgar prejudice; and, to be sure, a great many gentlemen and ladies of Ireland frequent the place without seeming to be the worse for it. They say, dancing at Spring Gardens, when the air is moist, is recommended to them as an excellent cure for the rheumatism. I have been twice at the play; where, notwithstanding the excellence of the performers, the gaiety of the company, and the decorations of the theatre, which are very fine, I could not help reflecting, with a sigh, upon our poor homely representations at Gloucester. But this in confidence to my dear Willis. You know my heart, and will excuse it's weakness.

After all, the great scenes of entertainment at Bath are the two publick-rooms, where the company meet alternately every evening: they are spacious, lofty, and, when lighted up, appear very striking. They are generally crowded with well-dressed people, who drink tea in separate parties, play at cards, walk, or sit and chat together, just as they are disposed. Twice a week there is a ball; the expense of which is defrayed by a voluntary subscription among the gentlemen; and every subscription has three tickets. I was there Friday last with my aunt, under the care of my brother, who is a subscriber; and Sir Ulric Mackilligut recommended his nephew, Captain O'Donaghon, to me as a partner; but Jerry excused himself, by saying I had got the head-ache; and, indeed, it was really so, though I cannot imagine how he knew it. The place was so hot, and the smell so different from what we are used to in the country, that I was quite feverish when we came away. Aunt says it is the effect of a vulgar constitution, reared among woods and mountains; and that, as I become accustomed to genteel company, it will wear off. Sir Ulric was very complaisant, made her a great many high-flying compliments; and, when we retired, handed her with great ceremony to her chair. The captain, I believe, would have done me the same favour; but my brother,
brother, seeing him advance, took me under his arm, and whirled him goodnight. The captain is a pretty man, to be sure; tall and straight, and wellmade; with light-grey eyes, and a Roman nose; but there is a certain boldness in his look and manner that puts one out of countenance. But I am afraid I have put you out of all patience with this long unconnected scrawl; which I shall therefore conclude, with affurting you, that neither Bath nor London, nor all the diversions of life, shall ever be able to efface the idea of my dear Letty from the heart of her ever-affectionate

LYDIA MELFORD.

TO MRS. MARY JONES, AT BRAMBLETON-HALL.

DEAR MOLLY JONES,

HEAVING got a frank, I now return your fever, which I received by Mr. Higgins at the Hot Well, together with the flockings which his wife footed for me; but now they are of no service. Nobody wears such things in this place. O Molly! you that live in the country have no deception of our doings at Bath. Here is such dressing, and the world, and dancing, and gadding, and courting, and plotting! O gracious! if God had not given me a good stock of discretition, what a power of things might not I reveal confounding old mistresses and young mistresses! Jews with beards, that were no Jews; but handsome Christians, without a hair upon their fin, strolling with spectacles, to get speech of Miss Liddy. But she’s a dear sweet soul, as innocent as the child unborn. She has told me all her inward thoughts, and disclosed her passion for Mr. Wilson; and that’s not his name neither; and tho’ he acted among the player men, he is meat for their masters; and she has given me her yellow trolloopea; which Mrs. Drab the many-maker, fays will look very well when it is froivered and smoked with bullion. You knows as how, yellow fits my fizzogmony. God he knows what havoc I shall make among the mail-sex, when I make my first appearance in this killing collar, with a full foot of gaze, as good as new, that I bought last Friday of Madam Friponceau, the French mullaner. Dear girl, I have seen all the fine fhews of Bath; the Prades, the squires, and the Circles; the Craflit, the Hottogon, and Bloody Buildings, and Harry King’s Row: and I have been twice in the bath with mistresses, and ran a smock upon our backs, husky. The first time I was mortally afraid, and fluttered all day; and afterwards made believe that I had got the headick; but mistresses said, if I didn’t go, I should take a dose of bumenty; and so, remembering how it worked Mrs. Gwyllim a pen-north, I chose rather to go again with her into the Bath; and then I met with an accident. I dropped my petticoat, and could not get it up from the bottom. But what did that signify? They bought laff, but they could see nothing; for I was up to the fin in water. To be sure, it threw me into such a gumbulsion, that I know not what I said, nor what I did, nor how they got me out, and wrapt me in a blanket. Mrs. Tabitha scoulded a little when we got home; but she knows as I know what’s what. Ah, Laud help you! There is Sir Yury M ichigt, of Bahalninch, in the county of Kalloway—I took down the name from his gentleman, Mr. O Frizzle, and he has got an estate of fifteen hundred a year—I am sure he is both rich and generous. But you nose, Molly, I was always famous for keeping secrets; and so he was very safe in trusting me with his legim for mistresses; which, to be sure, is very honourable; for, Mr. O Frizzle assures me, he values not her portion a brads worthing. And, indeed, what’s a poor ten thousand pounds to a baron knight of his fortune? And, truly, I told Mr. O Frizzle that was all he had to trust to. As for John Thomas, he’s a moral fellow. I vow, I thought he would a fit with Mr. O Frizzle, because he asked me to dance with him at Spring-Garden. But God, he knows I have not a thought eyther of war, or t’other.

As for house-news, the work is, Choder has fallen off greatly from his flockick: he eats nothing but white-meats, and not much of that; and wheezes, and seems to be much bleated. The doctors think he is threatened with a dropy. Parfon Marrofat, who has got the same disorder, finds great benefit from the waters: but Choder seems to like them no better than the fquie; and mistresses says, if his cafe don’t take a favourable turn, she will furtively carry him to Aberg’s, to drink goat’s-whey. To be sure, the poor dear honyf is left for want of am circife; for which reason, the intend to give
HUMPHRY CLINKER.

give him an airing once a-day upon the Downs, in a post-chaife. I have already
made very creditable corrections in this
here place; where to be sure, we have the
very quintesence of satticy. Mrs. Patchter,

my Lady Kilmacullock's woman, and I,
are fivorn fifters. She has fhewn me all her
secrets, and learned me to walk gafe, and
refrain rufly flks and bumbefteenes, by
boiling them with winegar, chamberlye,
and stale beer. My fhort fack and apion
luck as good as new from the shop, and
my pumpydoor as fresh as a rofe, by the
help of turtle-water. But this is all
Greek and Latten to you, Molly. If we
fhould come to Aberga'ny, you'll be
within a day's ride of us; and then we
shall see van another, please God. If not,
remember me in your prayers, as I fhall
do by you in mine; and take care of my
kitten, and give my kind fervice to Sall;
and this is all at prefent, from your be-
loved friend and fervant,

WINIFRED JENKINS.

BATH, APRIL 26.

TO MRS. GWYLLIM, HOUSEKEEPER
AT BRAMBLETON-HALL.

I am foftonfied, that Dr. Lewis fhould
take upon him to give away Alder-
ney, without my privity and concurants.
What signifies my brother's order? My
brother is little better than Noncompmiffu.
He would give away the ftift off his back,
and the teeth out of his head; nay, as for
that matter, he would have ruined the
family with his ridiculous charities, if it
had not been for my four quarters. What
between his willfulnefs and his waft,
his trumps and his frenzy, I lead the life
of an indented slave. Alderney gave four
gallons a-day, ever fince the calf was fent
to market. There is fo much milk out
of my dairy, and the pref must ftand ftill:
but I won't looe a cheeffe paning; and the
milk fhall be made good, if the fervants
should go without butter. If they muft
needs have butter, let them make it of
sheep's milk; but then my wooll will
fuffer for want of grace; fo that I muft be
a loofe on all fides. Well, patience is like
a frott Welsh poney; it bears a great deal,
and trots a great way; but it will tire at
the long-run. Before it's long, perhaps
I may faw Matt. that I was not born to
be the houfhold drudge to my dying day.
Gwyn rites from Crickhowel, that the
price of flannel is fallen three-farthings an
cell; and that's another good penny out of
my pocket. When I go to market to fell,
my commodity flinks; but when I want
to buy the commonefl thing, the owner
pricks it up under my nose; and it can't
be had for love nor money. I think every
thing runs crofs at Brambleton-hall. You
fay the gander has broke the eggs; which
is a phinomenon I don't understand; for
when the fox carried off the old goose laft
year, he took her place, and hatchet the
eggs, and partecled the golllings like a ten-
der parent. Then you tell me the thun-
der has foutred two barrels of beer in the
feller. But how the thunder fhould get
there, when the feller was double locked,
I can't comprehend. Howsoever, I
won't have the beer thrown out till I fee
it with mine own eyes. Perhaps it will
recover; at leaft it will serve for vinegar
to the fervants. You may leave off the
fires in my brother's chamber and mine,
as it is unfertain when we return. I hope,
Gwyllim, you'll take care there is no
waft; and have an eye to the maids, and
keep them to their fpinning. I think they
may go very well without beer in hot
weather. It ferves only to inflame the
blood, and set them a-gog after the men.
Water will make them fair, and keep
them cool and tamperit. Don't forget to
put up in the portmantel, that cums with
Williams, along with my riding habit,
hat, and feather, the vial of purf water
and the tincktur for my stomach, being as ho-
I am much troubled with flutterencies.
This is all at prefent, from yours,

TABITHA BRAMBLE.

BATH, APRIL 26.

TO DR. LEWIS.

I have done with the waters; therefore
your advice comes a day too late. I
grant that phyfick is no fecret of your
making. I know it is a fecret in it's own
nature; and like other fecrets, requires
a ftrong gulf of faith to make it go
down. Two days ago, I went into the
King's Bath, by the advice of our friend
Ch——, in order to clear the ftrainar of
the skin, for the benefit of a free perfpira-
tion; and the firit object that falved my
eye, was a child full of leprouous ulcers,
carried in the arms of one of the guides,
under the very noeff of the batters. I
was fo shocked at the sight, that I retired
immediately
immediately with indignation and disgust. Suppose the matter of these ulcers, floating on the water, comes in contact with my skin, when the pores are all open, I would ask you what must be the consequence? Good Heavens, the very thought makes my blood run cold! we know not what pox may be running into the water while we are bathing, and what sort of matter we may thus imbibe; the king's-evil, the scurvy, the cancer, and the pox; and no doubt the heat will render the virus the more volatile and penetrating. To purify myself from all such contamination, I went to the Duke of Kingston's private bath, and there I was almost suffocated for want of free air; the place was so small, and the steam so stifling.

After all, if the intention is no more than to wash the skin, I am convinced that simple element is more effectual than any water impregnated with salt and iron, which, being alctringent, will certainly contract the pores, and leave a kind of crust upon the surface of the body. But I am now as much afraid of drinking as of bathing; for, after a long conversation with the doctor, about the construction of the pump and the cistern, it is very far from being clear with me, that the patients in the Pump-room do not swallow the scourgings of the bathers. I cannot help suspecting, that there is, or may be, some regurgitation from the bath into the cistern of the pump. In that case, what a delicate beverage is every day quaffed by the drinkers; medicated with the sweat, and dirt, and dandruff, and the abominable discharges of various kinds, from twenty different diseased bodies, parboiling in the kettle below. In order to avoid this filthy composition, I had recourse to the spring that supplies the private baths on the Abbey-green; but I at once perceived something extraordinary in the taste and smell; and, upon enquiry, I find that the Roman baths in this quarter, were found covered by an old burying-ground, belonging to the Abbey; through which, in all probability, the water drains in it's passage; so that as we drink the decoction of living bodies at the Pump-room, we swallow the scourgings of rotten bones and carcasses at the private bath. I vow to God, the very idea turns my stomach! Determined, as I am, against any farther use of the Bath waters, this consideration would give me little disturbance, if I could find anything more pure, or less pernicious to quench my thirst; but, although the natural springs of excellent water are seen gushing spontaneously on every side, from the hills that surround us, the inhabitants, in general, make use of well-water, so impregnated with nitre, or allum, or some other villainous mineral, that it is equally ungrateful to the taste, and mischievous to the constitution. It must be owned, indeed, that here, in Milham Street, we have a precarious and scanty supply from the hill; which is collected in an open basin in the Circus, liable to be defiled with dead dogs, cats, rats, and every species of naturals, which the radially population may throw into it, from mere wantonness and brutality.

Well, there is no nation that drinks so hoggishly as the English. What poxees for wine among us, is not the juice of the grape; it is an adulterous mixture, brewed up of nauseous ingredients, by dunes, who are bunglers in the art of poison-making; and yet we, and our fore-fathers, are and have been poisoned by this curried drench, without taste or flavour. The only genuine and wholesome beverage in England, is London porter, and Dorchester table-beer; but as for your ale and your gin, your cyder and your perry, and all the trashy family of made wines, I detect them as infernal compositions contrived for the destruction of the human species. But what have I to do with the human species? Except a very few friends, I care not if the whole was

Hark ye, Lewis, my misanthrophy encreases every day. The longer I live, I find the folly and the fraud of mankind grow more and more intolerable. I wish I had not come from Brambleton-Hall; after having lived in solitude so long, I cannot bear the hurry and impertinence of the multitude; besides, every thing is soophilized in these crowded places. Snares are laid for our lives in every thing we eat or drink; the very air we breathe is loaded with contagion. We cannot even sleep, without risk of infection. I say, infection. This place is the rendezvous of the diseased. You will not deny that many diseases are infectious; even the consumption itself is highly infectious. When a person dies of it in Italy, the bed and bedding are destroyed; the other furniture is exposed to the weather, and the apartment white-washed, before it is occupied by any other living soul. You will allow, that nothing receives infection sooner, or retains it longer, than blankets, feathers
feather-beds, and mattrasses. 'Sdeath! how do I know what miserable objects have been strewing in the bed where I now lie? I wonder, Dick, you did not put me in mind of sending for my own mattrasses. But if I had not been an as, I should not have needed a remembrancer. There is always some plaguy reflection that rises up in judgment against me, and ruffles my spirits. Therefore, let us change the subject.

I have other reasons for abridging my stay at Bath. You know Sir Tabby’s complexion. If Mrs. Tabitha Bramble had been of any other race, I should certainly have looked upon her as the most — But, the truth is, she has found means to interest my affection; or rather, she is beholden to the force of prejudice, commonly called the ties of blood. Well, this amiable maiden has actually commenced a flirtation correspondance with an Irish baronet of sixty-five. His name is Sir Ulick Mackilligut. He is said to be much out at elbows; and, I believe, has received false intelligence with respect to her fortune. Be that as it may, the connexion is exceedingly ridiculous, and begins already to excite whispers. For my part, I have no intention to dispute her free-agency; though I shall fall upon some expedient to undeceive her paramour, as to the point which he has principally in view. But I do not think her conduct is a proper example for Liddy, who has also attracted the notice of some coxcombs in the Rooms; and Jerry tells me he suspects a flattering fellow, the knight’s nephew, of some design upon the girl’s heart. I shall, therefore, keep a strict eye over her aunt and her; and even shift the scene, if I find the matter grow more serious. You perceive what an agreeable talk it must be, to a man of my kidney, to have the cure of such souls as these. But, hold, you shall not have another peevish word (till the next occasion) from yours,

MATT. BRAMBLE.

BATH, APRIL 28.

TO SIR WATKIN PHILLIPS, OF JESUS COLLEGE, OXON.

DEAR KNIGHT;

I think those people are unreasonable, who complain that Bath is a contracted circle, in which the same dull scenes perpetually revolve, without variation. I am, on the contrary, amazed to find so small a place so crowded with entertainment and variety. London itself can hardly exhibit one species of diversion, to which we have not something analogous at Bath, over and above those singular advantages that are peculiar to the place. Here, for example, a man has daily opportunities of seeing the most remarkable characters of the community. He sees them in their natural attitudes and true colours; defended from their pedestals, and divested of their formal draperies, undisguised by art and affectation. Here we have ministers of state, judges, generals, bishops, projector, philosophers, wits, poets, players, chemists, fiddlers, and buffoons. If he makes any considerable stay in the place, he is sure of meeting with some particular friend, whom he did not expect to see; and to me there is nothing more agreeable than such casual encounters. Another entertainment peculiar to Bath arises from the general mixture of all degrees assembled in our public rooms, without distinction of rank or fortune. This is what my uncle reproves, as a monstrous jumble of heterogeneous principles; a vile mob of noise and impertinence, without decency or subordination. But this chaos is to me a source of infinite amusement.

I was extremely diverted, last ball-night, to see the Master of the Ceremonies leading, with great solemnity, to the upper-end of the room, an antiquated Abigail, dressed in her lady’s cast clothes; whom he, I suppose, mistook for some countess just arrived at the Bath. The ball was opened by a Scotch lord, with a mulatto heir’s from St. Christopher’s; and the gay Colonel Tintiel danced all the evening with the daughter of an eminent tinman from the borough of Southwark. Yesterday morning, at the Pump-room, I saw a broken-winded Wapping land-lady squeeze through a circle of peers, to salute her brandy-merchant, who stood by the window, propped upon crutches; and a paralytic attorney of Shoe Lane, in shuffling up to the bar, kicked the shins of the Chancellor of England, while his lordship, in a cut bob, drank a glass of water at the pump. I cannot account for my being pleased with these incidents any other way than by saying, they are truly ridiculous in their own nature, and serve to heighten the humour in the farce of life, which I am determined to enjoy as long as I cut.

Those
Those follies, that move my uncle's spleen, excite my laughter. He is as tender as a man without a skin, who cannot bear the slightest touch without flinching. What tickles another would give him torment; and yet he has what we may call lucid intervals, when he is remarkably facetious. Indeed, I never knew a hypochondriack so apt to be infected with good humour. He is the most rible misanthrope I ever met with. A lucky joke, or any ludicrous incident, will set him laughing immoderately, even in one of his most gloomy paroxysms; and, when the laugh is over, he will curse his own imbecillity. In conversing with strangers, he betrays no marks of diffiquiet. He is splenetic with his familiar's only; and not even with them while they keep his attention employed; but when his spirits are not exerted externally, they seem to recoil and prey upon himself. He has renounced the waters with execution; but he begins to find a more efficacious, and, certainly, a much more palatable remedy in the pleasures of society. He has discovered some old friends among the invalids of Bath; and, in particular, renewed his acquaintance with the celebrated James Quin, who certainly did not come here to drink water. You cannot doubt, but that I had the strongest curiosity to know this original; and it was gratified by Mr. Bramble, who has had him twice at our house to dinner.

So far as I am able to judge, Quin's character is rather more respectable than it has been generally represented. His bonomnes are in every witting's mouth; but many of them have a rank flavour, which one would be apt to think was derived from a natural grossness of idea. I suspect, however, that justice has not been done the author, by the collectors of those Quiniana; who have let the best of them slip through their fingers, and only retained such as were suited to the taste and organs of the multitude. How far he may relax in his hours of jollity, I cannot pretend to say; but his general conversation is conducted by the nicest rules of propriety; and Mr. James Quin is, certainly, one of the best bred men in the kingdom.

He is not only a most agreeable companion; but, as I am credibly informed, a very honest man; highly susceptible of friendship, warm, steady, and even generous in his attachments; dilating flattery, and incapable of meannesses and dissimulation. Were I to judge, however, from Quin's eye alone, I should take him to be proud, infolent, and cruel. There is something remarkably severe and forbidding in his aspect; and, I have been told, he was ever disposed to inflit his inferiors and dependants. Perhaps that report has influenced my opinion of his looks. You know we are the fools of prejudice. Howsoever that may be, I have as yet seen nothing but his favourable side; and my uncle, who frequently confers with him in a corner, declares he is one of the most sensible men he ever knew. He seems to have a reciprocal regard for old Squaretoes, whom he calls by the familiar name of Matthew, and often reminds of their old tavern-adventures: on the other hand, Matthew's eyes sparkle whenever Quin makes his appearance. Let him be never so jarring and discordant, Quin puts him in tune; and, like treble and bass in the same concert, they make excellent music together. The other day, the conversation turning upon Shakspeare, I could not help saying, with some emotion, that I would give an hundred guineas to see Mr. Quin act the part of Falstaff; upon which, turning to me with a smile—'And I would give a thousand, young gentleman,' said he 'that I could gratify your longing.' My uncle and he are perfectly agreed in their estimate of life; which, Quin says, would flink in his nostrils, if he did not keep it in claret.

I want to see this phenomenon in his cups; and have almost prevailed upon uncle to give him a small turtle at the Bear.

In the mean time, I must entertain you with an incident that seems to confirm the judgment of those two cynical philosophers. I took the liberty to differ in opinion from Mr. Bramble, when he observed that the mixture of people in the entertainments of this place was destructive of all order and urbanity; that it rendered the plebeians, inufferably arrogant and troublesome, and vulgarized the deportment and sentiments of those who moved in the upper spheres of life. He said, such a preposterous coalition would bring us into contempt with all our neighbours; and was wrong in fact, than debasing the gold coin of the nation. I argued, on the contrary, that those plebeians who discovered such eagerness to imitate the dress and equipage of their superiors, would likewise, in time, adopt their maxims and manners, be polished by their conversation, and re-
HUMPHRY CLINKER.

fined by their example; but when I appealed to Mr. Quin, and asked if he did not think that such an unreserved mixture would improve the whole mafs—‘Yes,’ said he, ‘as a plate of marmalade would improve a pan of firreverence.’

I owned I was not much converfant in high-life, but I had seen what were called polite assemblies in London and elsewhere; that those of Bath seemed to be as decent as any; and that, upon the whole, the individuals that composed it would not be found deficient in good manners and decorum. ‘But let us have recourse to experience,’ said I. ‘Jack Holder, who was intended for a parson, has succeeded to an estate of two thousand a year, by the death of his elder brother.

He is now at the Bath driving about in a phaeton and four, with French horns. He has treated with tartle and clarat at all the taverns in Bath and Bristol, till his guests are gorged with good cheer; he has bought a dozen suits of fine cloaths, by the advice of the Master of the Ceremonies, under whose tuition he has entered himself; he has lost some hundreds at billiards to sharpeners, and taken one of the nymphs of Avon Street into keeping; but, finding all these channels insufficient to drain him of his current cash, his counsellor has engaged him to give a general tea-drinking tomorrow at Wilthire’s room. In order to give it the more eclat, every table is to be furnished with sweet-meats and nosegays; which, however, are not to be touched till notice is given by the ringing of a bell, and then the ladies may help themselves without restriction. This will be no bad way of trying the company’s breeding.

‘I will abide by that experiment,’ cried my uncle; and if I could find a place to stand secure, without the vortex of the tumult, which I know will ensue, I would certainly go thither and enjoy the scene.’ Quin proposed that we should take our station in the music-gallerie; and we took his advice. Holder had got thither before us, with his horns perdue; but we were admitted. The tea-drinking passed as usual; and the company having risen from the tables, were fluttering in groups, in expectation of the signal for attack, when the bell beginning to ring, they flew with eagerness to the dessert, and the whole place was instantly in commotion. There was nothing but jostling, scrambling, pulling, snatch-
her impertinence. ' Mr. Gwynn,' said she, the other day, 'I was once vastly entertained with your playing the Ghost of Gimlet at Drury Lane, when you rose up through the stage, with a white face and red eyes, and spoke of *quails* upon the frightful porcupine. Do, pray, pout a little the Ghost of Gimlet.—Madam,' said Quin, with a glance of ineffable disdain, 'the Ghost of Gimlet is laid never to rise again.' Insensible of this check, she proceeded—'Well, to be sure, you looked and talked like a real ghost; and then the cock crowed so natural. I wonder how you could teach him to crow so exact, in the very nick of time; but I suppose he's game. An't he game, Mr. Gwynn?'—'Dung-hill, Madam.—' Well, dung-hill, or not dung-hill, he has got such a clear counter-tenor, that I wish I had such another at Brambledon-Hall, to wake the medics of a morning. Do you know where I could find one of his brood?'—Probably in the work-house of St. Giles's parish, Madam; but I protest I know not his particular mew.' My uncle, frying with vexation, cried—'Good God, sister, how you talk! I have told you twenty times, that this gentleman's name is not Gwynn.'—'Hoity toity, brother of mine, 'tis the reply, 'no offence I hope. Gwynn is an honourable name, of true old British extraction. I thought the gentleman had been come of Mrs. Helen Gwynn, who was of his own profession; and if so be that were the cafe, he might be of King Charles's breed, and have royal blood in his veins.'—'No, Madam,' answered Quin, with great solemnity, 'my mother was not a whore of such distinction. True it is, I am sometimes tempted to believe myself of royal descent; for my inclinations are often arbitrary. If I was an absolute prince, at this instant, I believe I should send for the head of your cook in a charger. She has committed a felony, on the person of that John Dory; which is mangled in a cruel manner, and even preferred without sauce—'

**O temporal! O more!**

This good-humoured folly turned the conversation into a less digestable channel. But, lest you should think my scribble as tedious as Mrs. Tabby's crack, I shall not add another word, but that I am as usual, Yours,

J. MELFORD.

**Bath, April 3Oth.**

**HUMPHRY CLINKER.**

**TO DR. LEWIS.**

**DEAR LEWIS,**

I received your bill upon Wiltshire, which was punctually honoured; but as I do not chuse to keep so much cash by me, in a common lodging-house, I have deposited two hundred and fifty pounds in the bank of Bath, and shall take their bills for it in London, when I leave this place, where the season draws to an end. You must know, that now being a foot, I am resolved to give Liddy a glimpse of London. She is one of the best-hearted creatures I ever knew, and gains upon my affection every day. As for Tabby, I have dropped such hints to the Irish baronet, concerning her fortune, as, I make no doubt, will cool the ardour of his addresses. Then her pride will take the alarm; and the rancour of stale maidenhood being chafed, we shall hear nothing but flander and abuse of Sir Ulic Mackilligot. This rupture, I foretell, will facilitate our departure from Bath; where, at present, Tabby seems to enjoy herself with peculiar satisfaction. For my part, I detest it so much, that I should not have been able to stay so long in the place if I had not discovered some old friends, whose conversation alleviates my disgust. Going to the coffee-house one forenoon, I could not help contemplating the company, with equal surprize and compassion. We consisted of thirteen individuals; seven lamed by the gout, rheumatism, or palsy; three maimed by accident; and the rest either deaf or blind. One hobbled, another hopped, a third dragged his legs after him like a wounded snake, a fourth fuddled betwixt a pair of long crutches, like the mummy of a felon hanging in chains; a fifth was bent into a horizontal position, like a mounted telescope, shoved in by a couple of chairmen; and the sixth was the butt of a man, let upright in a wheel machine, which the waiter moved from place to place.

Being struck with some of their faces, I consulted the subscription-book; and, perceiving the names of several old friends, began to consider the groups with more attention. At length I discovered Rear-Admiral Balderick, the companion of my youth, whom I had not seen since he was appointed lieutenant of the Severn. He was metamorphosed into an old man, with a wooden-leg and a weather-beaten face; which appeared the more ancient from his grey...
grey locks, that were truly venerable.

Sitting down at the table, where he was reading a newspaper, I gazed at him for some minutes, with a mixture of pleasure and regret, which made my heart gush with tenderness; then taking him by the hand—'Ah, Sam,' said I, 'forty years ago I little thought—' I was too much moved to proceed. 'An old friend, sure enough!' cried he, squeezing his hand, and surveying me eagerly through his glasses. 'I know the looming of the vessel, though she has been hard trained since we parted; but I can't heave up the name.' The moment I told him who I was, he exclaimed—'Hal Matt, my old fellow cruiser, still afloat! And, starting up, hugged me in his arms. His transport, however, boded me no good; for, in saluting me, he thrust the fanding of his spectacles into my eye, and, at the same time, let his wooden stumps upon my peaty toe; an attack that made me shed tears in sad earnest. After the hurry of our recognition was over, he pointed out two of our common friends in the room: the bust was what remained of Colonel Cockril, who had lost the use of his limbs in making an American campaign; and the telescope proved to be my college chum, Sir Reginald Bently; who, with his new title, and unexpected inheritance, commenced fox-hunter, without having served his apprenticeship to the library; and, in consequence of following the hounds through a river, was seized with an inflammation in his bowels, which has contracted him into his present attitude.

Our former correspondence was forthwith renewed, with the most hearty expressions of mutual good-will; and, as we had met so unexpectedly, we agreed to dine together that very day at the tavern. My friend Quin, being luckily unengaged, obliged us with his company; and, truly, this was the most happy day I have passed these twenty years. You and I, Lewis, having been always together, never tared friendship in this high gout, contracted from long absence. I cannot express the half of what I felt at this casual meeting of three or four companions, who had been so long separated, and so roughly treated by the storms of life. It was a renovation of youth; a kind of resuscitation of the dead, that realized those interesting dreams, in which we sometimes retrieve our ancient friends from the grave. Perhaps my enjoyment was not the less pleasing for being mixed with a strain of melancholy, produced by the remembrance ofpast scenes, that conjured up the ideas of some endearing connections, which the hand of death has actually dissolved.

The spirits and good-humour of the company seemed to triumph over the wreck of their constitutions. They had even philosophy enough to joke upon their own calamities; such is the power of friendship, the sovereign cordial of life. I afterwards found, however, that they were not without their moments, and even hours of diuquet. Each of them in succeeding conferences, expatiated upon his own particular grievances; and they were all malcontents at bottom. Over and above their personal disfairs, they thought themselves unfortunate in the lottery of life. Baldrick complained, that all the recompense he had received for his long and hard service, was the half-pay of a rear-admiral. The colonel was mortified to see himself over-topped by upright generals, some of whom he had once commanded; and, being a man of a liberal turn, could ill put up with a moderate annuity, for which he had sold his commission. As for the baronet, having run himself considerably in debt, on a contested election, he has been obliged to relinquish his seat in parliament, and his seat in the country at the same time, and put his estate to nurture; but his chagrin, which is the effect of his own misconduct, does not affect me half so much as that of the other two, who have acted honourable and distinguished parts on the great theatre, and are now reduced to lead a weary life in this new pan of idleness and insignificance. They have long left off using the waters, after having experienced their inefficacy. The diversions of the place they are not in a condition to enjoy. How then do they make shift to pass their time? In the forenoon, they crawl out to the rooms or the coffee-house, where they take a hand at whist, or defeat upon the General Advertiser; and their evenings they murder in private parties, among peevish invalids, and inipid old women. This is the cafe with a good number of individuals, whom nature seems to have intended for better purposes.

About a dozen years ago, many decent families, restricted to small fortunes, besides those that came thither on the score of health, were tempted to settle at Bath, where
where they could then live comfortably, and even make a genteel appearance, at a small expence; but the madness of the times has made the place too hot for them, and they are now obliged to think of other migrations: Some have already fled to the mountains of Wales, and others have retired to Exeter. Thither, no doubt, they will be followed by the flood of luxury and extravagance, which will drive them from place to place to the very Land’s End; and there, I suppose, they will be obliged to shift themselves to some other country. Bath is become a mere link of prefigracy and extortion. Every article of house-keeping is raised to an enormous price; a circumstance no longer to be wondered at, when we know that every petty retainer of fortune piques himself upon keeping a table, and thinks it is for the honour of his character to wink at the knavery of his servants, who are in a confederacy with the market-people; and, of consequence, pay whatever they demand. Here is now a mushroom of opulence, who pays a cook seventy guineas a week for furnishing him with one meal a-day. This portentous frenzy is become so contagious, that the very rabble and refuse of mankind are infected. I have known a negro-driver, from Jamaica, pay over-night to the matter of one of the rooms, sixty-five guineas for tea and coffee to the company, and leave Bath next morning; in such obscurity, that not one of his guests had the slightest idea of his person, or even made the least enquiry about his name. Incidents of this kind are frequent; and every day teems with fresh absurdities, which are too gross to make a thinking man merry. But I feel the spleen creeping on me apace; and therefore will indulge you with a cettation, that you may have no unnecessary cause to curfe your correspondence with, dear Dick; yours ever,

MAT. BRAMBLE.

TO MISS LÆTITIA WILLIS, AT GLouceSTER.

MY DEAR LETY,

I wrote you at great length by the post, the twenty-sixth of last month, to which I refer you for an account of our proceedings at Bath; and I expect your answer with impatience. But, having this opportunity of a private hand, I lend you two dozen of Bath rings; six of the best of which I defire you will keep for yourself, and distribute the rest among the young ladies, our common friends, as you shall think proper. I do not know how you will approve of the mottoes; some of them are not much to my own liking; but I was obliged to take such as I could find ready manufactured. I am vexed, that neither you nor I have received any farther information of a certain person. Sure it cannot be wilful neglect! O my dear Willis! I begin to be visited by strange fancies, and to have some melancholy doubts; which, however, it would be ungenerous to harbour without farther enquiry. My uncle, who has made me a present of a very fine set of garnets, talks of treating us with a jaunt to London; which, you may imagine, will be highly agreeable: but I like Bath so well, that I hope he will not think of leaving it till the season is quite over; and yet, betwixt friends, something has happened to my aunt, which will probably shorten our stay in this place.

Yesteray, in the forenoon, she went by herself to a breakfasting in one of the rooms; and, in half an hour, returned in great agitation, having Chowder along with her in the chair. I believe some accident must have happened, to that unlucky animal, which is the great source of all her troubles. Dear Letty! what a pity it is, that a woman of her years and discretion, should place her affection upon such an ugly, ill-conditioned cur, that snarls and snaps at every body. I asked John Thomas, the foot-man who attended her, what was the matter, and he did nothing but grin. A famous dog-doctor was sent for, and undertook to cure the patient, provided he might carry him home to his own house; but his mistress would not part with him out of her own sight. She ordered the cook to warm clothes, which she applied to his bowels, with her own hand. She gave up all thoughts of going to the ball in the evening; and when Sir Ulick came to drink tea, refused to be seen; so that he went away to look for another partner. My brother Jerry whistles and dances, My uncle sometimes shrugs up his shoulders, and sometimes burfts out a-laughing. My aunt fobs and scolds by turns; and her woman, Win Jenkins, starts and wonders with a foolish face of curiosity; and, for my part, I am as curious as she, but ashamed to ask questions.

Perhaps
Perhaps time will discover the mystery; for if it was any thing that happened in the Rooms, it cannot be long concealed. All I know is, that last night at supper, Mrs. Bramble spoke very disdainfully of Sir Ulric Mackilligut, and asked her brother if he intended to keep us 'sweating all the summer at Bath. 'No, sister Tabitha,' said he, with an arch smile, 'we shall retreat before the Dog-days begin; though I make no doubt that, with a little temperance and discretion, our constitutions might be kept cool enough all the year, even at Bath.' As I do not know the meaning of this infatuation, I will not pretend to make any remarks upon it at present; hereafter, perhaps, I may be able to explain it more to your satisfaction: in the mean time, I beg you will be punctual in your correspondence, and continue to love your ever-faithful

LYDIA MELFORD.

BATH, May 6.

TO SIR WATKIN PHILLIPS, OF JESUS COLLEGE, OXON.

So, then, Mrs. Blackerby's affair has proved a false alarm, and I have faved my money? I wish, however, her declaration had not been so premature; for though my being thought capable of making her a mother might have given me some credit, the reputation of an intrigue with such a cracked pitcher does me no honour at all. In my last I told you I had hopes of seeing Quin in his hours of elevation at the tavern, which is the temple of mirth and good-fellowship; where he, as priest of Comus, utters the inspirations of wit and humour. I have had that satisfaction. I have dined with his club at the Three Tons, and had the honour to fit him out. At half an hour past eight in the evening, he was carried home with fix good bottles of claret under his belt; and it being then Friday, he gave orders that he should not be disturbed till Sunday at noon. You must not imagine that this dote had any other effect upon his conversation, but that of making it more extravagantly entertaining. He had loft the use of his limbs, indeed, several hours before we parted, but he retained all his other faculties in perfection; and, as he gave vent to every whimsical idea as it rose, I was really astonifhéd at the brilliancy of his thoughts, and the force of his expression. Quin is a real voluptuary in the articles of eating and drinking; and so confirmed an epicure, in the common acceptance of the term, that he cannot put up with ordinary fare. This is a point of such importance with him, that he always takes upon himself the charge of catering; and a man admitted to his mets, is always sure of eating delicate viétables, and drinking excellent wine. He owns himself addicted to the delights of the stomach, and often jokes upon his own sensuality; but there is nothing selfish in this appetite. He finds that good cheer unites good company, exhilarates the spirits, opens the heart, banihes all restrain from conversation, and promotes the happiest purposes of social life. But Mr. James Quin is not a subject to be discussed in the compafs of one letter; I shall therefore, at present, leave him to his repose, and call another of a very different complexion.

You desire to have farther acquaintance with the person of our aunt, and promise yourself much entertainment from her connection with Sir Ulric Mackilligut: but in this hope you are baulked already; that connection is dissolved. The Irish baronet is an old hound, that, finding her carrion, has quitted the scent. I have already told you that Mrs. Tabitha Bramble is a maiden of forty-five. In her person, she is tall, raw-boned, awkward, flat-chested, and sopping; her complexion is sallow and freckled; her eyes are not grey, but greenish, like those of a cat, and generally inflamed; her hair is of a sandy, or rather dufty hue; her forehead low; her nose long, sharp, and, towards the extremity, always red in cool weather; her lips thinny; her mouth extenfive; her teeth straggling and loose, of various colours and conformation; and her long neck shrivelled into a thousand wrinkles. In her temper, she is proud, stiff, vain, imperious, prying, malicious, greedy, and uncharitable. In all likelihood, her natural afinity has been foured by disappointment in love; for her long celibacy is by no means owing to her dislike of matrimony: on the contrary, she has left no stone unturned to avoid the reproachful epithet of Old Maid.

Before
Before I was born, she had gone such lengths in the way of flirting with a recruiting officer, that her reputation was a little fingered. She afterwards made advances to the curate of the parish, who dropped some distant hints about the next presentation to the living which was in her brother's gift; but finding that was already promised to another, he flew off at a tangent; and Mrs. Tabby, in revenge, found means to deprive him of his cure. Her next lover was lieutenant of a man of war, a relation of the family, who did not underfand the refinements of the passion, and expressed no abhorrence to grapple with cousin Tabby in the way of marriage; but, before matters could be properly adjusted, he went out on a cruise, and was killed in an engagement with a French frigate. Our aunt, though baffled so often, did not yet despair. She laid all her schemes for Dr. Lewis; who is the fidus Aequan of my uncle. She even fell sick upon the occasion, and prevailed with Matt. to interfere in her behalf with his friend; but the doctor, being a shy cock, would not be caught with chaff, and flatly rejected the proposal: so that Mrs. Tabitha was content to exert her patience once more, after having endeavoured in vain to effect a rupture between the two friends; and now she thinks proper to be very civil to Lewis, who is become necessary to her in the way of his profession.

These, however, are not the only efforts she has made towards a nearer conjunction with our sex. Her fortune was originally no more than a thousand pounds; but she gained an accession of five hundred by the death of a fitter, and the lieutenant left her three hundred in his will. These sums she has more than doubled by living free of all expense in her brother's howse, and dealing in cheese and Welsh flannel, the produce of his flocks and dairy. At present, her capital has encreased to about four thousand pounds; and her avarice seems to grow every day more and more rapacious; but even, this is not so intolerable as the perverseness of her nature, which keeps the whole family in disquiet and uproar. She is one of those geniuses who find some diabolical enjoyment in being dreaded and detested by their fellow-creatures.

I once told my uncle, I was surprized that a man of his disposition could bear such a dometick plague, when it could be so easily removed. The remark made him sore, because it seemed to tax him with want of resolution. Wrinkling up his nose, and drawing down his eyebrows—' A young fellow,' said he, when he first thrusts his mout into the world, is apt to be surprized at many things which a man of experience knows to be ordinary and unavoidable. This precious aunt of yours is become infensibly a part of my constitution. Damned her! She is a non me tangere in my flesh, which I cannot bear to be touched or tampered with.' I made no reply, but shifted the conversation. He really has an affection for this original, which maintains its ground in defiance of common sense, and in despite of that contempt which he must certainly feel for her character and understanding. Nay, I am convinced, that she has likewise a moh virulent attachment to his person; though her love never shews itself but in the shape of dis-content, and she permits in tormenting him out of mere tenderfees. The only object within doors upon which she bestows any marks of affection in the usual style, is her dog Chowder; a filthy cur from Newfoundland, which she had in a present from the wife of a skipper in Swansea. One would imagine she had distinguished this beast with her favour on account of his ugliness and ill-nature; if it was not, indeed, an instinctive sympathy between his disposition and her own. Certain it is, she caresles him without ceasing; and even harasses the family in the service of this cursed animal; which, indeed, has proved the proximate cause of her breach with Sir Ulic Mackilligut.

You must know, she yesterday wanted to steal a march of poor Liddy, and went to breakfast in the room without any other companion than her dog, in expectation of meeting with the baronet, who had agreed to dance with her in the evening. Chowder no sooner made his appearance in the room, than the matter of the ceremonies, incensed at his presumption, ran up to drive him away, and threatened him with his foot; but the other seemed to despise his authority; and displaying a formidable cafe of long, white, sharp teeth, kept the puny monarch at bay. While he stood under some trepidation, fronting his antagonist, and bawling to the waiter, Sir Ulic Mackilligut came to his assistance, and seeming ignorant of the connection
connection between this intruder and his mistress, gave the former such a kick in the jaws, as sent him howling to the door. Mrs. Tabitha, incensed at this outrage, ran after him, equaling in a tone equally disagreeable; while the baronet followed her on one side, making apologies for his mistake; and Derrick on the other, making remonstrances upon the rules and regulations of the place.

Far from being satisfied with the knight’s excuses, she said she was sure he was no gentleman; and when the matter of the ceremonies offered to hand her into the chair, she rapped him over the knuckles with her fan. My uncle’s footman being still at the door, she and Chowder got into the same vehicle, and were carried off amidst the jokes of the chairmen and other populace. I had been riding out on Clerkendown, and happened to enter just as the fracas was over. The baronet, coming up to me with an affected air of chagrin, recounted the adventure; at which I laughed heartily, and then his countenance cleared up.

‘My dear soul,’ said he, ‘when I saw a fort of a wild bait flurrying with open mouth at the master of the ceremonies, like the red cow going to devour Tom Thumb, I could do no less than go to the affliration of the little man; but I never dreamt the bait was one of Mrs. Bramble’s attendants: O! if I had, he might have made his breakfast upon Derrick and welcome. But you know, my dear friend, how natural it is for us Irishmen to blunder, and to take the wrong fow by the ear. However, I will confess judgment, and cry her mercy; and it is to be hoped a penitent sinner may be forgiven.’ I told him, that as the offence was not voluntary on his side, it was to be hoped he would not find her implacable.

But, in truth, all this concern was dissembled. In his approaches of gallantry to Mrs. Tabitha, he had been misled by a mistake of at least six thousand pounds in the calculation of her fortune; and in this particular he was just undeceived. He therefore seized the first opportunity of incurring her displeasure decently, in such a manner as would certainly annihilate the correspondence; and he could not have taken a more effectual method than that of beating her dog. When he presented himself at our door, to pay his respects to the offended fair, he was refused admittance, and given to understand, that he should never find her at home for the future. She was not so inaccusable to Derrick, who came to demand satisfaction for the insult she had offered to him, even in the verge of his own court. She knew it was convenient to be well with the master of the ceremonies while she continued to frequent the Rooms; and, having heard he was a poet, began to be afraid of making her appearance in a ballad or lampoon. She therefore made excuses for what she had done, imputing it to the flutter of her spirit; and subscribed handomely for his poems: so that he was perfectly appeased, and overwhelmed her with a profusion of compliment. He even solicited a reconciliation with Chowder; which, however, the latter declined: and he declared, that if he could find a precedent in the annals of the Bath, which he would carefully examine for that purpose, her favourite should be admitted to the next public breakfast: but, I believe, she will not expose herself or him to the risque of a second disgrace. Who will supply the place of Mickilligut in her affections, I cannot foresee; but nothing in the shape of man can come amiss. Though she is a violent church-woman, of the most intolerant zeal, I believe in my confidence she would have no objection, at present, to treat on the score of matrimony with an Anabaptist, Quaker, or Jew; and even ratify the treaty at the expense of her own conversion. But perhaps I think too hardly of this kinwoman; who, I must own, is very little beholden to the good opinion of yours.

BATH, May 6.

TO DR. LEWIS.

YOU ask me why I do not take the air on horseback during this fine weather. In which of the avenues of this paradise would you have me take that exercise? Shall I commit myself to the high-roads of London or Bristol, to be lifted with dust, or pressed to death in the midst of post-chaises, flying-machines, waggons, and coal-horses; besides the troops of fine gentlemen that take to the highway to shew their horsemanship; and the coaches of fine ladies, who go thither to shew their equipages? Shall I attempt the Downs, and fatigue myself to death
in climbing up an eternal ascent, without any hopes of reaching the summit? Know then, I have made divers desperate leaps at those upper regions, but always fell backward into this vapour-pit, exhausted and dispirited by those ineffectual efforts; and here we poor valetudinarians pant and struggle like so many Chinesie gug-geons gaiping in the bottom of a punch-bowl. By Heaven, it is a kind of enchantment! If I do not speedily break the spell, and escape, I may chance to give up the ghost in this nauseous flaw of corruption. It was but two nights ago, that I had like to have made my publick exit at a minute's warning. One of my greatest weaknesses is that of suffering myself to be over-ruled by the opinion of people whose judgment I despise. I own, with flame and confusion of face, that importance of any kind I cannot resist. This want of courage and constancy is an original flaw in my nature, which you must have often observed with compassion, if not with contempt. I am afraid some of our boasted virtues may be traced up to this defect.

Without farther preamble, I was persuaded to go to a ball, on purpose to see Liddy dance a minuet with a young petulant jackanapes, the only fon of a wealthy undertaker from London, whose mother lodges in our neighbourhood, and has contracted an acquaintance with Tabby. I fat a couple of long hours, half stilted, in the midst of a noisome crowd; and could not help wondering that so many hundreds of those that rank as rational creatures, could find entertainment in seeing a succession of impudic animals delibriving the fame dull figure for a whole evening, on an area not much bigger than a Taylor's shop-board. If there had been any beauty, grace, activity, magnificent dress, or variety of any kind, however absurd, to engage the attention, and amuse the fancy, I should not have been furpriz'd; but there was no such object: it was a tirefome repetition of the same languid, frivolous scene, performed by actors that seemed to sleep in all their motions. The continual swimming of those phantoms before my eyes, gave me a swimming of the head; which was also affected by the fouled air, circulating through such a number of rotten human bellows. I therefore retreated towards the door, and stood in the passage to the next room, talking to my friend Quin; when all end being put to the minuets, the benches were removed to make way for the country dances; and the multitude rising at once, the whole atmosphere was put in commotion. Then, all of a sudden, came rushing upon me an Egyptian gale, so impregnated with pestilential vapours, that my nerves were overpowered, and I dropped senseless upon the floor.

You may easily conceive what a clamour and confusion this accident must have produced in such an assembly: I soon recovered, however, and found myself in an easy-chair, supported by my own people. Sitter Tabby, in her great tenderness, had put me to the torture, squeezing my head under her arm, and stuffing my nose with spirit of hartbore, till the whole infide was excoriated. I no sooner got home, than I sent for Doctor Ch——; who assured me I needed not be alarmed, for my swooning was entirely occasioned by an accidental impression of fetid effluvia upon nerves of uncommon sensibility. I know not how other people's nerves are constructed; but one would imagine they must be made of very coarse materials, to stand the shock of such a horrid insul. It was, indeed, a compound of villainous finis, in which the most violent stinks, and the most powerful perfumes, contended for the mastery. Imagine to yourself a high exalted essence of mingled odours, arising from putrid gums, imposthumated lungs, four-flatulencies, rank arm-pits, sweating feet, running fores and fluxes, philters, ointments, and embrocations, Hungary-water, spirit of lavender, afaeetitada-drops, molk, hartbore, and fall volatile; besides a thousand frowzy teems, which I could not analyze. Such, O Dick! is the fragrant aether we breathe in the polite assemblies of Bath! Such is the atmosphere I have exchanged for the pure, elaschick, animating air of the Welsh mountains! O Rus, quando te aspiro? I wonder what the devilpossessed me!

But few words are left: I have taken my resolution. You may well suppose I do not intend to entertain the company with a second exhibition. I have promised, in an evil hour, to proceed to London, and that promise shall be perform'd; but my stay in the metropolis shall be brief. I have, for the benefit of my health, projected an expedition to the North; which, I hope, will afford some agreeable pastimes. I have never travelled farther that way than Scarborough;
and, I think, it is a reproach upon me, as a British freeholder, to have lived so long without making an excursion to the other side of the Tweed. Besides, I have some relations settled in Yorkshire, to whom it may not be improper to introduce my nephew and his sister. At present, I have nothing to add, but that Tabby is happily disentangled from the Irish baronet; and that I will not fail to make you acquainted, from time to time, with the sequel of our adventures; a mark of consideration which, perhaps, you would willingly dispense with in your humble servant.

MATT. BRAMBLE.

BATH, MAY 3.

TO SIR WATKIN PHILLIPS, OF JESUS COLLEGE, OXON.

DEAR PHILLIPS,

A few days ago we were terribly alarmed by my uncle's fainting at the ball; he has been ever since curbing his own folly for going thither at the request of an impertinent woman. He declares, he will sooner visit a house infected with the plague, than trust himself in such a nauseous fiatal for the future; for he swears the accident was occasioned by the stench of the crowd; and that he would never desire a fironger proof of our being made of very grofs materials, than our having withstood the annoyance by which he was so much discompoled. For my part, I am very thankful for the carelessness of my organs, being in no danger of ever falling a sacrifice to the delicacy of my nose. Mr. Bramble is extrava-gantly delicate in all his sensibilities, both of soul and body. I was informed by Dr. Lewis, that he once fought a duel with an officer of the horfe-guards, for turning aside to the park-wall, on a necessary occasion, when he was pafing with a lady under his protection. His blood rises at every instance of insolence and cruelty, even where he himself is no way concerned; and ingratitude makes his teeth chatter. On the other hand, the recital of a generous, humane, or grateful action, never fails to draw from him tears of approbation, which he is often greatly diffidled to conceal.

Yesterday, one Paunceford gave tea, on particular invitation. This man, after having been long buffetted by adversity, went abroad; and Fortune, resolved to make him amends for her former coyness, let him all at once up to the very ears in influence. He has now emerged from obscurity, and blazes out in all the tinsel of the times. I do not find that he is charged with any practices that the law deems dishonest, or that his wealth has made him arrogant and inaccessible; on the contrary, he takes great pains to appear affable and gracious. But, they say, he is remarkable for shrinking from his former friendships, which were generally too plain and home-spun to appear amid his present brilliant connexions; and that he seems uneasy at sight of some old benefactors, whom a man of honour would take pleasure to acknowledge. Be that as it may, he had so effectually engaged the company at Bath, that, when I went with my uncle to the coffee-houfe in the evening, there was not a foul in the room but one person, seemingly in years, who fat by the fire, reading one of the papers.

Mr. Bramble, taking his itation close by him— There is such a crowd and confusion of chairs in the passage to Simp- fon's, said he, that we could hardly get along. I wish those minions of fortune would fall upon more laudable ways of spending their money. I stip-pole, Sir; you like this kind of entertainmment as little as I do?— I cannot say I have any great relish for such entertainments, answered the other, without taking his eyes off the paper. Mr. Serle, resumed my uncle, I beg pardon for interrupting you; but I cannot refuse the curiosity I have to know if you received a card on this occasion?

The man seemed surprized at this address, and made fome paufe, as doubtful what answer he should make. I know my curiosity is impertinent, added my uncle; but I have a particular reason for asking the faviour. — If that be the cafe, replied Mr. Serle, I shall gratify you without hesitation, by owning, that I have had no card. But give me leave, Sir, to ask, in my turn, what reafon you think I have to expect fuch an invitation from the gentleman who gives tea? — I have my own reasons, cried Mr. Bramble, with some emotion; and am convinced, more than ever, that this Paunceford is a contemptible fellow. — Sir, said the other, laying down the paper, I have not the honour to know you; but your discourse
HUMPHRY CLINKER.

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discourse is a little mysterious, and seems to require some explanation. The person you are pleased to treat so cavalierly is a gentleman of some consequence in the community; and, for ought you know, I may also have my particular reasons for defending his character. — If I was not convinced of the contrary, observed the other, I should not have gone so far. — Let me tell you, Sir, said the stranger, raising his voice, you have gone too far in hazarding such reflections.

Here he was interrupted by my uncle; who asked peevishly if he was Don Quixote enough, at this time of day, to throw down his gauntlet as champion for a man who had treated him with such ungrateful neglect. For my part, added he, I shall never quarrel with you again upon this subject; and what I have said now, has been suggested as much by my regard for you, as by my contempt of him. Mr. Serle then pulling off his spectacles, eyed uncle very earnestly; saying, in a mitigated tone — Surely I am much obliged. Ah, Mr. Bramble! I now recollect your features, though I have not seen you these many years. — We might have been less strangers to one another, answered the先生, if our correspondence had not been interrupted, in consequence of a misunderstanding occasioned by this very — But no matter; Mr. Serle, I esteem your character; and my friendship, such as it is, you may freely command. — The offer is too agreeable to be declined, said he; I embrace it very cordially; and, as the first fruits of it, request that you will change this subject, which, with me, is a matter of peculiar delicacy.

My uncle owned he was in the right; and the discourse took a more general turn. Mr. Serle patted the evening with us at our lodgings, and appeared to be intelligent, and even entertaining; but his disposition was rather of a melancholy hue. My uncle says he is a man of uncommon parts, and unquestioned probity; that his fortune, which was originally small, has been greatly hurt by a romantic spirit of generosity, which he has often displayed, even at the expense of his discretion, in favour of worthies individuals; that he had rescued Paunceford from the lowest diftrusts, when he was bankrupt, both in means and reputation; that he had espoused his interests with a degree of enthusiasm, broke with several friends, and even drawn his sword against my uncle, who had particular reasons for questioning the moral character of the said Paunceford; that, without Serle's countenance and assistance, the other never could have embraced the opportunity which has raised him to this pinnacle of wealth; that Paunceford, in the first transports of his success, had written, from abroad, letters to different correspondents, owning his obligations to Mr. Serle in the warmest terms of acknowledgment, and declaring he considered himself only as a factor for the occasions of his best friend; that, without doubt, he had made declarations of the same nature to his benefactor himself, though this vast was always silent and reserved on the subject, but for some years those tropes and figures of rhetoric had been diffused; that, upon his return to England, he had been lavish in his caresses to Mr. Serle, invited him to his house, and pressed him to make it his own; that he had overwhelmed him with general professions, and affected to express the warmest regard for him, in company of their common acquaintance, so that every body believed his gratitude was as liberal as his fortune; and some went so far as to congratulate Mr. Serle on both.

All this time Paunceford carefully and artfully avoided particular discussions with his old patron, who had too much spirit to drop the most distant hint of balancing the account of obligation; that, nevertheless, a man of his feelings could not but resent this shocking return for all his kindness; and therefore he withdrew himself from the connexion, without coming to the least explanation, or speaking a syllable on the subject to any living soul: so that now their correspondence is reduced to a flight salute with the hat, when they chance to meet in any publick place; an accident that rarely happens, for their walks lie different ways. Mr. Paunceford lives in a palace, feeds upon dainties, is arrayed in sumptuous apparel, appears in all the pomp of equipage, and policizes his time among the nobles of the land. Serle lodges in Stall Street, up two pair of stairs backwards, walks a-foot in a Bath-rug, eats for twelve shillings a week, and drinks water as a preservative against the gout and gravel. Mark the vicissitude. Paunceford once reposed in a garret;
where he subsisted upon sheep's-trotters and cow-heel; from which commons he was translated to the table of Serle, that ever abounded with good cheer; until want of economy and retention reduced him to a slender annuity in his decline of years, that scarce affords the bare necessaries of life. Paunceford, however, does him the honour to speak of him still with uncommon regard; and to declare what pleasure it would give him to contribute in any shape to his convenience. 'But, 'you know,' he never fails to add, 'he 'is a shy kind of a man; and then such 'a perfect philosopher, that he looks up- 'on all superfluities with the most love- 'reign contempt.'

Having given you this sketch of Squire Paunceford, I need not make any comment on his character, but leave it at the mercy of your own reflection; from which, I dare say, it will meet with as little quarter as it has found with yours always.

**Bath, May 10.**

J. MELFORD.

TO MRS. MARY JONES, AT BRAMBLETON-HALL.

**DEAR MOLLY,**

We are all upon the wing! Hey for London, girl! Fecks! we have been long enough here; for we are all turned tiply-turvy! Mistref's has excarded Sir Ulic for kicking of Chowder; and I have sent O Frizzle away with a flea in his ear. I've shewn him how little I minded his tinky and his long tail! A feller, who would think for to go for to offer to take up with a dirty trollop under my nose! I ketched him in the very feet, coming out of the house-maid's garret: but I have git'en the dirty flut a fierary! O Molly! the farvant at Bath are devils in garret; they lite the candle at both ends! Here's nothing but ginketting, and waiting, and thieving, and tricking, and triggering; and then they are never content! They won't suffer the squire and mistref to stay any longer, because they have been already above three weeks in the house; and they look for a couple of ginayas a piece at our going away; and this is a paquisite they expect every month in the season; being as how no family has a right to stay longer than four weeks in the same lodgings; and so the cork swears she will pin the dish-clout to mistref's tay; and the house-maid vows she'll put cowitch in master's bed, if so he be not discamp without furder ado. I don't blame them for making the moat of their market, in the way of vails and parquifites; and I defy the dev- vil to say I am a tail-carrier, or ever brought a poor farvant into trouble. But then they oft to have some conscience in vronging those that be farvants like them-selves. For you milt no, Molly, I miffed three quarters of blond-lace, and a rem- nant of muffin, and my silver-thimble; which was the gift of true love. They were all in my work-basket, that I left upon the table in the farvants-hall when misfrefles bell rung: but if they had been under lock and key, 'twould have been all the same; for there are double kays to all the locks in Bath; and they say as how the very teeth an't safe in your head, if you sleep with your mouth open. And so says I to myself—'Them things 'could not go without hands;' and so 'I'll watch their waters:' and so I did with a vienenes; for then it was I found Bett confirmed with O Frizzle. And as the cork had thrown her shunt at me, be- cause I had taken part with Chowder when he fit with the turnipfit, I resolved to make a clear kitchen, and throw some of her fat into the fire. I ketched the share-woman going out with her load in the morning, before she thought I was up, and brought her to mistref with her whole cargo. Marry, what do'think she had got in the name of God? Her buckets were foaming full of our best bear, and her lap was fluffed with a cold tongue, part of a butcher of beef, half a turkey, and a swinging lump of butter, and the matter of ten mould-candles, that had scarce ever been lit. The cork brazened it out, and said it was her rite to rummage the pantry; and she was ready for to go before the mare; that he had been her potecary many years, and would never think of hurting a poor far vant for giving away the fcraps of the kitchen. I went another way to work with Madam Betty, because she had been faucy, and called me skandelus names; and said O Frizzle could not abide me, and twenty other odorous falsehoods. I got a varrant from the mare; and her box being farched by the consable, my things came out fire cruf; besides a full pound of wax-candles, and a site-cap of mistrefes, that I could sware to on my cruperal oaf. O! then Madam Mopfick came upon her.
TO SIR WATKIN PHILLIPS, BART. OF JESUS COLLEGE, OXON.

YOU are in the right, dear Phillips: I do not expect regular answers to every letter. I know a college-life is too circumstanced to afford materials for such quick returns of communication. For my part, I am continually shifting the scene, and surrounded with new objects; some of which are striking enough. I shall therefore conclude my journal for your amusement; and though, in all appearance, it will not treat of very important or interesting particulars, it may prove, perhaps, not altogether uninputive or unentertaining.

The mufick and entertainments of Bath are over for this season; and all our gay birds of passage have taken their flight to Bristol - Well, Tunbridge, Brighthelmstone, Scarborough, Harrogate, &c. Not a soul is seen in this place but a few broken-winged parsons, waddling like so many crows along the North Parade. There is always a great fesh of the clergy at Bath; none of your thin, puny, yellow, hefitick figures, exhausted with abstinence and hard study, labouring under the morbieruditorum; but great over-grown dignitaries and rectors, with rubicund nozes and gouty ancles, or broad bloated faces, dragging along great swagger bellies; the emblems of sloth and indigetion.

Now we are upon the subject of par-sons, I must tell you a ludicrous adventure, which was achieved the other day by Tom Eastgate, whom you may remember on the foundation of Queen's. He had been very affidious to pin himself upon George Prankley, who was a gentleman-commoner of Christ-church, knowing the said Prankley was heir to a considerable estate, and would have the advowson of a good living; the incumbent of which was very old and infirm. He studied his passions, and flattered them so effectually, as to become his companion and counsellor; and, at last, obtained of him a promise of the presentation, when the living should fall. Prankley, on his uncle's death, quitted Oxford, and made his first appearance in the fashionable world at London; from whence he came lately to Bath, where he has been exhibiting himself among the bucks and gamesters of the place. Eastgate followed him hither; but he should not have quitted him for a moment, at his first emerging into life. He ought to have known he was a fantastick, foolish, fickle fellow, who would forget his college attachments the moment they ceased appealing to his fancies. Tom met with a cold reception from his old friend; and was, moreover, informed that he had promised the living to another man, who had a vote in the county where he proposed to offer himself a candidate at the next general election. He now remembered nothing of Eastgate, but the freedoms he had used to take with him, while Tom had quietly filled his butt, with an eye to the benefice; and those freedoms he began to repent in common-place tacums on his person and his cloth, which he uttered in the publick coffee-house, for the entertainment of the company. But he was egregiously mistaken in giving his own wit credit for that tameness of Eastgate, which had been entirely owing to prudential considerations. These being now removed, he retorted his repartee with interest, and found no great difficulty of turning the laugh upon the aggressor; who, losing his temper, called him names, and asked if he knew who was talked to. After much altercation, Prankley, shaking his cane, bid him hold his tongue, otherwife he would duff his cassock for him. 'I have no pretensions to such a valet,' said Tom; 'but if you should do me that office, and over-heat yourself, I have here a good oaken towel at your service.'

Prankley was equally incensed and confounded at this reply. After a moment's pause, he took him aside towards the window; and, pointing to the lump of fires on Clerk-en-Down, asked in a whisper if he had spirit enough to meet him there, with a case of pifols, at six o'clock tommorow.
morrow morning, Eaftgate answered in the affirmative; and, with a steady countenance, assured him he would not fail to give him the rendezvous at the hour he mentioned. So saying, he retired; and the challenger stood some time in manifest agitation. In the morning, Eaftgate, who knew his man, and had taken his resolution, went to Prankley's lodgings, and routed him by five o'clock.

The squire, in all probability, cursed his punctuality in his heart, but he affected to talk big; and having prepared his artillery over night, they crossed the water, at the end of the South Parade. In their progress up the hill, Prankley often eyed the parson, in hopes of perceiving some reluctance in his countenance; but as no such marks appeared, he attempted to intimidate him by word of mouth.

If these flints do their office,' said he, I will do thy business in a few minutes.'

' I defire you will do your best,' replied the other: ' for my part, I come not here to trifle. Our lives are in the hands of God; and one of us already totters on the brink of eternity.' This remark seemed to make some impression upon the squire, who changed countenance; and, with a faltering accent, observed, that it ill became a clergyman to be concerned in quarrels and bloodshed. ' Your insolence to me,' said Eaftgate, 'I should have bore with patience, had you not cast the most infamous reflections upon my order, the honour of which I think myself in duty bound to maintain, even at the expense of my heart's blood; and, surely, it can be no crime to put out of the world a profligate wretch, without any sense of principle, morality, or religion.'— 'Thou may'st take away my life,' cried Prankley, in great perturbation; but do not go to murder my character! What! half got no confidence?—' My confidence is perfectly quiet,' replied the other; and now, Sir, we are upon the spot. Take your ground as near as you please; prime your piftoh; and the Lord, of his infinite mercy, have compassion upon your miserable soul!'

This ejaculation he pronounced in a loud solemn tone, with his hat off, and his eyes lifted up; then drawing a large horse-pistol, he presented, and put himself in a posture of action. Prankley took his distance, and endeavoured to prime; but his hand shook with such violence, that he found this operation impracticable. His antagonist, seeing how it was with him, offered his affiance, and advanced for that purpose; when the poor squire, exceedingly alarmed at what he had heard and seen, desiring the action might be deferred till next day, as he had not yet led his affairs. 'I have not made my will,' said he; 'my sisters are not provided for; and I just now recollect an old promise, which, my conscience tells me, I ought to perform. I will first convince thee that I am not a wretch without principle, and then thou shalt have an opportunity to take my life, which thou seemest to thirst after so eagerly.'

Eaftgate underfood the hint; and told him that one day should break no squares; adding—' God forbid that I should be the means of hindering you from act- ing the part of an honest man, and a dutiful brother.' By virtue of this ceffation, they returned peaceably to- gether. Prankley forthwith made out the presentation of the living, and delivered it to Eaftgate; telling him, at the same time, he had now settled his affairs, and was ready to attend him to the Fir- grove; but Tom declared he could not think of lifting his hand against the life of so great a benefactor. He did more: when they next met at the coffee-house, he asked pardon of Mr. Prankley, if, in his passion, he had said any thing to give him offence; and the squire was so gracious as to forgive him with a cordial shake of the hand, declaring that he did not like to be at variance with an old college companion. Next day, however, he left Bath abruptly; and then Eaftgate told me all these particulars, not a little pleased with the effects of his own fa- gacity, by which he has secured a living worth one hundred and sixty pounds per annum.

Of my uncle, I have nothing at present to say; but that we set out to-morrow for London en famille. He and the ladies, with the maid and Chowder in a coach; I and the man-servant a horse- back. The particulars of our journey you shall have in my next, provided no accident happens to prevent. Yours ever,

J. MELFORD.

BATH, MAY 17.
TO DR. LEWIS.

DEAR DICK,

I Shall to-morrow set out for London, where I have bespoken lodgings, at Mrs. Norton's, in Golden-Square. Although I am no admirer of Bath, I shall leave it with regret; because I must part with some old friends, whom, in all probability, I shall never see again. In the course of coffee-house conversation, I had often heard very extraordinary encomiums passed on the performances of Mr. T——, a gentleman residing in this place; who paints landscapes for his amusement. As I have no great confidence in the taste and judgment of coffee-house connoisseurs, and never received much pleasure from this branch of the art, those general praises made no impression at all on my curiosity: but, at the request of a particular friend, I went yesterday to see the pieces which had been so warmly commended. I must own I am no judge of painting, though very fond of pictures. I do not imagine that my senses would play me so false, as to betray me into admiration of any thing that was very bad; but, true it is, I have often overlooked capital beauties in pieces of extraordinary merit. If I am not totally devoid of taste, however, this young gentleman of Bath is the best landscape-painter now living: I was struck with his performances in such a manner as I had never been by painting before. His trees not only have a richness of foliage and warmth of colouring which delights the view; but also a certain magnificence in the dispositions, and spirit in the expression, which I cannot describe. His management of the chiaro scuro, or light and shadow, especially gleams of sun-shine, is altogether wonderful, both in the contrivance and execution; and he is so happy in his perspective, and marking his distances at sea, by a progressive series of ships, vessels, caps, and promontories, that I could not help thinking. I had a distant view of thirty leagues upon the back-ground of the picture. If there is any taste for ingenuity left in a degenerate age, fast sinking into barbarism, this artist, I apprehend, will make a capital figure, as soon as his works are known.

Two days ago, I was favoured with a visit by Mr. Fitz-owen; who, with great formality, solicited my vote and interest at the general election. I ought not to have been shocked at the confidence of this man; though it was remarkable, considering what had passed between him and me on a former occasion. These visits are mere matter of form, which a candidate makes to every elector; even to those who, he knows, are engaged in the interest of his competitor, left he should expose himself to the imputation of pride, at a time when it is expected he should appear humble. Indeed, I know nothing so abject as the behaviour of a man canvassing for a seat in parliament. This mean prostration (to borough-electors especially) has, I imagine, contributed in a great measure to raise that spirit of insolence among the vulgar, which, like the devil, will be found very difficult to lay. Be that as it may, I was in some confusion at the effrontery of Fitz-owen; but I soon recollected myself, and told him I had not yet determined for whom I should give my vote, nor whether I should give it for any. The truth is, I look upon both candidates in the same light; and should think myself a traitor to the constitution of my country if I voted for either. If every elector would bring the same consideration home to his conscience, we should not have such reason to exclaim against the venality of p——ts. But we are all a pack of venal and corrupted rascals; so loft to all sense of honesty, and all tenderness of character, that in a little time, I am fully persuaded, nothing will be infamous but virtue and publick-spirit.

G.H——, who is really an enthusiast in patriotism, and represented the capital in several successive parliaments, declared to me the other day, with the tears in his eyes, that he had lived above thirty years in the city of London, and dealt in the way of commerce with all the citizens of note in their turns; but that, as he should answer to God, he had never, in the whole course of his life, found above three or four whom he could call thoroughly honest: a declaration which was rather mortifying than surprising to me; who have found so few men of worth in the course of my acquaintance, that they serve only as exceptions; which, in the grammarian's phrase, confirm and prove a general canon. I know you will say, G.H—— saw imperfectly through the mist of prejudice, and I am ranked by the spleen. Perhaps you are partly in the right; for I have perceived that my opinion of mankind, like mercury in the thermometer,
HUMPHRY CLINKER.

thermometer, rises and falls according to the variations of the weather.

Pray settle accounts with Barnes; take what money of mine is in his hands, and give him acquaintance. If you think Davis has stock or credit enough to do justice to the farm, give him a discharge for the rent that is due; this will animate his industry; for I know that nothing is so discouraging to a farmer, as the thoughts of being in arrears with his landlord. He becomes dispirited, and neglects his labour; and so the farm goes to wreck. Tabby has been clamouring for some days, about the lamb’s skin, which Williams, the hind, begg’d of me, when he was last at Bath. Pr’ythee take it back, paying the fellow the full value of it, that I may have some peace in my own house; and let him keep his own counsel, if he means to keep his place. O! I shall never presume to despise or censure any poor man, for suffering himself to be hempecked; conscious how I myself am obliged to trudge to a domestic dræmon; even though (blessed be God) she is not yoked with me for life, in the matrimonial waggon. She has quarrel’d with the servants of the house about nails; and thick intolerable foldings enfured on both sides; that I have been fain to appease the cook and chambermaid by health. Cannot you find some poor gentleman of Wales, to take this precious commodity off the hands of yours?

M. BRAMELE.

BATH, MAY 19.

TO DR. LEWIS.

DOCTOR LEWIS;

GIVE me leave to tell you, methinks you might employ your talons better, than to encourage servants to pillage their masters. I find by Gwyllim, that Williams has got my skin; for which he is an impotent rascal. He has not only got my skin, but, moreover, my butter-milk to fatten his pigs; and, I suppose, the next thing he gets, will be my pax to carry his daughter to church and fair: Roger gets this, and Roger gets that; but I’d have you to know, I won’t be rogered at this rate by any ragmaltick fellow in the kingdom. And I am surprized, doctor Lewis, you would offer to put my affairs in composition with the refuge and skin of the heath. I have toiled and moyled to a good purpuse, for the advantage of Matt’s family, if I can’t safe as much owl as will make me an upper petticoat. As for the butter-milk, ne’er a pig in the parish shall thrust its snout in it with my good-will. There’s a famous physician at the Hot Well, that prescribes it to his patience, when the cafe is consumptive; and the Scots and Irish have begun to drink it already, in such quantities, that there is not a drop left for the hogs in the whole neighbourhood of Brit.—I’ll have our butter-milk barreled up, and sent twice a week to Aberginy, where it may be told for a halfpenny the quart; and to Roger may carry his pigs to another market. I hope, Doctor, you will not go to put any more such phumbs in my brother’s head, to the prejudice of my pocket; but rather give me some raisins (which hither-to you have not done) to subscride myself your humble servans,

Tab. Bramble.

TO SIR WATKIN PHILLIPS, OF JESUS COLLEGE, OXON.

DEAR PHILLIPS,

WITHOUT waiting for your answer to my last, I proceed to give you an account of our journey to London, which has not been wholly barren of adventure. Tuesday last the squire took his place in a hired coach and four, accompanied by his sister and mine, and Mrs. Tabby’s maid, Winifrid Jenkins, whose province it was to support Chowder on a cushion in her lap. I could scarce refrain from laughing, when I looked into the vehicle, and saw that animal sitting opposite to my uncle, like any other passenger. The squire, ashamed of his situation, blushed to the eyes; and, calling the postilions to drive on, pulled the glasses up in my face. I, and his servant John Thomas, attended them on horseback.

Nothing worth mentioning occurred, till we arrived on the edge of Marlborough Downs. There one of the forehorses fell, in going down hill at a round trot; and the postilion behind, endeavouring to stop the carriage, pulled it on one side into a deep rut, where it was fairly overturned. I had rode on about two hundred yards before; but, hearing a loud scream, galloped back and dismounted, to give what assistance was in my power. When I looked into the coach, I could see nothing distinctly, but the nether end of Jenkins, who
who was kicking her heels and squalling with great vociferation. All of a sudden, my uncle thrust up his bare pate, and bolted through the window as nimble as a gnat, having made use of poor Win’s posteriors as a step to rite in his ascent. The man (who had likewise quitted his horse) dragged this forlorn damsel, more dead than alive, through the same opening. Then Mr. Bramble, pulling the door off it’s hinges with a jerk, laid hold on Liddy’s arm, and brought her to the light; very much frightened, but little hurt. It fell to my share to deliver our aunt Tabitha, who had lost her cap in the struggle; and being rather more than half frantic, with rage and terror, was no bad representation of one of the sifter Furies that guard the gates of hell. She expressed no sort of concern for her brother, who ran about in the cold, without his periwig, and worked with the most atonishing agility, in helping to disentangle the horses from the carriage: but she cried, in a tone of distraction— Chowder! Chowder! my dear Chowder! my poor Chowder is certainly killed!’

This was not the case. Chowder, after having tore my uncle’s leg in the confusion of the fall, had retreated under the seat, and from thence the footman drew him by the neck; for which good office, he bit his finger to the bone. The fellow, who is naturally surly, was so provoked at this assault, that he saluted his ribs with a hearty kick, exclaiming— Damn the naffy son of a bitch, and them he belongs to!’ A benediction, which was by no means lost upon the implacable virago his mistress. Her brother, however, prevailed upon her to retire into a peatant’s house, near the scene of action, where his head and her’s were covered, and poor Jenkins had a fit. Our next care was to apply some sticking plaster to the wound in his leg, which exhibited the impression of Chowder’s teeth; but he never opened his lips against the delinquent. Mrs. Tabby, alarmed at this scene— If you say no thing, Matt,” cried she; but I know your mind. I know the spite you have to that poor unfortunate animal! I know you intend to take his life away!’—You are mistaken, upon my honour!” replied the squire, with a farcical smile: I should be incapable of harbouring any such cruel design against an object fo amiable and insoucive, even if he had not the happiness to be your favourite.’

John Thomas was not fo delicate. The fellow, whether really alarmed for his life, or instigated by the desire of revenge, came in, and bluntly demanded, that the dog should be put to death on the supposition, that if ever he should run mad hereafter, he, who had been bit by him, would be infected. My uncle calmly argued upon the absurdity of his opinion, observing, that he himself was in the same predicament, and would certainly take the precaution he proposed, if he was not sure he ran no risk of infection. Nevertheless, Thomas continued obstinate; and, at length declared, that if the dog was not shot immediately, he himself would be his executioner. This declaration opened the flood-gates of Tabby’s eloquence, which would have fhamed the first-rate oratory of Billinggate. The footman retorted in the same style; and the squire dismisfl him from his service, after having prevented me from giving him a good horse-whipping for his insolence.

The coach being adjusted, another difficulty occurred. Mrs. Tabitha absolutely refused to enter it again unless another driver could be found to take the place of the position; who, she affirmed, had overturned the carriage from malice aforethought. After much dispute, the man resigned his place to a shabby country fellow, who undertook to go as far as Marlborough, where they could be better provided; and at that place we arrived about one o’clock, without further impediment. Mrs. Bramble, however, found new matter of offence; which, indeed, she had a particular genius for extracting at will from almost every incident in life. We had scarce entered the room at Marlborough, where we flaid to dine, when she exhibited a formal complaint against the poor fellow who had superfeated the position. She said, he was such a beggarly rascal, that he had ne’er a shirt to his back; and had the impudence to shock her sight by shewing his bare posteriors, for which act of indecency he deserved to be fet in the stocks. Mrs. Winifred Jenkins confirmed the affertion, with respect to his nakedness, observing, at the same time, that he had a skin as fair as alabaster.

‘This is a heinous offence indeed,’ cried my uncle; ‘let us hear what the fellow has to say in his own vindication.’ He was accordingly summoned, and made his appearance, which was equally queer and pathetick. He seemed to be about twenty years of age, of a middling size, with bandy legs, flopping shoulders, high forehead, sandy locks, pinking eyes, flat

HUMPHRY CLINKER.

or
nose, and long chin: but his complexion was of a sickly yellow; his looks denoted famine; and the rags that he wore could hardly conceal what decency requires to be covered. My uncle, having surveyed him attentively; said, with an ironical ex-

pression in his countenance—'An't you ashamed, fellow, to ride poftilion with-
out a shirt to cover your backside from the view of the ladies in the coach?' —

'Yes, I am, an please your noble honour,' answered the man; 'but necessity has no
law, as the saying is. And more than
that, it was an accident. My breeches
were cracked behind, after I had got into the
saddle. — 'You're an impudent varlet,'
cried Mrs. Tabby, 'for presuming to
ride before persons of fashion without a
shirt.' — 'I am so, an please your
worthy ladyship,' said he; 'but I'm a
poor Wiltshire lad. I ha'n't a shirt in
the world, that I can call my own, nor
a rag of cloaths, an please your lady-
ship, but what you see. I have no friend
nor relation upon earth to help me out.
I have had the fever and ague these six
months, and spent all I had in the world
upon doctors, and to keep soul and body
together; and, saving your ladyship's
good presence, I ha'n't broke bread
these four and twenty hours.'

Mrs. Bramble, turning from him, said,
she had never seen such a filthy tatter-
demalion, and bid him be gone; observing,
that he would fill the room full of vermin.
Her brother darted a significent glance at
her, as she retired with Liddy into another
apartment; and then asked the man if he
was known to any person in Marlbo-
rough. When he answered, that the land-
lord of the inn had known him from his
infancy, mine host was immediately call-
ed, and being interrogated on the subject,
declared that the young fellow's name
was Humphry Clinker. That he had been
a love-begotten babe, brought up in the
workhouse, and put out apprentice by the
parish to a country blacksmith, who died
before the boy's time was out: that he
had for sometime worked under his offler,
as a helper and extra poftilion, till he was
taken ill of the ague, which disabled him
from getting his bread; that having fold
or pawned every thing he had in the world
for his cure and subsistence, he became so
miserable and shabby, that he difgradned
the table, and was difmissed; but that he
never heard any thing to the prejudice of
his character in other refpects. 'So that
the fellow being sick and deftitute,' said
my uncle, 'you turned him out to die in
the streets.'— 'I pay the poors' rate,'
replied the other; 'and I have no right to
maintain idle vagrants, either in sick-
ness or health: besides, such a miserable
object would have brought a difcredit
upon my house.'

'You perceive,' said the squire, turn-
ing to me, 'our landlord is a Christian of
bowels. Who shall presume to censure
the morals of the age, when the very
publicans exhibit such examples of hu-
manity?'—Hark ye, Clinker, you are
a most notorious offender. You stand
convicted of sickness, hunger, wretched-
ness, and want. But, as it does not be-
long to me to punish criminals, I will
only take upon me the task of giving
you a word of advice. Get a shirt with
all convenient dispatch, that your nak-
edness may not henceforward give of-
fence to travelling gentlewomen, espe-
cially maidens in years.'

So saying, he put a guinea into the
hand of the poor fellow, who stood staring
at him in silence, with his mouth wide
open, till the landlord pushed him out of the
room.

In the afternoon, as our aunt stepped
into the coach, the observed, with some
marks of satisfaction, that the poftilion,
who rode next to her, was not a shabby
wretch like the ragamuffin who had drove
them into Marlborough. Indeed, the dif-
ference was very conspicuous; this was
a finart fellow with a narrow brimmed hat,
with gold cording, a cut bob, a decent
blue jacket, leather breeches, and a clean
linen shirt, puffed above the waift-band.
When we arrived at the castle on Spin-
hill, where we lay, this new poftilion was
remarkably affiduous in bringing in the
loose parcels; and, at length, displayed
the individual countenance of Humphry
Clinker, who had metamorphosed himself
in this manner, by relieving from pawn
part of his own cloaths, with the money
he had received from Mr. Bramble.

Howsoever pleased the rest of the com-
pany were with such a favourable change
in the appearance of this poor creature, it
foured on the stomach of Mrs. Tabby,
who had not yet digested the affront of his
naked skin. She tossed her nose in dis-
dain, saying, the supposéd his brothor had
taken him into favour, because he had
infulted her with his obfcrvency; that a fool
and his money were soon pasted; but that
if Matt intended to take the fellow with
him to London, she would not go a foot
farther
farther that way. My uncle said nothing with his tongue, though his looks were sufficiently expressive; and next morning Clinker did not appear, so that we proceeded without further altercation to Salt-Hill, where we proposed to dine. There the first person that came to the side of the coach, and began to adjust the foot-board, was no other than Humphry Clinker. When I handed out Mrs. Bramble, she eyed him with a furious look, and paused into the house. My uncle was embarrassed, and asked him peevishly, what had brought him thither. The fellow said, his honour had been so good to him, that he had not the heart to part with him; that he would follow him to the world's end, and serve him all the days of his life, without fee or reward.

Mr. Bramble did not know whether to chide or laugh at this declaration. He forewove much contradiction on the side of Tabby; and, on the other hand, he could not but be pleased with the gratitude of Clinker, as well as with the simplicity of his character. 'Suppose I was inclined to take you into my service,' said he, 'what are your qualifications? What are you good for?'—'An able person your honour,' answered this original, 'I can read and write, and do the business of the stable indifferent well. I can drive a horse and shoe him, and bleed and rowel him; and, as for the practice of fow-gelding, I won't turn my back on 'er a he in the county of Wilts. Then I can make hog-puddings and hob-nails, mend kettles, and tin sauce-pans.' Here uncle burst out a laughing; and enquired what other accomplishments he was master of. 'I know something of single-stick and psalmody,' proceeded Clinker; 'I can play upon the Jew's-harp, fing Black-eyed Susan, Arthur O'Bradley, and divers other songs; I can dance a Welsh jig, and Nancy Dawson; wrestle a fall with any lad of my inches, when I'm in heart; and, under correction, I can find a hare, when your honour wants a bit of game.'—'Forgod's sake art a compleat fellow,' cried my uncle, still laughing; 'I have a good mind to take thee into my family. Pr'ythee go and try if thou canst make peace with my sister. Thou hast given her much offence by shewing her thy naked tail.' Clinker accordingly followed us into the room, cap in hand; where, addressing himself to Mrs. Tabitha—'May it please your ladyship's worship,' cried he, 'to pardon and forgive my offences, and, with God's assistance, I shall take care that my tail shall never rise up in judgment against me to offend your ladyship again. Do, pray, good, sweet, beautiful lady, take compassion on a poor sufferer. God bless your noble countenance; I am sure you are too handsome and generous to bear malice. I will serve you on my bended knees, by night and by day, by land and by water; and all for the love and pleasure of serving such an excellent lady.'

This compliment and humiliation had some effect upon Tabby; but she made no reply; and Clinker, taking silence for consent, gave his attendance at dinner. The fellow's natural awkwardness, and the flutter of his spirits, were productive of repeated blunders in the course of his attendance. At length, he spilled part of a custard upon her right-shoulder; and, starting back, trod upon Chowder, who set up a dinful howl. Poor Humphry was so disconcerted at this double mistake, that he dropped the china dish, which broke into a thousand pieces; then falling down upon his knees, remained in that posture gaping, with a most ludicrous aspect of distress. Mrs. Bramble flew to the dog, and, matching him in her arms, presented him to her brother, saying—'This is all a concerted scheme against this unfortunate animal, whose only crime is it's regard, for me. Here it is: kill it at once; and then you'll be satisfied.' Clinker hearing these words, and taking them in the literal acceptance, got up in some hurry, and, seizing a knife from the side-board, cried—'Not here, an please your ladyship. It will daub the room. Give him to me, and I'll carry him in the ditch by the road-side.' To this proposal he received no other answer, than a hearty box on the ear, that made him stagger to the other side of the room.

'What!' said she to her brother, 'am I to be affronted by every mangy hound that you pick up in the high-way? I insist upon your sending this rascallion about his business immediately.'—'For God's sake, sister, compose yourself,' said my uncle, and confident, that the poor fellow is innocent of any intention to give you offence. —'Innocent as the babe unborn!' cried Humphry. 'I see it plainly,' exclaimed this implacable maiden, 'he acts by your direction; and you are resolved to support him in...
HUMPHRY CLINKER.

To Dr. Lewis.


Dear Doctor,

London is literally new to me, a new in its streets, houses, and even in its situation; as the Eritian said—'London is now gone out of town.' What I left open fields, producing hay and corn, I now find covered with streets, and squares, and palaces, and churches. I am credibly informed, that, in the space of fourteen years, eleven thousand new houses have been built in one quarter of Westminster, exclusive of what is daily added to other parts of this unwieldy metropolis. Pimlico and Knightsbridge are now almost joined to Chelsea and Kennington; and if this infatuation continues for half a century, I suppose the whole county of Middlesex will be covered with brick.

It must be allowed, indeed, for the credit of the present age, that London and Westminster are much better paved and lighted than they were formerly. The new streets are spacious, regular, and airy; and the houses generally convenient. The bridge at Blackfriars is a noble monument of taste and publick spirit. I wonder how they stumbled upon a work of such magnificence and utility. But, notwithstanding these improvements, the capital is now become an overgrown monster; which, like a droppical head, will in time leave the body and extremities without nourishment and support.

The
The absurdity will appear in it's full force, when we consider, that one sixth part of the natives of this whole extensive kingdom is crowded within the hills of mortality. What wonder that our villages are depopulated, and our farms in want of day-labourers? The abolition of small farms is but one cause of the decrease of population. Indeed, the incredible increase of horses and black cattle, to answer the purposes of luxury, requires a prodigious quantity of hay and grafs, which are railed and managed without much labour; but a number of hands will always be wanted for the different branches of agriculture, whether the farms be large or small. The tide of luxury has swept all the inhabitants from the open country. The poorest squire, as well as the richest peer, must have his house in town, and make a figure with an extraordinary number of domestics. The plough-boys, cow-herds, and lower hinds, are debauched and seduced by the appearance and discourse of those coxcombis in livery, when they make their summer excursions. They defert their dart and drudgery, and swarming up to London, in hopes of getting into service, where they can live luxuriously, and wear fine cloaths, without being obliged to work; for idleness is natural to man. Great numbers of these being disappointed in their expectation, become thieves and sharps; and London being an immense wilderness, in which there is neither watch nor ward of any signification, nor any order or police; affords them lurking-places as well as prey.

There are many caufes that contribute to the daily increase of this enormous mass; but they may be all resolved into the grand fource of luxury and corruption. About five and twenty years ago, very few, even of the moft opulent citizens of London, kept any equipage, or even any servants in livery. Their tabies produced nothing but plain boiled and roasted, with a bottle of port, and a tankard of beer. At present, every trader in any degree of credit, every broker and attorney, maintains a couple of footmen, a coachman, and posifion. He has his town-house and his country-house, his coach and his post-chaise. His wife and daughters appear in the richest stuffs, befanged with diamonds. They frequent the court, the opera, the theatre, and the masqueraue. They hold assemblies at their own houses; they make fumptuous entertainments, and treat with the richest wines of Bourdeaux, Burgundy, and Champagne. The substantial tradesman, who was wont to pass his evenings at the alehouse for four pence halfpenny, now spends three shillings at the tavern, while his wife keeps card-tables at home; the must-likea\'wise have fine cloaths, her chaise or pad, with country lodgings, and go three times a week to publick divertions. Every clerk, apprentice, and even waiter of tavern or coffee-house, maintains a gelding by himself; or in partnership, and assumes the air and apparel of a petit maitre. The gayest places of publick entertainment are filled with fashionable figures, which, upon enquiry, will be found to be journeymen-tailors, serving-men, and Abligail, disguised like their betters.

In short, there is no distinction or subordination left. The different departments of life are jumbled together. The hod-carrier, the low mechanic, the tapper, the publican, the shopkeeper, the petitfogger, the citizen, and courtier, are tread upon the hibes of one another; actuated by the demons of proflligacy and licentiousnes, they are seen everywhere, rambling, riding, rolling, running, jolting, mixing, bouncing, cracking, and crahling, in one vile ferment of stupidity and corruption. All is tumult and hurry; one would imagine they were impelled by some disorder of the brain that will not suffer them to be at rest. The foot-passengers run along as if they were pursued by bailiffs. The porters and chairmen trot with their burdens. People who keep their own equipages, drive through the streets at full speed. Even citizens, physicians, and apothecaries, glide in their chariots like lightning. The hackney-coachmen make their horses smoke, and the pavement flakes under them; and I have actually seen a wagon pass through Piccadilly at the hand-gallop. In a word, the whole nation seems to be running out of their wits.

The divertions of the times are not ill suited to the genius of this incongruous monster called the publick. Give it noise, confusion, glare, and glitter; it has no idea of elegance and propriety. What are the amusements at Ranelagh? One half of the company are following one another's tails in an eternal circle; like so many blind affes in an olive-mill, where they can neither discourse, diftinguish, nor be distinguished; while the other half
half are drinking hot water, under the denomination of tea, till nine or ten o'clock at night, to keep them awake for the rest of the evening. As for the orchestra, the vocal music especially, it is well for the performers that they cannot be heard distinctly. Vauxhall is a composition of baubles, overcharged with patry ornaments, ill conceived, and poorly executed, without any unity of design, or propriety of disposition. It is an unnatural assemblage of objects, fantastical illuminated in broken maffles, seemingly contrived to dazzle the eyes and divert the imagination of the vulgar. Here a wooden lion, there a stone statue; in one place a range of things like coffee-house boxes; covered at top; in another, a parcel of alehouse benches; in a third, a puppet-show representation of a tin cascade; in a fourth, a gloomy cave of a circular form, like a sepulchral vault half lighted; in a fifth, a scanty slip of gräfs-plat, that would not afford pasture sufficient for an ass's colt. The walks, which nature seems to have intended for solitude, shade, and silence, are filled with crowds of noisy people, sucking up the nocturnal rheums of an agueish climate; and through these gay scenes a few lamps glimmer like so many farthing candles.

When I see a number of well-dressed people, of both sexes, sitting on the covered benches, exposed to the eyes of the mob, and, which is worse, to the cold, raw, night-air, devouring sliced beef, and swilling port, and punch, and cyder, I cannot help compassionating their temerity, while I deplore their want of taste and decorum: but when they course along those damp and gloomy walks, or crowd together upon the wet gravel, without any other cover than the cope of Heaven, listening to a song which one half of them cannot possibly hear, how can I help supposing they are actually possessed by a spirit more absurd and pernicious than anything we meet with in the precincts of Bedlam? In all probability, the proprietors of this, and other publick gardens of inferior note, in the skirts of the metropolis, are, in some shape, connected with the faculty of phytick, and the company of undertakers; for, considering that eagerness in the pursuit of what is called pleasure, which now predominates through every rank and denomination of life, I am persuaded, that more gouts, rheumatisms, catarrhs, and con-

fumptions, are caught in these nocturnal pastimes, sub die, than from all the riddles and accidents to which a life of toil and danger is exposed.

Thefe, and other observations, which I have made in this excursion, will shorten my stay at London, and send me back with a double relish to my solitude and mountains; but I shall return by a different rout than that which brought me to town. I have seen some old friends, who constantly reside in this virtuous metropolis; but they are so changed in manners and disposition, that we hardly know or care for one another. In our journey from Bath, my sister Tabby provoked me into a transport of passion; during which, like a man who has drank himself potvaliant, I talked to her in such a style of authority and resolution, as produced a most blessed effect. She and her dog have been remarkably quiet and orderly ever since this expostulation. How long this agreeable calm will last, Heaven above knows. I flatter myself, the exercise of travelling has been of service to my health; a circumstance which encourages me to proceed in my projected expedition to the North. But I must, in the mean time, for the benefit and amusement of my pupils, explore the depths of this chaos; this mishapen and monstrous capital, without head or tail, members or proportion.

Thomas was so insolent to my sister on the road, that I was obliged to turn him off abruptly, betwixt Chippenham and Marlborough, where our coach was overturned. The fellow was always sullen and selfish; but, if he should return to the country, you may give him a character for honesty and frugality; and provided he behaves with proper respect to the family, let him have a couple of guineas in the name of yours always,


London, May 29.

To Miss Letitia Willis, at Gloucester.

My Dear Letty.

Inexpressible was the pleasure I received from yours the 24th, which was last night put into my hands by Mrs. Brentwood, the milliner, from Gloucester. I rejoice to hear that my worthy governess is in good health, and still more,
more, that she no longer retains any displeasure towards her poor Liddy. I am forry you have lost the society of the agreeable Miss Vaughan; but I hope you will not have cause much longer to regret the departure of your school-companions, as I make no doubt but your parents will, in a little time, bring you into the world, where you are so well qualified to make a distinguished figure. When that is the case, I flatter myself you and I shall meet again, and be happy together; and even improve the friendship which we contracted in our tender years. This at least I can promise; it shall not be for the want of my utmost endeavours, if our intimacy does not continue for life.

About five days ago we arrived in London, after an easy journey from Bath; during which, however, we were overturned, and met with some other little incidents which had like to have occasioned a misunderstanding betwixt my uncle and aunt; but now, thank God, they are happily reconciled. We live in harmony together, and every day make parties to see the wonders of this vast metropolis, which, however, I cannot pretend to describe; for I have not, as yet, seen one hundredth part of its curiosities, and I am quite in a maze of admiration.

The cities of London and Westminster are spread out to an incredible extent. The streets, squares, rows, lanes, and alleys, are innumerable. Palaces, public buildings, and churches, rise in every quarter; and, among these last, St. Paul's appears with the most astonishing preeminence. They say it is so large as St. Peter's at Rome; but, for my own part, I can have no idea of any earthly temple more grand and magnificent.

But even these superb objects are not so striking as the crowds of people that swarm in the streets. I at first imagined, that some great assembly was just dismissed, and wanted to stand aside till the multitude should pass; but this human tide continues to flow, without interruption or abatement, from morn till night. Then there is such an infinity of gay equipages, coaches, chariots, chaises, and other carriages, continually rolling and shifting before your eyes, that one's head grows giddy looking at them; and the imagination is quite confounded with splendour and variety. Nor is the prospect by water less grand and astonishing than that by land; you see three stately, pendulous bridges, joining the opposite banks of a broad, deep, and rapid river; so vast, so stately, so elegant, that they seem to be the work of the giants; betwixt them, the whole surface of the Thames is covered with small vessels, barges, boats, and wherries, paffing to and fro; and below the three bridges, such a prodigious forest of masts, for miles together, that you would think all the ships in the universe were here assembled. All that you read of wealth and grandeur in the Arabian Nights Entertainments and the Persian Tales concerning Bagdad, Diarbekir, Damascus, Iphian, and Samarkand, is here realized.

Ranelagh looks like the enchanted palace of a Genius, adorned with the most exquisite performances of painting, carving, and gilding, enlightened with a thousand golden lamps, that emulate the noon-day sun; crowned with the great, the rich, the gay, the happy, and the fair; glittering with cloth of gold and silver, lace, embroidery, and precious stones. While these exulting sons and daughters of felicity treat this round of pleasure, or regale in different parties and separate lodges, with fine imperial tea, and other delicious refreshments, their ears are entertained with the most ravishing delights of music, both instrumental and vocal. There I heard the famous Tenducci, a thing from Italy. It looks for all the world like a man, though they say it is not. The voice, to be sure, is neither man's nor woman's; but it is more melodious than either: and it warbled so divinely, that, while I listened, I really thought myself in paradise.

At nine o'clock, in a charming moonlight evening, we embarked at Ranelagh for Vauxhall, in a wherry to light and slender, that we looked like so many fairies failing in a nutshell. My uncle, being apprehensive of catching cold upon the water, went round in the coach, and my aunt would have accompanied him, but he would not suffer me to go by water, if she went by land; and therefore she was, with her company, as I perceived I had a curiosity to make this agreeable voyage. After all, the vessel was sufficiently loaded; for, besides the waterman, there was my brother Jerry, and a friend of his, one Mr. Barton, a country gentleman of a good fortune, who had dined at our house. The pleasure of this little excursion was, however, damped, by my being 'faddly frightened at:
our landing; where there was a terrible confusion of wherries, and a crowd of people bawling, and swearing, and quarrelling: hay, a parcel of ugly-looking fellows came running into the water, and laid hold on our boat with great violence, to pull it ashore; nor would they quit their hold, till my brother struck one of them over the head with his cane. But this flutter was fully compensated by the pleasures of Vauxhall; which I no sooner entered, than I was dazzled and confounded with the variety of beauties that rushed all at once upon my eye. Image to yourself, my dear Letty, a spacious garden, part laid out in delightful walks, bounded with high hedges and trees, and paved with gravel; part exhibiting a wonderful assemblage of the most picturesque and striking objects, pavilions, lodges, groves, grottos, lawns, temples, and cascades; porticoes, colonnades, and rotundos; adorned with pillars, statues, and painting; the whole illuminated with an infinite number of lamps, disposed in different figures of suns, stars, and constellations; the place crowded with the gayest company, ranging through those blissful shades, or strolling in different lodges on cold collations, enlivened with mirth, freedom, and good-humour; and animated by an excellent band of music. Among the vocal performers, I had the happiness to hear the celebrated Mrs. ——, whose voice was so loud and so shrill, that it made my head ache through excess of pleasure.

In about half an hour after we arrived, we were joined by my uncle, who did not seem to relish the place. People of experience and innutrition, my dear Letty, see with very different eyes from those that such as you and I make use of. Our evening's entertainment was interrupted by an unlucky accident. In one of the remote walks we were surprized with a sudden shower, that set the whole company a-running, and drove us in heaps, one upon another, into the rotunda; where my uncle, finding himself wet, began to be very peevish and urgent to be gone. My brother went to look for the coach, and found it with much difficulty; but, as it could not hold us all, Mr. Barton staid behind. It was some time before the carriage could be brought up to the gate, in the confusion, notwithstanding the utmost endeavours of our new footman, Humphry Clinker, who left his scratch periwig, and got a broken head, in the struggle. The moment we were seated, my aunt pulled off my uncle's shoes, and carefully-wrapped his poor feet in her capuchin; then she gave him a mouthful of cordial, which she always keeps in her pocket, and his cloaths were shifted as soon as we arrived at our lodgings; so that, blessed be God, he escaped a severe cold, of which he was in great terror.

As for Mr. Barton, I must tell you in confidence, he was a little particular; but perhaps I mistake his complaisance; and I wish I may, for his sake. You know the condition of my poor heart; which, in spite of hard usage—and yet I ought not to complain; nor will I, till farther information.

Besides Ranelagh and Vauxhall, I have been at Mrs. Cornely's assembly, which, for the rooms, the company, the dressers, and decorations, surpasses all description; but as I have no great turn for card-playing, I have not yet entered thoroughly into the spirit of the place: indeed, I am still such a country boy, that I could hardly find patience to be put in a condition to appear; yet I was not above six hours under the hands of the hairdresser, who tumbled my head with as much black wool as would have made a quilted petticoat; and, after all, it was the smallest head in the assembly, except my aunt's: she, to be sure, was so particular with her rump gown and petticoat, her scanty curls, her lappet-head, deep triple ruffles, and high stays, that every body looked at her with surprize: some whispered, and some tittered; and Lady Grifkin, by whom we were introduced, flatly told her she was twenty good years behind the fashion.

Lady Grifkin is a person of fashion, to whom we have the honour to be related. She keeps a small rout at her own house; never exceeding ten or a dozen card-tables; but these are frequented by the best company in town. She has been so obliging as to introduce my aunt and me to some of her particular friends of quality, who treat us with the most familiar good-humour: we have once dined with her, and she takes the trouble to direct us in all our motions. I am so happy as to have gained her good-will to such a degree, that she sometimes adjusts my cap with her own hands; and she has given me a kind invitation to stay with her all the winter. This, however, has been cruelly declined by my uncle, who seems
seems to be (I know not how) prejudiced against the good lady; for whenever my aunt happens to speak in her commendation, I observe that he makes very faces, though he says nothing. Perhaps, indeed, these grimaces may be the effect of pain arising from the gout and rheumatism, with which he is badly distressed. To me, however, he is always good-natured and generous, even beyond my wish. Since we came hither, he has made me a present of a suit of clothes, with trimmings and laces, which cost more money than I shall mention; and Jeny, at his desire, has given me my mother's diamond drops, which are ordered to be set a-new; so that it will not be his fault if I do not glitter among the stars of the fourth; or fifth magnitude. I wish my weak head may not grow giddily in the midst of all this gallantry and disputation! though, as yet, I can safely declare, I could gladly give up all these tumultuous pleasures for country solitude and a happy retreat with those we love; among whom my dear Willis will always possess the first place in the breast of her ever-affectionate

LYDIA MELFORD.

LONDON, MAY 31.

TO SIR WATKIN PHILLIPS, OF JESUS COLLEGE, OXON.

DEAR PHILLIPS,

I send you this letter franked by our old friend Barton; who is as much altered as it was possible for a man of his kidney to be. Instead of the careful, indolent slob we knew at Oxford, I found him a busy talkative politician, a petit maître in his dress, and a ceremonious courtier in his manners. He has not gall enough in his constitution to be enflamed with the rancour of party So as to deal in servile invectives; but, since he obtained a place, he is become a warm partisan of the ministry, and fees every thing through such an exaggerating medium, as to me, who am happily of no party, is altogether incomprehensible. Without all doubt; the phinics of faction not only disturb the faculty of reason, but also pervert the organs of sense; and I would lay a hundred guineas to ten, that if Barton on one side, and the most conscientious patriot in the opposition on the other, were to draw, upon honour, the picture of the k—— or m——, you and I, who are still uninfected and unbiased, would find both painters equally different from the truth. One thing, however, must be allowed, for the honour of Barton, he never breaks out into illiberal abuse; far from endeavors, by infamous calumnies, to blast the moral character of any individual on the other side.

Ever since we came hither, he has been remarkably affidious in his attention to our family; an attention which, in a man of his indifference and avocations, I should have thought altogether odd, and even unnatural, had not I perceived that my sister Liddy has made some impression upon his heart. I cannot say that I have any objection to his trying his fortune in this pursuit. If an opulent estate, and a great stock of good-nature, are sufficient qualifications in a husband to render the marriage-state happy for life, he may be happy with Barton; but I imagine there is something else required to engage and secure the affection of a woman of sense and delicacy, something which nature has denied our friend. Liddy seems to be of the same opinion. When he addresses himself to her in discourse, he seems to lift her with reluctance, and industriously avoids all particular communication; but, in proportion to her conquests, our aunt is coming. Mrs. Tabitha goes more than half way to meet his advances; she mistakes, or affixes to mistake, the meaning of his courtesies, which is rather formal and fullsome; she returns his compliments with hypercritical interest, she percludes him with her civilities at table, he appeals to him for ever in conversation, the lights, and flits, and ogles, and by her hideous affectation and impertinence, drives the poor courtier to the very extremity of his complaisance; in short, she seems to have undertaken the siege of Barton's heart, and carries on her approaches in such a desperate manner, that I do not know whether he will not be obliged to capitulate. In the mean time, his aversion to this immorato struggling with his acquired affability, and his natural fear of giving offence, throws him into a kind of distress which is extremely ridiculous.

Two days ago, he persuaded my uncle and me to accompany him to St. James's, where he undertook to make us acquainted with the persons of all the great men in the kingdom: and, indeed, there was a greatsemblage of dignified...
guished characters, for it was a high festi-
val at court. Our conductor performed
his promise with great punctuality. He
pointed out almost every individual of
both sexes, and generally introduced
them to our notice with a flourish of pa-
negyric. Seeing the king approach—
'There comes,' said he, 'the most ami-
able sovereign that ever swayed the
sceptre of England; the deliciosa huma-
nae generis; Augustus in patronizing
merit, Titus Vespasian in generosity,
Trajan in beneficence, and Marcus
Aurelius in philosophy.'—' A very
honest kind-hearted gentleman,' added
my uncle; 'he is too good for the times.
A king of England should have a
spice of the devil in his composition.'

Barton, then turning to the Duke of
C——, proceeded—' You know the
duke; that illustrious hero who tried
rebellion under his feet, and secured us
in possession of every thing we ought
to hold dear as Englishmen and Chris-
tians. Mark what an eye! how pe-
netrating, yet pacific! What dignity
in his mien! What humanity in his
aspect! Even malice must own, that
he is one of the greatest officers in
Christendom.'—'I think he be,' said
Mr. Bramble; 'but who are these young
gentlemen that stand beside him?—
Those,' cried our friend, 'those are his
royal nephews, the princes of the blood.
Sweet young princes! the sacred pledges
of the Protestant line; so spirited, so sen-
fible, so princely!'—'Yes, very sen-
fible, very spirited,' said my uncle, inter-
rupting him. 'But see the queen! Ha,
there is the queen, there is the queen!
Let me see—let me see—where are my
glaffes? Ha! there is meaning in
that eye; there is sentiment; there is
expression!—Well, Mr. Barton, what
figure do you call next?'

The next perfon he pointed out was the favourite
yearl; who frowd solitary by one of the
windows. ' Behold you northern star,'
said he, 'born of his beams.'—' What
the Caledonian luminary that lately
blazed fo bright in our heaven?
Methinks, at prefent, it glimmers
through a fog; like Saturn without
his ring, bleak, and dim, and diftant.
Ha! there is the other great pheno-
menon, the grand penitentiary, that
weather-cock of patriotism that veers
about in every point of the political
compass, and still feels the wind of
popularity in his tail. He too, like a
portentous comet, has risen again above
the court-horizon; but how long he
will continue to ascend, it is not easy
to foretell, considering his great eccen-
tricity. Who are those two satellites
that attend his motions?' When Bar-
ton told him their names—'To their
characters,' said Mr. Bramble, 'I am
no stranger. One of them, without a
drop of red blood in his veins, has a
cold intoxicating vapour in his head;
and rancour enough in his heart to ino-
culate and affect a whole nation. The
other is, I hear, intended for a sharn in
the ad——n; and the penitentiary
vouches for his being duly qualified.
The only instance I ever heard of his
fagacity was, his deserting his former
patron, when he found him declining
in power, and in disgrace with the peo-
ple. Without principle, talent, or
intelligence, he is ungracious as a hog,
greedy as a vulture, and thievish as a
jackdaw; but, if it must be owned, he's
no hypocrite. He pretends to no vir-
tue, and takes no pains to disguise his
character. His munificence will be attend-
ded with one advantage, no man will be
disappointed by his breach of promise,
so much true to his word.
I wonder how Lord —— first disco-
vered this happy genius, and for what
purpose Lord —— has now adopted
him; but one would think that, as
amber has a power to attract dirt, and
straws, and chaff, a minifler is endowed
with the fame kind of faculty to pick
up every knave and blackhead in his
way.'

His eulogium was interrupted by the arrival of the old Duke of N——;
who, fqueezing into the circle with a
buxy face of importance, thrust his head
into every countenance, as if he had been
in search of somebody, to whom he wanted to impart something of great con-
sequence. My uncle, who had been for-
merly known to him, bowed as he pafl-
ed; and the duke, seeing himself fatted
so respectfully by a well-dreffed perfon,
was not flow in returning the courte:
he even came up; and, taking him cor-
dially by the hand—' My dear friend,
Mr. A——,' said he, ' I am rejoiced to see you. How long have you been
come from abroad? How did you leave
our good friends the Dutch? The King of Prussia does not think of
another war, ah? He is a great king,
a great conqueror, a very great con-
queror.' Your Alexanders and Han-

nibals were nothing at all to him, Sir; corporals, drummers, drabs, mere trash; damned trash, heh? His grace being by this time out of breath, my uncle took the opportunity to tell him he had not been out of England, that his name was Bramble, and that he had the honour to sit in the last parliament but one of the late king, as representative for the borough of Dymkymraig. 'Oof! cried the duke, 'I remember you perfectly well, my dear Mr. Bramble. You was always a good and loyal subject, a staunch friend to administration. 'I made your brother an Irish bishop.' — 'Pardon me, my lord,' said the squire; 'I once had a brother, but he was a captain in the army.' — 'Ha!' said his grace, 'he was so, he was indeed! But who was the bishop then? Bishop Blackberry? Sure it was Bishop Blackberry: perhaps some relation of yours?' — 'Very likely, my lord,' replied my uncle; 'the Blackberry is the fruit of the Bramble, but I believe the bishop is not a berry of our bush.' — 'No more he is! no more he is! Ha, ha, ha!' exclaimed the duke; 'there you gave me a scratch, good Mr. Bramble! Ha, ha, ha! Well, I shall be glad to see you at Lincoln's Inn Fields; you know the way. Times are altered. Though I have loft the power, I retain the inclination. Your very humble servant, good Mr. Blackberry.' So saying, he moved to another corner of the room. 'What a fine old gentleman!' cried Mr. Barton. 'What spirits! What a memory! He never forgets an old friend.' — 'He does me too much honour,' observed our squire, to rank me among the number. Whilst I sat in parliament, I never voted with the ministry but three times, when my conscience told me they were in the right. However, if he still keeps levee, I will carry my nephew thither, that he may see, and learn to avoid the scene; for I think an English gentleman never appears to such disadvantage as at the levee of a minister. Of his grace I shall say nothing at present, but that for thirty years he was the constant and common butt of ridicule and execration. He was generally laughed at as an ape in politics, whose office and influence served only to render his folly the more notorious; and the opposition curdled him as the indefatigable drudge of a first mover, who was justly filed and dignitized as the father of corruption. But this ridiculous ape, this venal drudge, no sooner left the places he was so ill qualified to fill, and unfurled the banners of faction, than he was metamorphosed into a pattern of public virtue; the very people who reviled him before, now extolled him to the skies, as a wife, experienced statesman, chief pillar of the Protestant lukeullion, and corner-stone of English liberty. I should be glad to know how Mr. Barton reconciles these contradictions, without obliging us to resign all title to the privilege of common sense.' — 'My dear Sir,' answered Barton, 'I do not pretend to justify the extravagations of the multitude; who, I suppose, were as wild in their former centre as in their present prairie. But I shall be very glad to attend you on Thursday next to his grace's levee; where I am afraid we shall not be crowded with company; for you know there is a wide difference between his present office of president of the council, and his former post of first lord commissioner of the treasury.'

This communicative friend having announced all the remarkable characters of both sexes that appeared at court, we resolved to adjourn, and retired. At the foot of the stair-cafe there was a crowd of lacqueys and chairmen, and in the midst of them stood Humphry Clinker, exalted upon a stool, with his hat in one hand, and a paper in the other, in the act of holding forth to the people. Before we could enquire into the meaning of this exhibition, he perceived my matter, thrust the paper into his pocket, descended from his elevation, bolted through the crowd, and brought up the carriage to the gate.

My uncle said nothing till we were seated; when, after having looked at meearnestly for some time, he burst out a laughing, and asked if I knew upon what subject Clinker was holding forth to the mob. 'If,' said he, 'the fellow is turned mountebank, I must turn him out of my service, otherwise he will make Merry Andrews of us all.' I observed that, in all probability, he had studied medicine under his master, who was a farrier.

At dinner the squire asked him if he had ever practis'd physic. 'Yes, an please your honour,' said he; 'among brute beasts; but I never meddle with rational
rational creatures."—"I know not whether you rank in that class the audience you were haranguing in the court at St. James's; but I should be glad to know what kind of powder you was distributing, and whether you had a good sale."—"Sale, Sir!" cried Clinker; "I hope I shall never be base enough to sell for gold and silver, what freely comes of God's grace. I distributed nothing, and like your honour, but a word of advice to my fellows in servitude and sin."—"Advice concerning what?"—"Concerning prophanes swearing, and pleads your honour; so horrid and shocking, that it made my hair stand on end!"—"Nay, if thou canst cure them of that disease, I shall think thee a wonderful doctor indeed!"—"Why not cure them, my good master? The hearts of those poor people are not so stubborn as your honour seems to think. Make them first sensible that you have nothing in view but their good, then they will listen with patience, and easily be convinced of the fin and folly of a practice that affords neither profit nor pleasure." At this remark, our uncle changed colour, and looked round the company, conscious that his own avithers were not altogether unprag. "But, Clinker," said he, "if you should have eloquence enough to pervert the vulgar to resign those tares and figures of rhetoric, there will be little or nothing left to dilate on their conversation from that of their betters."—"But then, your honour knows, their conversation will be void of offence; and, at the day of judgment, there will be no distinction of persons.

Humphry going down stairs to fetch up a bottle of wine, my uncle congratulated his father upon having such a reformer in the family; when Mrs. Tabby declared he was a sober civilized fellow, very respectful, and very industrious; and, she believed, a good Christian into the bargain. One would think Clinker must really have some very extraordinary talent, to ingratiate himself in this manner with a virago of her character, to forfend against him with prejudice and resentment: but the truth is, since the adventure of Salt-Hill, Mrs. Tabby seems to be entirely changed. She has left off feeling the servants, an exercise which was grown habitual, and even seemed necessary to her constitution; and is become so indifferent to Chowder as to part with him in a present to Lady Grifkin, who propозes to bring the breed of him into fashion. Her ladyship is the widow of Sir Timothy Grifkin, a distant relation of our family. She enjoys a jointure of five hundred pounds a year, and makes shift to spend three times that sum. Her character before marriage was a little equivocal: but at present she lives in the ban ton, keeps card-tables, gives private suppers to select friends, and is visited by persons of the first fashion. She has been remarkably civil to us all, and cultivates my uncle with the most particular regard; but the more she stroke him, the more his brittles seem to rise. To her compliments he makes very laconick and dry returns. The other day, she sent us a bottle of fine strawberries; which he did not receive without signs of difficult, muttering from the Aeneid—"Teneo Damas et doma ferentes." She has twice called for Liddy, of a forenoon, to take an airing in the coach; but Mrs. Tabby was always so alert, (I suppose by his direction) that she never could have the niece without her aunt's company. I have endeavoured to found Square-toes on this subject; but he carefully avoids all explanation.

I have now, dear Phillips, filled a whole sheet; and if you have read it to an end, I dare say you are as tired as your humble servant,

J. MELFORD,

LONDON, JUNE 2,

TO DR. LEWIS.

YES, doctor, I have seen the British Museum; which is a noble collection, and even stupendous, if we consider it was made by a private man, a physician, who was obliged to make his own fortune at the same time; but great as the collection is, it would appear more striking if it was arranged in one spacious saloon, instead of being divided into different apartments, which it does not entirely fill. I could wish the series of medals was connected, and the whole of the animal, vegetable, and mineral kingdoms, complicated, by adding to each, at the publick expense, those articles that are wanting. It would likewise be a great improvement, with respect to the library,
if the deficiencies were made up, by pur- 
chasing all the books of character that 
are not to be found already in the collec-
tion. They might be classed in centuries, 
according to the dates of their publica-
tion, and catalogues printed of them and 
the manuscripts for the information of 
those that want to consult, or compile 
from such authorities. I could also wish, 
for the honour of the nation, that there 
was a complete apparatus for a course of 
mathematics; mechanicks, and experi-
mental philosophy; and a good salary 
settled upon an able professor, who should 
give regular lectures on these subjects.

But this is all idle speculation, which 
will never be reduced to practice. Con-
sidering the temper of the times, it is a 
-wonder to see any institution whatsoever 
established for the benefit of the publick. 
The spirit of party is rife to a kind of 
phrenzy, unknown to former ages, or 
rather degenerated to a total extinction of 
honesty and candour. You know I have 
observed, for some time, that the publick 
papers are become the infamous vehicles 
of the most cruel and pernicious defamation: 
every rancorous knife, every def-
perate incendiary, that can afford to 
spend half a crown or three thillings, 
may skulk behind the pretexts of a news-
monger, and have a stab at the first chara-
acter in the kingdom, without running 
the least hazard of detection or punish-
ment.

I have made acquaintance with a Mr. 
Barton, whom Jerry knew at Oxford; a 
good sort of a man, though most ridicu-
ulously warped in his political principles; 
but his partiality is the less offensive, as it 
never appears in the title of scurrility and 
abuse. He is a member of parliament, 
and a retainer to the court; and his whole 
conversation turns upon the virtues and 
perfections of the ministers, who are his 
patrons. The other day, when he was be-
daubing one of those worthies with the 
most fulsome praise, I told him I had 
seen the same nobleman characterized very 
differently in one of the daily papers; 
indeed, so stigmatized, that if one half 
of what was laid of him was true, he 
must be not only unfit to rule, but even 
unfit to live; that those impeachments 
had been repeated again and again, with 
the addition of fresh matter; and that, as 
had taken no steps towards his own 
vindication, I began to think there was 
some foundation for the charge. 'And 
pray, Sir,' said Mr. Barton, 'what 
steps would you have him take? Sup-
pose he should prosecute the publisher, 
who screens the anonymous accuser, 
and bring him to the pillory for a li-
bel, this is so far from being counted 
a punishment, in terraeon, that it will 
probably make his fortune. The mul-
titude immediately take him into their 
protection, as a martyr to the cause of 
defamation, which they have always 
insulted: they pay his fine, they con-
tribute to the increa^e of his stock, his 
shop is crowded with customers, and the 
sale of his paper rife in proportion to 
the scandal it contains. All this time 
the prosecutor is inveighed against as a 
tyrant and oppressor, for having chosen 
to proceed by the way of information, 
which is deemed a grievance; but if he 
lays an action for damages, he must 
prove the damage; and I leave you to 
judge, whether a gentleman's character 
may not be brought into contempt, and 
all his views in life blighted by calumny, 
without his being able to specify the 
particulars of the damage he has suf-
tained. 

This spirit of defamation is a kind 
of hereby, that throve under perfec-
tion. The liberty of the press is a term 
of great efficacy; and, like that of the 
Protestant religion, has often served the 
purposes of sedition: a minister, there-
fore, must arm himself with patience, 
and bear those attacks without repin-
ing. Whatever mischief they may do 
in other respects, they certainly con-
tribute, in one particular, to the ad-
vantage of government; for those de-
formatory articles have multiplied pa-
pers in such a manner, and augmented 
their sale to such a degree, that the 
duty upon stamps and advertisements 
has made a very considerable addition 
to the revenue. Certain it is, a gen-
tleman's honour is a very delicate subject 
and is to be handled by a jury, composed of 
men who cannot be supposed remark-
able either for sentiment or impartiality. 
In such a case, indeed, the-defendant is 
tried, not only by his peers, but also by 
his party; and I really think; that, of all 
patriots, he is the most resolute who ex-
poses himself to such a fate for the 
fake of his country. If, from the igno-
rance or partiality of juries, a gentleman 
can have no redres^ from law for being 
defamed in a pamphlet or newspaper, I 
know but one other method of proceed-
ing against the publisher, which is at-
tended with some risque, but has been practiced successfully more than once, in my remembrance. A regiment of horse was represented in one of the newspapers as having misbelieved at Dettingen; a captain of that regiment broke the publisher’s bones, telling him, at the same time, if he went to law, he should certainly have the like satisfaction from every officer of the corps. Governor—— took the same satisfaction on the ribs of an author, who traduced him by name in a periodical paper. I know a low fellow of the same class, who, being turned out of Venice for his impudence and ferocity, retired to Lugano, a town of the Grifons, (a free people, God wot) where he found a printing-press; from whence he squirted his filth at some respectable characters in the republic which he had been obliged to abandon. Some of these, finding him out of the reach of legal chastisement, employed certain useful instruments, such as may be found in all countries, to give him the bastinado; which, being repeated more than once, effectually stopped the current of his abuse.

As for the liberty of the press, like every other privilege, it must be restrained within certain bounds; for if it is carried to a breach of law, religion, and charity, it becomes one of the greatest evils that ever annoyed the community. If the lowest ruffian may flab your good name with impunity in England, will you be so uncandid as to exclaim against Italy for the practice of common affatination? To what purpose is our property secured, if our moral character is left defenceless? People thus bated, grow desperate; and the despair of being able to preserve one’s character untainted by such venom, produces a total neglect of fame; so that one of the chief incitements to the practice of virtue is effectually destroyed.

Mr. Barton’s last consideration respecting the stamp-duty is equally wife and laudable with another maxim which has been long adopted by our financiers; namely, to connive at drunkenness, riot, and dissipation, because they enhance the receipt of the excise; not reflecting, that in providing this temporary convenience, they are deftroying the morals, health, and industry of the people. Notwithstanding my contempt for those who flatter a minister, I think there is something still more despicable in flattering a mob.

When I see a man of birth, education, and fortune, put himself on a level with the dregs of the people, mingle with low mechanicks, feed with them at the same board, and drink with them in the same cup, flatter their prejudices, harangue in praise of their virtues, expose themselves to the belchings of their beer, the fumes of their tobacco, the grossness of their familiarity, and the impertinence of their conversation, I cannot help despising him as a man guilty of the vilest prostitution, in order to effect a purpose equally selfish and illiberal.

I should renounce politics the more willingly, if I could find other topics of conversation discussed with more modesty and candour; but the demon of party seems to have usurped every department of life. Even the world of literature and taste is divided into the most virulent factions, which revile, decry, and traduce, the works of one another. Yesterday I went to return an afternoon’s visit to a gentleman of my acquaintance, at whose house I found one of the authors of the present age, who has written with some success. As I had read one or two of his performances, which gave me pleasure, I was glad of this opportunity to know his person; but his discourse and deportment destroyed all the impressions which his writings had made in his favour. He took upon him to decide dogmatically upon every subject, without deigning to shew the least caufe for his differing from the general opinions of mankind, as if it had been our duty to acquiesce in the ipe xixit of this new Pythagoras. He rejudged the characters of all the principal authors, who had died within a century of the present time; and, in this revision, paid no sort of regard to the reputation they had acquired, Milton was harsh and profack; Dryden, languid and verbose; Butler and Swift, without humour; Congreve, without wit; and Pope deftitute of any sort of poetical merit. As for his cotemporaries, he could not bear to hear one of them mentioned with any degree of applause; they were all dunces, pedants, plagiarists, quacks, and impostors; and you could not name a single performance but what was tame, stupid, and impifid. It must be owned that this writer had nothing to charge his conscience with on the side of flattery; for, I understand, he was never known to praise one line that was written even by those with whom he lived.
lived on terms of good fellowship. This arrogance and presumption in depreciating authors, for whose reputation the company may be interested, is such an infult upon the understanding, as I could not bear without wincing.

I desired to know his reasons for decrying some works which had afforded me uncommon pleasure; and, as demonstration did not seem to be his talent, I dissented from his opinion with great freedom. Having been spoiled by the deference and humility of his hearers, he did not bear contradiction with much temper; and the dispute might have grown warm, had it not been interrupted by the entrance of a rival bard, whose appearance he always quits the place. They are of different cabals, and have been at open war these twenty years. If the other was dogmatical, this genius was declamatory: he did not discourse, but harangue; and his orations were equally tedious and turgid. He too pronounces ex cathedra upon the characters of his cotemporaries; and though he scruples not to deal out praise, even lavishly, to the lowest reptile in Grub Street, who will either flatter him in private, or mount the publick rostrum as his panegyrift, he damns all the other writers of the age, with the utmost insolence and rancour.

One is a blunderbuss, as being a native of Ireland; another a half-starved louge of literature, from the banks of the Tweed; a third, an afo, because he enjoys a pension from the government; a fourth, the very angel of dulness, because he succeeded in a species of writing in which this Aristarchus had failed; a fifth, who presumed to make strictures upon one of his performances, he holds as a bug in critique, whose stench is more offensive than his sting. In short, except himself and his myrmidons, there is not a man of genius or learning in the three kingdoms. As for the successes of those who have written without the pale of this confederacy, he imputes it entirely to want of taste in the publick; not considering, that, to the approbation of that very tasteless publick, he himself owes all the consequence he has in life.

Those originals are not fit for conversation: if they would maintain the advantage they have gained by their writings, they should never appear but upon paper. For my part, I am shocked to find a man have sublime ideas in his head, and nothing but illiberal sentiments in his heart. The human soul will be generally found most defective in the article of candour; I am inclined to think, no mind was ever wholly exempt from envy, which, perhaps, may have been implanted as an instinct essential to our nature. I am afraid we sometimes palliate this vice, under the specious name of emulation. I have known a person remarkably generous, humane, moderate, and apparently self-denying, who could not hear even a friend commended, without betraying marks of uneasiness; as if that commendation had implied an odious comparison to his prejudice, and every wreath of praise added to the other's character, was a garland plucked from his own temples. This is a malignant species of jealousy, of which I stand acquitted in my own conscience. Whether it is a vice or an infirmity, I leave you to enquire.

There is another point, which I would much rather see determined; whether the world was always as contemptible as it appears to me at present? If the morals of mankind have not contrasted an extraordinary degree of depravity within these thirty years, then must I be infected with the common vice of old men, difficultis, querulus, laudator temporis acti; or, which is more probable, the impetuous pursuits and avocations of youth have formerly hindered me from observing those rotten parts of human nature, which now appear so offensively to my observation.

We have been at court, and Change, and everywhere; and everywhere we find food for spleen, and subject for ridicule. My new servant, Humphry Clinker, turns out a great original; and Tabby is a changed creature. She has parted with Chowder; and does nothing but smile, like Malvolio in the play. I will be hanged if she is not acting a part which is not natural to her disposition, for some purpose which I have not yet discovered.

With respect to the characters of mankind, my curiosity is quite satisfied: I have done with the science of men, and must now endeavour to amuse myself with the novelty of things. I am, at present, by a violent effort of the mind, forced from my natural bias; but this power ceasing to act, I shall return to my solitude with redoubled velocity. Every thing I see, and hear, and feel, in this great reservoir of folly, knavery, and sophilication,
Humphry Clinker.

London, June 2.

To Mrs. Mary Jones, at Brambleton-Hall.

Dear Mary Jones,

Lady Griffin’s butler, Mr. Crumb, having got Squire Barton to frank me a kiver, I would not neglect to let you know how it is with me, and the rest of the family.

I could not rite by John Thomas, for because he went away in a huff, at a minute’s warning. He and Chowder could not agree, and so they fit upon the road, and Chowder bit his thumb, and he swore he would do him a mischief, and he spoke saucy to mistres, whereby the squire turned him off in gudgeons; and by God’s providence, we picked up another footman called Umphry Klinker; a good fellow ever broke bread; which shews that a scalded cat may prove a good moulder, and a hound be staunch, tho’ he has got narrow hare on his buttecks; but the proudest nose may be bro’t bao’r to the grime-fone by sicknes and misfortunes.

O Molly! what shall I say of London? All the towns that ever I beheld in my born days, are no more than Welsh barrows and rumbleaks to this wonderful fitty! Even Bath itself is but a silliteh, in the name of God. One would think there’s no end of the streets, but the land’s end. Then there’s such a power of people, going hurry scurry! Such a ricket of coxes! Such a noise, and haliballoo! So many strange sites to be seen! O gracious! My poor Welsh brain has been spinning like a topever since I came hither! And I have seen the park, and the pales of Saint Gimfes, and the king’s and the queen’s magisterial purfing, and the sweet young princes, and the billyfents, and pre-bald afs, and all the rest of the royal family.

Last week I went with mistres to the tower, to see the crowns and wild beafts; and there was a monstrfous lion, with teeth half a quarter long; and a gentleman bid me not go near him, if I wa’n’t a maid, being as how he would roar, and tear, and play the dickins. Now I had no mind to go near him; for I cannot abide such dangerous honeymills, not I; but mistres would go; and the beast kept such a roaring and baying, that I tho’t he would a broke his cage and devoured us all; and the gentleman tittered fortooth; but I’ll go to death upon it, I will, that my lady is as good a firehun as the child unborne; and therefore, either the gentleman told a fib, or the lion off to be fit in the flocks for bearing false witness against his neighbour; for the commi-fent faythe, Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

I was afterwards of a party at Saller’s Wells, where I saw such tumbling and dancing upon ropes and wires, that I was frightened, and ready to go into a fit. I tho’t it was all inchantment; and, believing myself bewitched, began for to fly. You know as how the witches in Wales fly upon brown-flicks; but here was flying without any broom-flick, or thing in the varial world, and firing of pistols in the air, and blowing of trumpets, and swinging, and rolling of wheel-bearrows upon a wire, (God bless us!) no thicker than a fewing-thread; that, to be sure, they must deal with the devil! A fine gentleman, with a pig’s tail, and a golden ford by his side, came to comfit me, and offered for to treat me with a pint of wind; but I would not stay; and so, in going through the dark passage, he began to shew his cloven fote, and went for to be rude: my fellow servant, Umphry Klinker, bid him be civil, and he gave the young man a dowie in the chaps; but, I fidding, Mr. Klinker wa’n’t long in his debt: with a good caften fapiing he duted his doublet, for all his golden cheese toater; and, fipping me under his arm, carried me houn, I nof’t how, being I was in fuch a fution. But, thank God! I’m now vanisht from all fuch vanities; for what are all fuch rarities and vagaries to the glories that shall be revealed hereafter? O Molly! let not your poor heart be puffed up with vanity.

I had almost forgot to tell you, that I have liad my hair cut and pippered, and finged, and bolistered, and buckled, in the newest fashion, by a French freezer. Parley won Francey—Vee madmanfella. I now carries my head higher than arrow private gentlewoman of Vales. Last night coming huom from the meeting, I was taken by lamp-light for an iminent poulterer’s daughter, a great beauty. But as I was saying, this is all vanity and vexation of spirit. The pleafures of London are no better than four whey and stale.
Humphry Clinker.

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state cider, when compared to the joys of the new Jerusalem.

Dear Mary Jones! An please God, when I return, I'll bring you a new cap, with a turkey-shell coom, and a pychoufe sermon, that was preached in the Tabernacle; and I pray of all love, you will mind your writing and your spilling; for, craving your pardon, Molly, it made me fuct to dispypher your laft scrabble, which was delivered by the hind at Bath. O, woman! woman! if thou had'st but the least compunction of what pleasur we feullers have, when we can culler the crabbidit buck off hand, and spell the ethnitch words without lucking at the primer. As for Mr. Klinker, he is qualfied to be clerck to a parifh. But I'll say no more. Remember me to Saul. Poor fole! it goes to my hart to think he don't yet know her letters. But all in God's good time. It shall go hard, but I will bring her the A B C in ginger-bread; and that, you nofit, will be learning to her tafe.

Mifhres fays, we are going a long gurney to the North; but, go where we will, I faff ever be, dear Mary Jones, yours with true infection,

Win. Jenkins.

London, June 3.

To Sir Watkin Phillips, of Jesus College, Oxon.

Dear Wat,

I Mentioned in my laft, my uncle's deign of going to the Duke of N—-'.s levee; which deign has been executed accordingly. His grace has been fo long accustomed to this kind of homage, that though the place he now fills does not imply the tenth part of the influence which he exerted in his former office, he has given his friends to understand, that they cannot oblige him in any thing more than in contributing to support the shadow of that power, which he no longer retains in substance; and therefore he has still publick days, on which they appear at his levee.

My uncle and I went thither with Mr. Barton, who, being one of the duke's adherents, undertook to be our introducer. The room was pretty well filled with people, in a great variety of drefs; but there was no more than one gown and cap, though I was told his grace had, while he was minister, preferred almost every

individual that now filled the bench of bishops in the House of Lords; but, in all probability, the gratitude of the clergy is like their charity, which flums the light. Mr. Barton was immediately ac- coined by a person well striken in years, tall, and raw-boned, with a hook-nofe, and an arch leer; that indicated, at least, as much cunning as sagacity. Our con- ductor fulted him by the name of Cap- tain C——, and afterwards informed us he was a man of thwed parts, whom the government occasionally employed in se- cret services. But I have had the history of him more at large from another quarter. He had been, many years ago, concerned in fraudulent practices, as a merchant in France; and being convicted of some of them, was sent to the gallies, from whence he was delivered by the intercet of the late Duke of Ormond, to whom he had re- commended himself in a letter, as his nameake and relation. He was, in the foquel, employed by our miniftry as a spy; and, in the war of 1740, travelled all Spain, as well as France, in the disguise of a capuchin, at the extreme hazard of his life, in as much as the court of Madrid had actually got feent of him, and given orders to apprehend him at St. Sebastian's, from whence he had fortunately re- tired but a few hours before the order arrived. This and other haft-breadth escapes he pleaded to effectually as a merit with the English miniftry, that they al- lowed him a comfortable pension, which he now enjoys in his old age. He has still acces to all the minifters, and is faid to be consulted by them on many subjects, as a man of uncommon understanding and great experience. He is, in fact, a fellow of some parts and invincible affurance; and, in his discourse, he assumes such an air of self-sufficiency, as may very well impose upon some of the shallow politicians, who now labour at the helm of administration. But, if he is not belied, this is not the only imposure of which he is guilty. They fay, he is at bottom not only a Roman cathliick, but really a priest; and while he pretends to disclose to our state-pilots all the springs that move the cabinet of Versailles, he is actu- ally picking up intelligence for the service of the French minifter. Be that as it may, Captain C—— entered into converfation with us in the most familiar manner, and treated the duke's character without any ceremony. 'This wife- acre,' faid he, 'is still a-bed; and, I think, the bet thing
he can do is to sleep on till Christmas; for, when he gets up, he does nothing but expose his own folly. Since Granville was turned out, there has been no minister in this nation worth the meal that whitened his periwigs. They are so ignorant, they 'fear' know a crab from a crawfish: and then they are such dunces, that there's no making them comprehend the plainest proposition. In the beginning of the war, this poor half-witted creature told me, in a great fright, that thirty thousand French had marched from Acadia to Cape Breton. "Where did they find transports?" said I. "Transports!" cried he; "I tell you they marched by land." — "By land to the island of Cape Breton?" — "What! is Cape Breton an island?" — "Certainly." — "Ha! are you sure of that?" When I pointed it out in the map, he examined it carefully with his spectacles; then taking me in his arms — "My dear, C——!" cried he; "you always bring us good news. Egad, I'll go directly, and tell the king that Cape Breton is an island."

He seemed disposed to entertain us with more anecdotes of this nature, at the expense of his grace, when he was interrupted by the arrival of the Algerine ambassador, a venerable Turk, with a long white beard, attended by his dragoman, or interpreter, and another officer of his household who had got no fockings to his legs. Captain C—— immediately spoke with an air of authority to a servant in waiting, bidding him go and tell the duke to ride, as there was a great deal of company come, and, among others, the ambassador from Algiers. Then turning to us — "This poor Turk," said he, "notwithstanding his grey beard, is a greenhorn. He has been several years resident in London, and still is ignorant of our political revolutions. This visit is intended for the prime minister of England; but you'll see how this wise duke will receive it as a mark of attachment to his own nation. "Certain it is, the duke esteemed eager to acknowledge the compliment. A door opening, he suddenly bolted out, with a shivering-cloth under his chin, his face frothed up to the eyes with foam; his tears running up to his ambassador, grinned horribly in his face. "My dear Tahomel," said he, "God give your long beard! I hope the day will make you a horse-tail at the next promotion, ha, ha, ha! Have but a moment's patience, and I'll fend to you in a twinkling." So saying, he retreated into his den, leaving the Turk in some confusion. After a short pause, however, he said something to his interpreter, the meaning of which I had great curiosity to know, as he turned up his eyes while he spoke, expressing astonishment, mixed with devotion. We were gratified by means of the communicative Captain C——, who conversed with the dragoman, as an old acquaintance. Ibrahim, the ambassdor, who had mistaken his grace for the minister's fool, was no sooner undeceived by the interpreter, than he exclaimed to this effect — "Holy prophet! I do not wonder that this nation prospers, seeing it is governed by the counsell of ideots; a series of men, whom all good Mussulmen revere as the organs of immediate inspiration! Ibrahim was favoured with a particular audience of short duration; after which the duke conducted him to the door, and then returned to diffuse his gracious looks among the crowd of his worshippers.

As Mr. Barton advanced to present me to his grace, it was my fortune to attract his notice before I was announced. He forthwith met me more than half way, and, seizing me by the hand — "My dear Sir Francis!" cried he, "this is so kind— I vow to God! I am so obliged— Such attention to a poor broken minister— Well, pray, what does your excellency set fail? For God's sake, have a care of your health, and eat stewed prunes in the passage. Next to your own previous health, pray, my dear excellency, take care of the Five Nations— Our good friends the Five Nations— The Toryories, the Maccolmacks, the Out— o' the ways, the Crickets, and the Kick— faws. Let 'em have plenty of blankets, and thimbles, and wampum; and your excellency won't fail to scour the kettle, and boil the chain, and bury the trees, and plant the butcher. Ha, ha, ha! When he had uttered this rhapsody, with his usual precipitation, Mr. Barton gave him to understand, that I was neither Sir Francis, nor St. Francis, but simply Mr. Melford, nephew to Mr. Brambley, who, stepping forward, made his bow at the same time. "Odie! no more 'tis Sir Francis," said this wise statesman. "Mr. Melford, I am glad to see you.
I sent you an engineer to fortify your dock. Mr. Bramble—your servant, Mr. Bramble. How d'ye, good Mr. Bramble? Your nephew is a pretty young fellow—Faith and troth, a very pretty fellow! His father is my old friend and companion: how does he hold it? Still troubled with that damn'd disorder, ha?—No, my lord,' replied my uncle, all his troubles are over. He has been dead these fifteen years. —Dead! how?—Yes, faith! now I remember: he is dead, sure enough. Well, and how—does the young gentleman stand for Haverford Welt? or—what d'ye—My dear Mr. Milfordhav-en, I'll do you all the service in my power; I hope I have some credit left.' My uncle then gave him to understand, that I was still a minor; and that we had no intention to trouble him at present, for any favour whatsoever. I came hither with my nephew,' added he, 'to pay our respects to your grace; and I may venture to say, that his views and mine are at least as disinterested as those of any individual in this assembly,— My dear Mr. Brambleberry! you do me infinite honour. I shall always rejoice to see you and your hopeful nephew, Mr. Milfordhaven. My credit, such as it is, you may command. I wish we had more friends of your kidney.'

Then turning to Captain C——, 'Ha, C——,' said he, 'what news, C——? How does the world wag? ha!—The world wags much after the old fashion, my lord,' answered the captain: 'the politicians of London and Westminster have begun again to wag their tongues against your grace; and your short-lived popularity wags like a feather, which the next puff of antiministerial calumny will blow away.'—'A pack of rascals,' cried the duke; 'Tories, Jacobites, rebels! one half of them would wag their heels at Tyburn, if they had their deserts.' So saying, he wheeled about; and, going round the levee, spoke to every individual, with the most courteous familiarity; but he care ever opened his mouth without making some blunder, in relation to the person or business of the party with whom he conversed; so that he really looked like a comedian, hired to burlesque the character of a minister. At length, a person of a very prepossessing appearance coming in, his grace ran up, and, hugging him in his arms, with the appellation of—' My dear Ch——s!' led him forth into the inner apartment, or Sanctum Sanctorum of his political temple. 'That,' said Captain C——, 'is my friend C—— T——, almost the only man of parts who has any concern in the present ad-
imistration. Indeed, he would have no concern at all in the matter, if the ministry did not find it absolutely ne-
cessary to make use of his talents upon some particular occasions. As for the common business of the nation, it is carried on in a common routine, by the clerks of the different offices, otherwise the wheels of government would be wholly stopped amidst the abrupt suc-
ceSSION of ministers, every one more ig-
norant than his predecessor. I am think-
ing what a fine hoard we should be in, if all the clerks of the treasury, of the se-
cretaries, the war-office, and the admi-
ralty, should take it in their heads to throw up their places in imitation of the great penitencer. But, to return to C—— T——; he certainly knows more than all the ministry and all the opposition, if their heads were laid to-
gether, and talks like an angel on a wait variety of subjects. He would really be a great man, if he had any consti-

dency or stability of character. Then, it must be owned, he wants courage, otherwise he would never, allow himself to be cowed by the great political bully, for whose understanding he has justly a very great contempt. I have seen him as much affected of that overbearing Hector, as ever school-boy was of his pedagogue; and yet this Hector, I threwly suspect, is no more than a craven at bottom. Besides this defect, C—— has another, which he is at too little pains to hide. There's no faith to be given to his assurances, and no trust to be put in his promises. How-
ever, to give the devil his due, he is very good-natured; and even friendly when close urged in the way of solici-
tation. As for principle, that's out of the question. In a word, he's a wit and an orator, extremely entertain-
ing; and he shines very often at the ex-
pense even of those ministers to whom he is a retainer. This is a mark of great imprudence, by which he has made them all his enemies, whatever face they may put upon the matter; and, sooner or later, he'll have cause to wish he had been able to keep his own counsel. I have several times cautioned him.
HUMPHRY CLINKER.

*Him on this subject; but 'tis all preaching to the desert. His vanity runs away with his discretion.' I could not help thinking the captain himself might have been the better for some hints of the same nature. His pantypric, excluding principle and veracity, puts me in mind of a contest I once over-heard in the way of altercation, between two apple-women in Spring Garden. One of those viragos having hinted something to the prejudice of the other's moral character, her antagonist, setting her hands in her sides, replied—'Speak out, hussy! I scorn your malice—I own I'm both a whore and a thief; and what more have you to say? Damn you, what more have you to say? Bating that, which all the world knows, I challenge you to say black is the white of my eye.' We did not wait for Mr. T——'s coming forth; but after Captain C—— had characterized all the originals in waiting, we adjourned to a coffee-house, where we had buttered muffins and tea to breakfast, the said captain still favouring us with his company. Nay, my uncle was so diverted with his anecdotes, that he asked him to dinner, and treated him with a fine turbot, to which he did ample justice. That fame evening I spent at the tavern with some friends, one of whom let me into C——'s character, which Mr. Bramble no sooner understood, than he expressed some concern for the connexion he had made, and resolved to diffegate himself from it without ceremony.

We are become members of the Society for the Encouragement of the Arts, and have assisted at some of their deliberations, which were conducted with equal spirit and sagacity. My uncle is extremely fond of the institution, which will certainly be productive of great advantages to the public, if, from it's democratical form, it does not degenerate into cabal and corruption. You are already acquainted with his aversion to the influence of the multitude, which, he affirms, is incompatible with excellence, and subversive of order. Indeed, his detestation of the mob has been heightened by fear, ever since he fainted in the room at Bath; and this apprehension has prevented him from going to the Little Theatre in the Haymarket, and other places of entertainment, to which, however, I have had the honour to attend the ladies.

It grates old Squaretoes to reflect, that it is not in his power to enjoy even the most elegant diversions of the capital, without the participation of the vulgar; for they now thrust themselves into all assemblies from a ridotto at St. James's to a hop at Rotherhithe.

I have lately seen our old acquaintance Dick Ivy; who we imagined had died of dram-drinking; but he is lately emerged from the Fleet, by means of a pamphlet which he wrote and published against the government with some success. The sale of this performance enabled him to appear in clean linen, and he is now going about soliciting subscriptions for his poems; but his breeches are not yet in the most decent order.

Dick certainly deserves some countenance for his intrepidity and perseverance. It is not in the power of disappointment, nor even of damnation, to drive him to despair. After some unsuccessful essays, in the way of poetry, he commenced brandy-merchant, and I believe his whole stock ran out through his own bowels; then he comforted with a milk-woman, who kept a cellar in Petty France: but he could not make his quarters good; he was dislodged and driven up stairs into the kennel by a corporal in the second regiment of foot-guards. He was afterwards the laureat of Blackfriars, from whence there was a natural transition to the Fleet. As he had formerly miscarried in pantypric, he now turned his thoughts to satire, and really seems to have some talent for abuse. If he can hold out till the meeting of the parliament, and be prepared for another charge, in all probability Dick will mount the pillory, or obtain a pension, in either of which events his fortune will bemade. Mean while he has acquired some degree of confidence with the respectable writers of the age; and as I have subscribed for his works, he did me the favour the other night to introduce me to a society of those geniuses; but I found them exceedingly formal and reserved. They seemed afraid and jealous of one another, and sat in a state of mutual repulsion, like so many particles of vapour, each surrounded by it's own electrified atmosphere. Dick, who has more vivacity than judgment, tried more than once to enliven the conversation; sometimes making an effort at wit, sometimes letting off a pun, and sometimes discharging a conundrum; nay, at length he started a dispute upon the hackneyed comparison betwixt blank verse and rhyme, and the professors opened with great clamor.
mour; but, instead of keeping to the sub-
ject, they launched out into tedious dis-
fertations on the poetry of the ancients;
and one of them, who had been a school-
master, displayed his whole knowledge of
proseody, gleaned from Disputer and Rud-
diman. At last, I ventured to say, I did
not see how the subject in question could
be at all elucidated by the practice of the
ancients, who certainly had neither blank
verse nor rhyme in their poems, which
were measured by feet, whereas ours are
reckoned by the number of syllables.
This remark seemed to give umbrage
to the pedant, who forthwith involved
himself in a cloud of Greek and Latin
quotations; which nobody attempted to
dispel. A confused hum of insipid ob-
servations and comments ensued; and,
upon the whole, I never passed a duller
evening in my life. Yet, without all
doubt, some of them were men of learn-
ing, wit, and ingenuity. As they are
afraid of making free with one another,
they should bring each his butt, or whet-
stone, along with him, for the entertain-
ment of the company. My uncle says,
he never desires to meet with more than
one wit at a time. One wit, like a
knuckle of ham in soup, gives a zest and
flavour to the dish; but more than one
serves only to spoil the pottage. And now
I am afraid I have given you an uncon-
fessionable mess, without any flavour at all;
for which, I suppose, you will bestow
your benedictions upon your friend and
servant,

J. Melford.

London, June 5.
THE

EXPEDITION

OF

HUMPHRY CLINKER.

VOLUME THE SECOND.

TO DR. LEWIS.

DEAR LEWIS,

OUR fable of the monkey and the pig, is what the Italians call ben trovata: but I shall not repeat it to my apothecary, who is a proud Scotchman, very thin-skinned, and, for aught I know, may have his degree in his pocket. A right Scotchman has always two strings to his bow, and is in utrunque paratus. Certainly, I have not escaped a scouring; but, I believe, by means of that scouring, I have escaped something worse, perhaps a tedious fit of the gout or rheumatism; for my appetite began to flag, and I had certain croakings in the bowels, which boded me no good. Nay, I am not yet quite free of these remembrances, which warn me to be gone from this centre of infection.

What temptation can a man of my turn and temperament have, to live in a place where every corner teems with fresh objects of detestation and disgust? What kind of taste and organs must those people have, who really prefer the adulterate enjoyments of the town to the genuine pleasures of a country retreat? Most people, I know, are originally induced by vanity, ambition, and childish curiosity which cannot be gratified, but in the buff haunts of men: but, in the course of this gratification, their very organs of sense are perverted, and they become habitually left to every relish of what is genuine and excellent in its own nature.

Shall I state the difference between my town grievances, and my country comforts? At Brambleton Hall, I have elbow-room within doors, and breathe a clear, elastic, salutary air. I enjoy refreshing sleep, which is never disturbed by herried noise, nor interrupted, but in a morning by the sweet twitter of the martlet at my window. I drink the virgin lymph, pure and crystalline as it gushes from the rock, or the sparkling beverage home-brewed from malt of my own making; or I indulge with cider, which my own orchard affords; or with claret of the best growth, imported for my own use, by a correspondent on whose integrity I can depend: my bread is sweet and nourishing, made from my own wheat, ground in my own mill, and baked in my own oven; my table is, in a great measure, furnished from my own ground; my five year old mutton, fed on the fragrant herbage of the mountains, that might vie with venison in juice and flavour; my delicious veal, fattened with nothing but the mother’s milk, that fills the dish with gravy; my poultry from the barn door, that never knew confinement, but when they were at roost; my rabbits panting from the Warren; my game fresh from the moors;
moors; my trout and salmon struggling from the stream; oysters from their native banks; and herrings, with other sea-fish, I can eat in four hours after they are taken. My fallals, roots, and pot-herbs, my own garden yields in plenty and perfection; the produce of the natural soil, prepared by moderate cultivation. The same soil affords all the different fruits which England may call her own, so that my daffodils are daily fresh-gathered from the tree; my dairy flows with nectarous tides of milk and cream, from whence we derive abundance of excellent butter, curds, and cheese; and the refuse fattens my pigs, that are destined for hams and bacon. I go to bed betimes, and rise with the sun. I make shift to pass the hours without weariness or regret; and am not destitute of amusements within doors, when the weather will not permit me to go abroad. I read, and chat, and play at billiards, cards, or backgammon. Without doors, I superintend my farm, and execute plans of improvement, the effects of which I enjoy with unexpeakable delight. Nor do I take less pleasure in seeing my tenants thrive under my auspices, and the poor live comfortably by the employment which I provide. You know I have one or two sensible friends, to whom I can open all my heart; a blessing which, perhaps, I might have sought in vain among the crowded scenes of life: there are a few others of more humble parts, whom I esteem for their integrity; and their conversation I find inoffensive, though not very entertaining. Finally, I live in the midst of honest men, and truly dependants, who, I flatter myself, have a disinterested attachment to my person. You yourself, my dear doctor, can vouch for the truth of these assertions.

Now mark the contrast at London. I am pent up in frowzy lodgings, where there is not room enough to living a cat; and I breathe the stenches of unctuous putrefaction; and these would, undoubtedly, produce a pelline; if they were not qualified by the gross acid of sea-coal, which is itself a pernicious nuisance to lungs of any delicacy of texture: but even this boasted corrective cannot prevent those languid, fawlow looks, that distinguish the inhabitants of London from those ruddy swains that lead a country life. I go to bed after midnight, jaded and reflets from the dissipated of the day. I start every hour from my sleep, at the horrid noise of the watchmen bawling the hour through every street, and thundering at every door: a set of idle fellows, who serve no other purpose but that of disturbing the repose of the inhabitants; and by five o'clock I start out of bed, in consequence of the still more dreadful alarm made by the country carts, and noisy ruflicks bellowing—'Green pea!' under my window. If I would drink water, I must quaff the maudlin contents of an open aqueduct, exposed to all manner of defilement; or swallower that which comes from the River Thames, impregnated with all the filth of London and Westminster. Human excrement is the least offensive part of the concrete, which is composed of all the drugs, minerals, and poisons, used in mechanics and manufacture, enriched with the putrefying carcasses of beasts and men; and mixed with the scourgings of all the wash-tubs, kennels, and common fowlers, within the bills of mortality.

This is the agreeable potion, extolled by the Londoners as the finest water in the universe. As to the intoxicating potion fold for wine, it is a vile, unpalatable, and pernicious sophification, balsamised with cider, corn-spirit, and the juice of fles. In an action at law, laid against a carman for having staved a cask of port, it appeared from the evidence of the cooper, that there were not above five gallons of real wine in the whole pipe, which held above a hundred; and even that had been brewed and adulterated by the merchant at Oporto. The bread I eat in London is a deleterious paste, mixed up with chalk, alum, and bone-ashes; insipid to the taste, and destructive to the constitution: The good people are not ignorant of this adulteration; but they prefer it to wholesome bread, because it is whiter than the meal of corn. Thus they sacrifice their taste and their health, and the lives of their tender infants, to a most absurd gratification of a misjudging-eye; and the miller, or the baker, is obliged to poison them and their families, in order to live by his profession. The same monstrous depravity appears in their veal, which is bleached by repeated bleedings, and other villainous arts, till there is not a drop of juice left in the body, and the poor animal is paralytic before it dies: so void of all taste, nourishment, and favour, that a man might dine as comfortably on a white frieze of kid-skin gloves, or chip hats from Leghorn.
As they have discharged the natural colour from their bread, their butchers-meat and poultry, their cutlets, ragouts, fricassees, and sauces of all kinds; so they insist upon having the complexion of their pot-herbs mended, even at the hazard of their lives. Perhaps you will hardly believe they can be so mad as to boil their greens with brass halfpence, in order to improve their colour; and yet nothing is more true. Indeed, without this improvement in the colour, they have no personal merit. They are produced in an artificial soil, and taste of nothing but the dunghills from whence they spring. My cabbage, cauliflower, and "parasites," in the country, are as much superior in flavour to those that are sold in Covent Garden, as my heath mutton is to that of St. James’s Market; which, in fact, is neither lamb nor mutton, but something betwixt the two, gorged in the rank fens of Lincoln and Ely, pale, coarse, and frowzy. As for the pork, it is an abominable carnivorous animal, fed with horned flesh and distillers grains; and the poultry is all rotten, in consequence of a fever, occasioned by the infamous practice of feving up the gut, that they may be the sooner fattened in coops, in consequence of this cruel retention.

Of the fish, I need say nothing in this hot weather, but that it comes fixty, seventy, four-score, and a hundred miles by land-carriage; a circumstance sufficient, without any comment, to turn a Dutchman’s stomatch, even if his n(o)te was not falted in every alley with the sweet flavour of fresh mackerel, selling by retail. This is not the feafon for oysters; nevertheless, it may not be amiss to mention, that the right Colchester is kept in flime-pits, occasionally overflown by the sea; and that the green colour, so much admired by the voluptuaries of this metropolis, is occasioned by the vitriolick feum which rifies on the surface of the stagnant and thinking water. Our rabbits are bred and fed in the poulterer’s cellar, where they have neither air nor exercife, consequently they must be firl, and delicious in flavour; and there is no game to be had for love or money.

It must be owned, that Covent Garden affords some good fruit; which, however, is always engroffed by a few individuals of overgrown fortune, at an exorbitant price; so that little elfe than the refufe of the market falls to the flavour of the community; and that is distributed by such filthy hands as I cannot look at without loathing. It was but yester-day that I saw a dirty barrow-bunter in the street, cleaning her duffy fruit with her own fipple; and who knows but some fine lady of St. James’s parish might admit into her delicate mouth those very cherries, which had been rolled and moistened between the filthy, and, perhaps, ulcerated chops of a St. Giles’s huckfifer. I need not dwell upon the pallid, contaminated maths, which they call strawberies; foilled and tossed by greasy paws through twenty halfets crufled with dirt; and then preffented with the worst milk, thickened with the worst flower, into a bad likenefs of cream: but the milk itself should not pass unanalized, the produce of faded cabbage-leaves and four drach, lowered with hot water, froth-ed with bruifed finsals, carried through the streets in open pails, expofed to foul refinfings discharged from doors and windowes, spittle, firo, and tobacco-quadis, from foot-passengers; overflownings from mud-carts, fpatterings from coach-wheels, dirt and trash chucked into it by rouifh boys for the joke’s-fake; the fpewings of infants, who have flabbered in the tin-meafure, which is thrown back in that condition among the milk, for the benefit of the next customer; and, finally, the vermin that drops from the rags of the naughty drab that vends this precious mixture, under the respectable denomination of milkmaid.

I shall conclude this catalogue of London dainties with that table-beer, guiltles of hops and malt, vivid and naufeous; much fitter to facilitate the operation of a vomit, than to quench thirst and promote dietifion; the tallowy rauid maif called butter, manufactured with candle-greafe and kitchen-huff; and their fresh eggs, imported from France and Scotland. Now, all these enormities might be remedied with a very little attention to the article of police, or civil regulation; but the wise patritos of London have taken it into their heads, that all regulation is inconsistent with liberty; and that every man ought to live in his own way, without restraint. Nay, as there is not fenee enough left among them to be difcompoled by the nuances I have mentioned, they may, for aught I care, wallow in the mire of their own pollution.

A companionable man will, undoubt-edly,
cally, put up with many inconveniences for the sake of enjoying agreeable society. A facetious friend of mine used to say, the wine could not be bad where the company was agreeable; a maxim which, however, ought to be taken cum grano salis: but what is the society of London, that I should be tempted, for it’s sake, to mortify my sensés, and compound with such uncleanness as my soul abhors? All the people I see, are too much engrossed by schemes of interest or ambition, to have any room left for sentiment or friendship. Even in some of my old acquaintance, those schemes and pursuits have obliterated all traces of our former connexion. Conversation is reduced to party-disputes, and illiberal altercation; social commerce, to formal visits and card-playing. If you pick up a diverting original by accident, it may be dangerous to amuse yourself with his oddities: he is generally a tartar at bottom; a sharper, a fop, or a lunatick. Every person you deal with endeavours to over-reach you in the way of business; you are preyed upon by idle mendicants, who beg in the phrase of borrowing, and live upon the spoils of the stranger. Your tradesmen are without conscience, your friends without affection, and your dependants without fidelity.

My letter would swell into a treatise, were I to particularize every cause of offence that fills up the measure of my aversion to this and every other crowded city. Thank Heaven! I am not so far sucked into the vortex, but that I can disengage myself without any great effort of philosophy. From this wild uproar of knavery, folly, and impertinence, I shall fly with double relish to the serenity of retirement, the cordial effusions of unre- served friendship, the hospitality and protection of the rural gods; in a word, the Jacunda oblitera vites, which Horace himself had not taste enough to enjoy.

I have agreed for a good travelling-coach and four, at a guinea a day, for three months certain; and next week we intend to begin our journey to the North, hoping still to be with you by the latter end of October. I shall continue to write from every stage where we make any considerable halt, as often as any thing occurs which I think can afford you the least amusement. In the mean time, I must beg you will superintend the economy of Barns, with respect to my hay and corn harvests; assured that my ground produces nothing but what you may freely call your own. On any other terms I should be ashamed to subscribe myself your unvariable friend,


London, June 8.

To Sir Watkin Phillips, Bart. of Jesus College, Oxon.

Dear Phillips,

In my last, I mentioned my having spent an evening with a society of authors, who seemed to be jealous and afraid of one another. My uncle was not at all surprized to hear me say I was disappointed in their conversation. ‘A man may be very entertaining and instructive upon paper,’ said he, ‘and exceedingly dull in common discourse.’ I have observed, that those who shine most in private company, are but feeble condyors in the constellation of genius. A small stock of ideas is more easily managed, and sooner displayed, than a great quantity crowded together. There is very seldom any thing extraordinary in the appearance and address of a good writer, whereas a dull author generally distinguishes himself by some oddity or extravagance. ‘For this reason I fancy that an assembly of Grubs must be very diverting.’

My curiosity being excited by this hint, I consulted my friend Dick Ivy, who undertook to gratify it the very next day, which was Sunday last. He carried me to dine with ———, whom you and I have long known by his writings. He lives in the skirts of the town; and every Sunday his house is open to all unfortunate brothers of the quill, whom he treats with beef, pudding, and potatoes, port, punch, and Calvert’s entire butt beer. He has fixed upon the first day of the week for the exercise of his hospitality, because some of his guests could not enjoy it on any other, for reasons that I need not explain. I was civilly received in a plain, yet decent habitation, which opened backwards into a very plesant garden, kept in excellent order; and, indeed, I saw none of the outward signs of authorship, either in the house or the landlord, who is one of those few writers of the age that stand upon their own
HUMPHRY

CLINKER.

own foundation, without patronage, and above dependance. If there was nothing characteristic in the entertainer, the company made ample amends for his want of singularity.

At two in the afternoon, I found myself one of ten masters seated at table; and I questioned if the whole kingdom could produce such another assemblage of originals. Among their peculiarities, I do not mention those of drefs, which may be purely accidental. What struck me were oddities originally produced by affection, and afterwards confirmed by habit. One of them wore spectacles at dinner, and another his hat flapped; though (as Ivy told me) the first was noted for having a seaman’s eye, when a bailiff was in the wind; and the other was never known to labour under any weakness or defect of vision, except about five years ago, when he was complimented with a couple of black eyes by a player, with whom he had quarrelled in his drink. A third wore a laced stocking, and made use of crutches, because, once in his life, he had been laid up with a broken leg, though no man could leap over a stick with more agility. A fourth had contracted such an antipathy to the country, that he inflicted upon sitting with his back towards the window that looked into the garden; and when a dish of cauliflower was set upon the table, he stuffed up volatile faults to keep him from fainting; yet this delicate person was the son of a cottager, born under a hedge, and had many years run wild among affes on a common. A fifth affected distraction: when he spoke to, he always answered from the purpose. Sometimes he suddenly started up, and rapped out a dreadful oath; sometimes he burst out a laughing; then he folded his arms, and sighed; and then he hissed like fifty serpents.

At first, I really thought he was mad; and, as he sat near me, began to be under some apprehensions for my own safety; when our landlord, perceiving me alarmed, assured me aloud that I had nothing to fear. ‘The gentleman,’ said he, ‘is trying to act a part, for which he is by no means qualified: if he had all the inclination in the world, it is not in his power to be mad; his spirits are too flat to be kindled into phrenzy.’—It is no bad p-p-puff, how-ow-ever, observed a person in a tarnished laced coat: ‘affected in-madness w-will p-pal for w-wit w-with nine-ninet-teen out of t-twenty.’—‘And affected fluttering for humour,’ replied our landlord; ‘though, God knows! there is no affinity betwixt them.’ It seems, this wag, after having made some abortive attempts in plain speaking, had recourse to this defect, by means of which he frequently exposed the laugh of the company, without the least expense of genius; and that imperfection, which he had at first counterfeited, was now become habitual, that he could not lay it aside.

A certain winking genius, who wore yellow gloves at dinner, had, on his first introduction, taken such offence at S——, because he looked and talked, and ate and drank like any other man, that he spoke contemptuously of his understanding ever after, and never would repeat his visit, until he had exhibited the following proof of his caprice. Wat Wyvil, the poet, having made some unprofitable advances towards an intimacy with S——, at last gave him to understand, by a third person, that he had written a poem in his praise, and a satire against his person; that if he would admit him to his house, the first should be immediately sent to press; but that if he persisted in declining his friendship, he would publish the satire without delay. S—— replied, that he looked upon Wyvil’s panegyrick as, in effect, a species of infamy, and would resent it accordingly with a good cudgel; but if he published the satire, he might deserve his compassion, and had nothing to fear from his revenge. Wyvil having considered the alternative, resolved to mortify S—— by printing the panegyrick, for which he received a round drubbing. Then he swore the peace against the aggressor, who, in order to avoid a prosecution at law, admitted him to his good graces. It was the singularity in S——’s conduct on this occasion, that reconciled him to the yellow-gloved philosopher, who owned he had some genius; and from that period cultivated his acquaintance.

Curious to know upon what subjects the several-talents of my fellow-guests were employed, I applied to my communicative friend, Dick Ivy, who gave me to understand, that most of them were, or had been, understrappers, or journeymen, to more creditable authors, for whom they translated, collated, and compiled, in the business of book-making; and that all of them had, at different times, laboured in the service of our landlord,
though they had now set up for themselves in various departments of literature. Not only their talents, but also their nations and dialects, were so various, that our conversation resembled the confusion of tongues at Babel. We had the Irish brogue, the Scotch accent, and foreign idiom, twanged off by the most discordant vociferation; for, as they all spoke together, no man had any chance to be heard, unless he could bawl louder than his fellows. It must be owned, however, there was nothing pedantic in their discourse; they carefully avoided all learned disquisitions, and endeavoured to be facetious: nor did their endeavours always miscarry; some droll repartee passed, and much laughter was excited; and if any individual loft his temper so far as to transgress the bounds of decorum, he was effectually checked by the master of the feast, who exerted a sort of paternal authority over this irritable tribe.

The most learned philosopher of the whole collection, who had been expelled the university for atheism, has made great progress in refutation of Lord Bolingbroke's metaphysical works, which is said to be equally ingenious and orthodox: but, in the mean time, he has been presented to the grand jury as a publick nuisance, for having blasphemed in an alehouse on the Lord's day. The Scotchman gives lectures on the pronunciation of the English language, which he is now publishing by subscription.

The Irishman is a political writer, and goes by the name of My Lord Potatoes. He wrote a pamphlet in vindication of a minister, hoping his zeal would be rewarded with some place or pension; but finding himself neglected in that quarter, he whispered about that the pamphlet was written by the minister himself, and he published an answer to his own production. In this he addressed the author under the title of your lordship with such solemnity, that the publick swallowed the deceit, and bought up the whole imprefion. The wise politicians of the metropolis declared they were both masterly performances, and chuckled over the flimsy reveries of an ignorant garrettter, as the profound speculations of a veteran statesman, acquainted with all the secrets of the cabinet. The imposture was detected in the sequel, and our Hibernian pamphleteer retains no part of his assumed importance but the bare title of my lord, and the upper part of the table at the potatoe-ordinary in Shoe Lane.

Opposite to me sat a Piedmontese, who had obliged the publick with a humorous satire, intituled — 'The Balance of the English Poets,' a performance which evinced the great modesty and taste of the author, and, in particular, his intimacy with the elegancies of the English language. The sage, who laboured under the aepopologia, or horror of green fields, had just finished a treatise on practical agriculture, though, in fact, he had never seen corn growing in his life, and was so ignorant of grain, that our enter-tainer, in the face of the whole company, made him own that a plate of hominy was the best rice-pudding he had ever eat.

The stutterer had almost finished his travels through Europe and part of Asia, without ever budging beyond the liberties of the King's Bench, except in term-time, with a tip-staff for his companion; and as for little Tim Cropdale, the most facetious member of the whole society, he had happily wound up the catastrophe of a virgin tragedy, from the exhibition of which he promised himself a large fund of profit and reputation. Tim had made shift to live many years by writing novels, at the rate of five pounds a volume; but that branch of business is now engrossed by female authors, who publish merely for the propagation of virtue, with so much ease and spirit, and delicacy, and knowledge of the human heart, and all in the serene tranquillity of high life, that the reader is not only enchanted by their genius, but reformed by their morality.

After dinner, we adjourned into the garden, where I observed Mr. S— gave a short separate audience to every individual in a small remote half-way, from whence most of them dropped off one after another, without further ceremony; but they were replaced by fresh recruits of the same clan, who came to make an afternoon's visit; and, among others, a spruce bookseller, called Birkin, who rode his own gelding, and made his appearance in a pair of new jemmy boots, with taffy spurs of plate. It was not without reason that this midwife of the Mufes used exercise on horseback, for he was too fat to walk on foot, and he underwent some sacrifices from Tim Cropdale, on his unwieldy size and inaptitude for motion. Birkin, who took umbrage at this poor author's petulance in prefumin-
ing to joke upon a man so much richer than himself, told him he was not so unwieldy but that he could move the Marshallsea court for a writ, and even overtake him with it, if he did not very speedily come and settle accounts with him, respecting the expense of publishing his last Ode to the King of Prussia, of which he had field but three, and one of them was to Whitefield the Methodist. Tim affected to receive this intimation with good humour, saying he expected in a poit or two, from Potflam, a poem of thanks from his Prussian majesty, who knew very well how to pay poets in their own coin; but, in the mean time, he proposed that Mr. Birkin and he should run three times round the garden for a bowl of punch, to be drank at Ashley's in the evening, and he would run boots against stockings. The bookseller, who valued himself upon his mettle, was persuaded to accept the challenge; and he forthwith resigned his boots to Cropdale; who, when he had put them on, was no bad representation of Captain Piftoil in the play.

Every thing being adjusted, they started together with great impetuosity, and, in the second round, Birkin had clearly the advantage, larding the lean earth as he puffed along. Cropdale had no mind to contest the victory farther; but, in a twinkling disappeared through the back-door of the garden, which opened into a private lane that had communication with the high road. The spectators immediately began to hollow— Stele away!— and Birkin set off in pursuit of him with great eagerness; but he had not advanced twenty yards in the lane, when a thorn running into his foot, sent him hopping back into the garden, roaring with pain, and swearing with vexation. When he was delivered from this annoyance by the Scotchman, who had been bred to surgery, he looked about him, wildly exclaiming— Sure the fellow will not be such a rogue as to run clear away with my boots! Our landlord having reconnoitered the shoes he had left, which indeed hardly deserved that name— Pray, said he, Mr. Birkin, were not your boots made of calf-skin?—Calf-skin or cow-skin, replied the other, I will find a slip of sheep-skin that will do his buffins. I loot twenty pounds by his farce, which you persuaded me to buy. I am out of pocket five pounds by his damned odes; and now this pair of boots, bran new, cost me thirty shillings, as per receipt. But this affair of the boots is felony, transportation. I will have the dog indicted at the Old Bailey; I will, Mr. S—. I will be revenged, even though I should lose my debt in consequence of his conviction.'

Mr. S— said nothing at present, but accommodated him with a pair of shoes; then ordered his servant to rub him down, and comfort him with a glafs of rum-punch, which seemed in a great measure to cool the rage of his indignation. Af- ter all, said our landlord, this is no more than a humbug in the way of wit, though it deferves a more respectable epithet, when considered as an effort of invention. Tim being, I suppose, out of credit with the cordwainer, fell upon this ingenious expedient to supply the want of shoes, knowing that Mr. Bir- kin, who loves humour, would him- self relish the joke upon a little recol- lection. Cropdale literally lives by his wit, which he has exercised upon all his friends in their turns. He once borrowed my poney for five or six days to go to Salisbury, and told him in Smith- field at his return. This was a joke of such a serious nature, that, in the first transports of my passion, I had some thoughts of pro-cutting him for horse-feeding; and even when my re- sentment had in some measure subsided, as he indifferently avoided me, I vowed I would take satisfaction on his ribs with the first opportunity. One day, seeing him at some distance in the street coming towards me, I began to prepare my cane for action, and walked in the shadow of a porter, that he might not perceive me soon enough to make his escape; but, in the very instant I had lifted up the instrument of correction, I found Tim Cropdale metamorphosed into a miserable blind wretch feeling his way with a long fick from poft to poft, and rolling about two bald un- lighted orbs instead of eyes. I was ex- ceedingly shocked at having so narrowly escaped the concern and disgrace that would have attended such a mis- application of vengeance: but next day Tim prevailed upon a friend of mine to come and solicit my forgive- 

ments, and offer his note, payable in six weeks, for the price of the poney. This gentleman gave me to understand, that the blind man was no other than Crop- 
dale; who, having seen me advancing,
and guessing my intent, had immediately converted himself into the object aforesaid. I was so diverted at the ingenuity of the evason; that I agreed to pardon his offence; refusing his note however, that I might keep the prosecution for felony hanging over his head, as a security for his future good behaviour. But Timothy would by no means trust himself in my hands till the note was accepted; then he made his appearance at my door as a blind beggar, and imposed in such a manner upon my man, who had been his old acquaintance and pot-companion, that the fellow threw the door in his face, and even threatened to give him the bastinado. Hearing a noise in the hall, I went thither, and immediately recollecting the figure I had passed in the street, accosted him by his own name, to the unspreakable astonishment of the footman.

Birkitt declared he loved a joke as well as another; but asked if any of the company could tell where Mr. Cropdale lodged, that he might send him a propos- al about restitution, before the boots should be made away with. 'I would willingly give him a pair of new shoes,' said he, and half a guinea into the bar- gain, for the boots, which fitted me like a glove; and I shall not be able to get the fellow of them till the good weather for riding is over.' The flatter- izing wit declared, that the only secret which Cropdale ever kept, was the place of his lodgings; but he believed that, during the heats of summer, he commonly took his repose upon a bulk, or indulge himself, in fresco, with one of the kennel-nymphs, under the portico of St. Martin's church. 'Pox on him,' cried the bookseller, 'he might as well have taken my whip and spurs; in that case, he might have been tempted to steal another horse, and then he would have rid to the devil of course.'

After coffee, I took my leave of Mr. S——, with proper acknowledgments of his civility, and was extremely well pleased with the entertainment of the day, though not yet satisfied, with respect to the nature of this connection, betwixt a man of character in the literary world, and a parcel of authorlings, who, in all probability, would never be able to acquire any degree of reputation by their labours. On this head I interrogated my conductor, Dick Ivy, who answered me to this effect: 'One would imagine S—— had some view to his own interest in giving countenance and assistance to those people, whom he knows to be bad men, as well as bad writers: but, if he has any such view, he will find himself disappointed; for if he is so vain as to imagine he can make them subservient to his schemes of profit or ambition, they are cunning enough to make them their property in the mean time. There is not one of the compa- ny you have seen to-day, myself excepted, who does not owe him particu- lar obligations. One of them he bailed out of a japping house, and afterwards paid the debt; another he translated into his family, and cloathed, when he was turned out half naked from jail, in consequence of an act for the relief of insolvent debtors; a third, who was reduced to a woollen night-cap, and lived upon sheep's trotters up three pair ofstairs backward in Butcher Row, he took into present pay and free quar- ters, and enabled him to appear as a gentleman, without having the fear of sheriffs officers before his eyes. Those who are in difficulties he supplies with mo- ney when he has it, and with his credit when he is out of cash. When they want busines, he either finds employ- ment for them in his own service, or recommends them to book-sellers, to execute some project he has formed for their subsistence. They are always welcome to his table, (which, though plain, is plentiful) and to his good offices, as far as they will go; and, when they see occasion, they make use of his name with the most petulant fa- miliarity; nay, they do not even scruple to arrogate to themselves the merit of some of his performances, and have been known to sell their own lubrac- tions as the produce of his brain. The Scotchman you saw at dinner once per- sonated him at an alehouse in West Smithfield, and, in the character of S——, had his head broke by a cow- keeper, for having spoke disrespectfully of the Christian religion; but he took the law of him in his own person, and the affiant was fain to give him ten pounds to withdraw his action.'

I observed, that all this appearance of liberality on the side of Mr. S—— was easily accounted for, on the supposition that they flattered him in private, and en- gaged his adversaries in publick; and yet I was
I was astonished when I recollected that I had often seen this writer virulently abused in papers, poems, and pamphlets, and not a pen was drawn in his defence.

But you will be more astonished," said he, "when I assure you those very guests whom you saw at his table to-day were the authors of great part of that abuse; and he himself is well aware of their particular favours, for they are all eager to detect and betray one another."

But this is doing the devil's work for nothing," cried I. "What should induce them to revile their benefactor without provocation?" Envy, answered Dick, "is the general incitement.

But they are called by an additional scourge of provocation: S—- directs a literary journal, in which their productions are necessarily brought to trial; and though many of them have been treated with such lenity, and favour as they little deserved, yet the slightest censure, such as perhaps could not be avoided with any pretensions to candour and impartiality, has rankled in the hearts of those authors to such a degree, that they have taken immediate vengeance on the critic in anonymous libels, letters, and lampoons. Indeed, all the writers of the age, good, bad, and indifferent, from the moment he assumed this office, became his enemies, either professed, or in petto, except those of his friends who knew they had nothing to fear from his criticisms; and he must be a wiser man than me, who can tell what advantage or satisfaction he derives from having brought such a nest of hornets about his ears."

I owned that was a point which might deserve consideration; but still I expressed a desire to know his real motives for continuing his friendship to a set of rascals equally ungrateful and insignificant. He said he did not pretend to afflign any reasonable motive; that, if the truth must be told, the man was, in point of conduct, a most incorrigible fool; that, though he pretended to have a knack at hitting off characters, he blundered strangely in the distribution of his favours, which were generally bestowed on the most undeserving of those who had recourse to his assistance; that, indeed, this preference was not so much owing to a want of discernment as to want of resolution, for he had not fortitude enough to renounce the importance even of the most worthless; and, as he did not know the value of money, there was very little merit in parting with it so easily; that his pride was gratified in seeing himself courted by such a number of literary dependants; that, probably, he delighted in hearing them expose and traduce one another; and, finally, from their information, he became acquainted with all the transactions of Grub Street, which he had some thoughts of compiling, for the entertainment of the public.

I could not help suspecting, from Dick's discourse, that he had some particular grudge against S—-, upon whose conduct he had put the worst construction it would bear; and, by dint of cross-examination, I found he was not at all satisfied with the character which had been given in the review of his last performance, though it had been treated civilly, in consequence of the author's application to the critic. By all accounts, S—- is not without weak spots and caprice; but he is certainly good-humoured and civilized; nor do I find that there is anything overbearing, cruel, or implacable, in his disposition.

I have dwelt so long upon authors, that you will perhaps suspect I intend to enrol myself among the fraternity; but, if I were actually qualified for the profession, it is at best but a desperate resource against starving, as it affords no provision for old age and infirmity. Salmon, at the age of fourscore, is now in a garret, compiling matter, at a guinea a sheet, for a modern historian, who, in point of age, might be his grandchild; and Pfalmonazar, after having drugged half a century in the literary mill, in all the simplicity and abstinence of an Asiatick, subsists upon the charity of a few book-sellers, just sufficient to keep him from the parish. I think Guy, who was himself a bookseller, ought to have appropriated one wing or ward of his hospital to the use of decayed authors; though, indeed, there is neither hospital, college, nor workhouse, within the bills of mortality, large enough to contain the poor of this society, composed, as it is, from the refuse of every other profession.

I know not whether you will find any amelioration in this account of an odd race of mortals, whose constitution had, I own, greatly interested the curiosity of yours,

J. Melford.

London, June 10.
There is something on my spirits which I should not venture to communicate by the post, but having the opportunity of Mrs. Brentwood's return, I seize it eagerly to disburden my poor heart, which is oppressed with fear and vexation. O Letty! what a miserable situation it is to be without a friend to whom one can apply for counsel and consolation in distress! I hinted in my last that one Mr. Barton had been very particular in his civilities: I can no longer mistake his meaning; he has formally professed himself my admirer; and, after a thousand affinities, perceiving I made but a cold return to his addresses, he had recourse to the mediation of Lady Griffin, who has acted the part of a very warm advocate in his behalf. But, my dear Willis, her ladyship over acts her part; she not only expatiates on the ample fortune, the great connections, and the unblemished character of Mr. Barton, but she takes the trouble to catechize me; and, two days ago, peremptorily told me, that a girl of my age could not possibly refuse so many considerations, if her heart was not pre-engaged.

This infatuation threw me into such a flutter, that she could not but observe my disorder; and, presuming upon the discovery, inferred upon making her the confidante of my passion. But, although I had not such command of myself as to conceal the emotion of my heart, I am not such a child as to disclose it's secrets to a person who would certainly use them to it's prejudice. I told her it was no wonder if I was out of countenance at her introducing a subject of conversation so unfitting to my years and inexperience; that I believed Mr. Barton was a very worthy gentleman, and I was much obliged to him for his good opinion; but the affections were involuntary, and mine, in particular, had as yet made no concessions in his favour. She shook her head with an air of distress that made me tremble; and observed, that, if my affections were free, they would submit to the decision of prudence, especially when enforced by the authority of those who had a right to direct my conduct. This remark implied a design to interest my uncle or my aunt, perhaps my brother, in behalf of Mr. Barton's passion; and I am badly afraid that my aunt is already gained over. Yesterday in the forenoon he had been walking with us in the Park, and stopping in our return at a toy-shop, he presented her with a very fine snuff-box, and me with a gold earring, which I reluctantly refuse, till he commanded me to accept it on pain of her displeasure: nevertheless, being still unfurnished with respect to the propriety of receiving this toy, I signified my doubts to my brother, who said he would consult my uncle on the subject, and seemed to think Mr. Barton had been rather premature in his presents.

What will be the result of this consultation, Heaven knows; but I am afraid it will produce an explanation with Mr. Barton; who will, no doubt, avow his passion, and solicit their consent to a connection which my soul abhors; for, my dearest Letty, it is not in my power to love Mr. Barton, even if my heart was untouched by any other tenderer. Not that there is any thing disagreeable about his person, but there is a total want of that nameless charm which captivates and controls the enchanted spirit; at least, he appears to me to have this defect; but if he had all the engaging qualifications which a man can possess, they would be excited in vain against that constancy, which, I flatter myself, is the characteristic of my nature. No, my dear Willis, I may be involved in fresh troubles, and I believe I shall, from the importunities of this gentleman, and the violence of my relations; but my heart is incapable of change.

You know I put no faith in dreams, and yet I have been much disturbed by one that visited me last night. I thought I was in a church, where a certain person whom you know was on the point of being married to my aunt; that the clergyman was Mr. Barton; and that poor forlorn I stood weeping in a corner, half naked, and without shoes or stockings. Now I know there is nothing so childish as to be moved by these vain illusions; but, nevertheless, in spite of all my reason, this hath made a strong impression upon my mind, which begins to be very gloomy. Indeed, I have another more substantial cause of affliction; I have some religious scruples, my dear friend, which lie heavy on my conscience. I was persuaded to go to the Tabernacle, where I heard a discourse that affected
me deeply. I have prayed fervently to be enlightened; but as yet I am not sensible of those inward motions, those operations of grace, which are the signs of a regenerated spirit; and therefore I begin to be in terrible apprehensions about the fate of my poor soul. Some of our family have had very uncommon accessions, particularly my aunt and Mrs. Jenkins, who sometimes speak as if they were really inspired; so that I am not like to wait for either exhortation or example, to purify my thoughts, and recall them from the vanities of this world, which indeed I would willingly resign, if it was in my power; but to make this sacrifice, I must be enabled by fixed affinities from above as hath not yet been indulged to your unfortunate friend.

LYDIA MELFORD.

JUNE 10.

TO SIR WATKIN PHILLIPS, OF JESUS COLLEGE, OXON.

DEAR PHILLIPS,

THE moment I received your letter I began to execute your commission. With the assent of mine host at the Bull and Gate, I discovered the place to which your fugitive valet had retreated, and taxed him with his dishonesty. The fellow was in manifest confusion at sight of me, but he denied the charge with great confidence, till I told him, that if he would give up the watch, which was a family piece, he might keep the money and the cloths, and go to the devil his own way at his leisure; but if he rejected this proposal, I would deliver him forthwith to the constable, whom I had provided for that purpose, and he would carry him before the justice without farther delay. After some hesitation, he desired to speak with me in the next room, where he produced the watch with all its appendages, and I have delivered it to our landlord, to be sent you by the first safe conveyance. So much for business.

I shall grow vain, upon your saying you find entertainment in my letters; but, as they certainly are, of incident and importance, because your amusements must arise, not from the matter, but from the manner, which you know is all my own. Animated, therefore, by the approbation of a person whose nice taste and conformation judgment I can no longer doubt, I will cheerfully proceed with our memoirs.

As it is determined we shall set out next week for Yorkshire, I went to-day in the afternoon with my uncle to see a carriage, belonging to a coach-maker in our neighbourhood. Turning down a narrow lane behind Long Acre, we perceived a crowd of people standing at a door; which, it seems, opened into a kind of a methodist meeting, and were informed, that a footman was then holding forth to the congregation within. Curious to see this phenomenon, we squeezed into the place with much difficulty; and who should this preacher be, but the identical Humphry Clinker. He had finished his sermon, and given out a psalm, the first stave of which he sung with peculiar graces. But if we were astonished to see Clinker in the pulpit, we were altogether confounded at finding all the females of our family among the audience. There was Lady Gritkin, Mrs. Tabitha Bramble, Mrs. Winifred Jenkins, my sister Liddy, and Mr. Barton, and all of them joined in the psalmody, with strong marks of devotion.

I could hardly keep my gravity on this ludicrous occasion; but old Squares were differently affected. The first thing that struck him, was the presumption of his lacquey, whom he commanded to come down, with such an air of authority as Humphry did not think proper to disregard. He descended immediately, and all the people were in commotion. Barton looked exceedingly sheepish, Lady Gritkin skirted her fan, Mrs. Tabby groaned in spirit, Liddy changed countenance, and Mrs. Jenkins fuddled as if her heart was breaking. My uncle, with a sneer, asked pardon of the ladies, for having interrupted their devotion, saying, he had particular business with the preacher, whom he desired to call a hackney-coach. This being immediately brought up to the end of the lane, he handed Liddy into it, and my aunt and I following him, we drove home, without taking any farther notice of the rest of the company, who still remained in silent astonishment.

Mr. Bramble, perceiving Liddy in great trepidation, assumed a milder aspect, bidding her be under no concern, for he was not at all displeased at anything she had done. 'I have no objection,' said he, to your being religiously inclined; but I do not think my servant is a proper ghostly director, for a devotee of your sex and character: if, in fact (as I rather believe) your aunt is not the sole conductor of this machine.' Mrs. Tabitha made no answer, but threw up the
the whites of her eyes, as if in the act of excalulation. Poor Liddy said she had no right to the title of a devotee; that the thought there was no harm in hearing a pious discourse; even if it came from a foolman, especially as her aunt was present; but that if she had cried from ignorance, she hoped he would excuse it, as she could not hear the thoughts of living under his displeasure. The old gentleman, prizzling her hand with a tender smile, said she was a good girl, and that he did not believe her capable of doing anything that could give him the least umbrage or disgust.

When we arrived at our lodgings, he commanded Mr. Clinker to attend him up stairs, and spoke to him in these words: "Since you are called upon by the spirit to preach and to teach, it is high time to lay aside the livery of an earthly master; and, for my part, I am unworthy to have an apostle in my service."—"I hope," said Humphry, "I have not failed in my duty to your honour. I should be a vile wretch if I did, considering the misery from which your charity and compassion relieved me. But having an inward admonition of the spirit—An admonition of the devil! cried the squire, in a passion. What admonition, you blockhead? What right has such a fellow as you to set up for a reformer?"—"Begging your honour’s pardon," replied Clinker, "may not the new light of God’s grace shine upon the poor and the ignorant in their humility, as well as upon the wealthy, and the philosopher in all his pride of human learning?"—"What you imagine to be the new light of grace," said his master, "I take to be deceitful vapour; glimmering through a crack in your upper story. In a word, Mr. Clinker, I will have no light in my family but what pays the king’s taxes, unless it be the light of reason, which you do not pretend to follow."

"Ah, Sir!" cried Humphry, "the light of reason is no more in comparison to the light I mean, than a farthing candle to the sun at noon."—"Very true," said uncle, "the one will serve to show you your way, and the other to dazzle and confound your weak brain. Hanky, Clinker, you are either an hypocritical knave, or a wrong-headed enthusiast; and, in either case, unfit for my service. If you are a quack in fanaticity and devotion, you will find it an evil matter to impose upon silly women, and others of crazed understanding, who will contribute lavishly for your support. If you are really induced by the reveries of a disturbed imagination, the sooner you lose your senses entirely, the better for yourself and the community. In that case, some charitable person might provide you with a dark room and clean straw in Bedlam, where it would not be in your power to infect others with your fanaticism: whereas, if you have just reflection enough left to maintain the character of a chosen vessel in the meetings of the godly, you and your hearers will be blessed with a Will? the wisest, from ecceerror into another, till you are plunged into religious frenzy; and then, perhaps, you will hang yourself in despair."—"Which the Lord of his infinite mercy forbid!" exclaimed the affrighted Clinker. "It is very possible I may be under the temptation of the devil, who wants to wreck me on the rocks of spiritual pride. Your honour, I am either a knave or a madman; now, as I allude your honour, I am no knave, it follows that I must be mad; therefore, I believe your honour, upon my knees, to take my café into consideration, that means may be used for my recovery."

The squire could not help smiling at the poor fellow’s simplicity, and promised to take care of him provided he would mind the business of his place, without running after the new-light of methodism: but Mrs. Tabitha took offence at his humility, which she interpreted into poverty of spirit and worldly mindedness. She upbraided him with the want of courage to suffer for conscience sake. She observed, that if he should lose his place for bearing testimony to the truth, Providence would not fail to find him another, perhaps more advantageous; and, declaring that it could not be very agreeable to live in a family where an inquisition was established, retired to another room in great agitation.

My uncle followed her with a significant look; then, turning to the preacher—"You hear what my sister says. If you cannot live with me upon such terms as I have preferred, the vineyard of methodism lies before you, and the fields are very well disposed to reward your labours."—"I would not willingly give offence to any foul upon earth," answered Humphry; "her ladyship has been very good."
good to me, ever since we came to London; and surely she has a heart turned for religious exercises; and both she and Lady Grilkin sing psalms and hymns like two cherubims. But, at the same time, I'm bound to love and obey your honour. It becometh not such a poor ignorant fellow as me, to hold dispute with gentlemen of rank and learning. As for the matter of knowledge, I am no more than a beast in comparison of your honour; therefore I submit; and, with God's grace, I will follow you to the world's end, if you don't think me too far gone to be out of confinement.

His master promised to keep him for some time longer on trial; then desired to know in what manner Lady Grilkin and Mr. Barton came to join their religious society. He told him that her ladyship was the person who first carried my aunt and sister to the Tabernacle, whither he attended them, and had his devotionkindled by Mr. W——'s preaching; that he was confirmed in this new way by the preacher's sermons, which he had bought and studied with great attention; that his discourse and prayers had brought over Mrs. Jenkins and the house-maid to the same way of thinking; but as for Mr. Barton, he had never seen him at service before this day, when he came in company with Lady Grilkin. Humphry, moreover, owned that he had been encouraged to mount the rostrum by the example and success of a weaver, who was much followed as a powerful minister; that on his first trial, he found himself under such strong impulslons, as made him believe he was certainly moved by the spirit; and that he had assisted in Lady Grilkin's, and several private houses, at exercises of devotion.

Mr. Bramble was no sooner informed that her ladyship had acted as the primum mobile of this confederacy, than he concluded the had only made use of Clinker as a tool, subfervient to the execution of some design, to the true secret of which he was an utter stranger. He observed, that her ladyship's brain was a perfect mill for projects; and that she and Tabby had certainly engaged in some secret treaty, the nature of which he could not comprehend. I told him I thought it was no difficult matter to perceive the drift of Mrs. Tabitha, which was to enflame the heart of Barton, and that in all likelihood my Lady Grilkin acted as her auxiliary; that this supposition would account for their endeavours to convert him to methodism; an event which would occasion a connexion of souls that might be easily improved into a matrimonial union.

My uncle seemed to be much diverted by the thoughts of this scheme's succeeding; but I gave him to understand that Barton was pre-engaged: that he had the day before made a present of an etuis to Liddy; which her aunt had obliged her to receive, with a view, no doubt, to countenance her own accepting of a snuff-box at the same time; that my sister having made me acquainted with this incident, I had defined an explanation of Mr. Barton, who declared his intentions were honourable, and expressed his hope that I would have no objections to his alliance; that I had thanked him for the honour he intended our family; but told him, it would be unnecessary to consult her uncle and aunt, who were her guardians; and their approbation being obtained, I could have no objection to his proposal; though I was persuaded that no violence would be offered to my sister's inclinations, in a translation that so nearly interested the happiness of her future life: that he had assured me, he should never think of availing himself of a guardian's authority, unless he could render his addresses agreeable to the young lady herself; and that he would immediately demand permission of Mr. and Mrs. Bramble, to make Liddy a tender of his hand and fortune.

The inquiry was not insensible to the advantages of such a match, and declared he would promote it with all his influence; but when I took notice that there seemed to be an aversion on the side of Liddy, he said he would found her on the subject, and if her reluctance was such as would not be easily overcome, he would civilly decline the proposal of Mr. Barton; for, he thought that, in the choice of a husband, a young woman ought not to sacrifice the feelings of her heart for any consideration upon earth. Liddy is 'not to deprecate,' said he, 'as to work ship fortune at such an expense.' I take it for granted, this whole affair will end in smoke; though there seems to be a florid brewing in the quarter of Mrs. Tabby, who sat with all the fullest dignity of silence at dinner, seemingly pregnant with complaint and expostulation. As she hath certainly marked Barton for her own prey, she cannot possibly favour
his suit to Liddy; and therefore I expect something extraordinary will attend his declaring himself my sister's admirer. This declaration will certainly be made in form, as soon as the lover can pick up resolution enough to stand the brunt of Mrs. Tabby's disappointment; for he, without doubt, aware of her designs upon his person. The particulars of the denouement you shall know in due season; mean while I am always yours,

J. MELFORD.

LONDON, JUNE 10.

TO DR. LEWIS.

DEAR LEWIS,

The deceitful calm was of short duration. I am plunged again in a sea of vexation, and the complaints in my stomach and bowels are returned; so that I suppose I shall be disabled from prosecuting the excursion I had planned. What the devil had I to do, to come a plague-hunting with a leath of females in my train? Yesterday my precious sister (who, by the bye, has been for some time a professed methodist) came into my apartment, attended by Mr. Barton, and desired an audience with a very flatey air. Brother,' said she, 'this gentleman has something to propose, which I flatter myself, will be the more acceptable, as it will rid you of a troublesome companion.' Then Mr. Barton proceeded to this effect: 'I am, indeed, extremely ambitious of being allied to your family, Mr. Bramble; and I hope you will see no cause to interpose your authority.'—'As for authority,' said Tabby, interrupting him with some warmth, 'I know of none that he has a right to use on this occasion. If I pay him the compliment of making him acquainted with the step I intend to take, it is all he can expect in reason. This is as much as I believe he would do by me, if he intended to change his own situation in life.—In a word, brother, I am too sensible of Mr. Barton's extraordinary merit, that I have been prevailed upon to alter my resolution of living a single life, and to put my happiness in his hands; by telling him with a legal title to my person and fortune, such as they are. The business at present, is to have the writings drawn; and I shall be obliged to you, if you will recommend a lawyer to me for that purpose.'

You may guess what an effect this overtune had upon me; who, from the information of my nephew, expected that Barton was to make a formal declaration of his passion for Liddy. I could not help gazing in silent astonishment, alternately at Tabby, and her suppos'd admirer; which last hung his head in the most awkward confusion for a few minutes, and then retired, on pretence of being suddenly seized with a vertigo. Mrs. Tabitha affected much concern, and would have had him make use of a bed in the house; but he insisted on going home, that he might have recourse to some drops which he kept for such emergencies; and his inanorata acquiesced. In the mean time, I was exceedingly puzzled at this adventure, (though I suspected the truth) and did not know in what manner to demean myself towards Mrs. Tabitha; when Jerry came in and told me, he had just seen Mr. Barton alight from his chariot at Lady Griskin's door. This incident seemed to threaten a visit from her ladyship; with which we were honoured accordingly, in less than half an hour. 'I find,' said she, 'there has been a match of crofs-purposes among you, good folks; and I am come to let you to rights.' So saying, she presented me with the following billet.

DEAR SIR,

I no sooner recollected myself from the extreme confusion I was thrown into by that unlucky mistake of your sister, than I thought it my duty to assure you, that my devotions to Mrs. Bramble never exceeded the bounds of ordinary civility; and that my heart is unalterably fixed upon Miss Liddy Melford, as I had the honour to declare to her brother when he questioned me upon that subject. Lady Griskin has been so good as to charge herself, not only with the delivery of this note, but also with the task of undeceiving Mrs. Bramble, for whom I have the most profound respect and veneration, though my affection being otherwise engaged, is no longer in the power of Sir, your very humble servant,

RALPH BARTON.
HUMPHRY CLINKER.

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Having cast my eyes over this billet, I told her ladyship that I would no longer retard the friendly office she had undertaken; and I and Jerry forthwith retired into another room. There we soon perceived the conversation grow very warm between the two ladies; and, at length, could distinctly hear certain terms of altercation, which we could no longer delay interrupting, with any regard to decorum. When we entered the scene of contention, we found Liddy had joined the disputants, and stood trembling between them, as if she had been afraid they would have proceeded to something more practical than words. Lady Grifkin's face was like the full-moon in a storm of wind, glaring, fiery, and portentous; while Tabby looked grim and ghastly, with an aspect breathing discord and dulness. Our appearance put a stop to their mutual revilings: but her ladyship turning to me—"Cousin, said she, 'I cannot help saying I have met with a very ungrateful return from this lady, for the pains I have taken to serve her family. My family is much obliged to your ladyship,' cried Tabby, with a kind of hysterical giggle; 'but we have no right to the good offices of such an honourable go-between.'—But, for all that, good Mrs. Tabitha Bramble, refused the other, 'I shall be content with the reflection, that virtue is its own reward; and it shall not be my fault if you continue to make yourself ridiculous.'—Mr. Bramble, who has no little interest of his own to serve, will, no doubt, contribute all in his power to promote a match between Mr. Barton and his niece, which will be equally honourable and advantageous—and, I dare say, Miss Liddy herself will have no objection to a measure so well calculated to make her happy in life.'—'I beg your ladyship's pardon,' exclaimed Liddy, with great vivacity; 'I have nothing but misery to expect from such a measure; and I hope my guardians will have too much compassion, to barter my peace of mind for any consideration of interest or fortune.'—'Upon my word, Miss Liddy!' said she, 'you have profited by the example of your good aunt. I comprehend your meaning, and will explain it when I have a proper opportunity. In the mean time, I shall take my leave.—Madam, your most obedient and devoted humble servant,' said she, advancing close up to my father, and curtseying so low, that I thought she intended to squat herself down on the floor. This falutation Tabby returned with equal solemnity; and the expression of the two faces, while they continued in this attitude, would be no bad subject for a pencil like that of the incomparable Hogarth, if any such should ever appear again in these times of dulness and degeneracy.

Jerry accompanied her ladyship to her house, that he might have an opportunity to restore the etuis to Barton, and advise him to give up his fuir, which was so disagreeable to his litter; against whom, however, he returned much irritated. Lady Grifkin had assured him that Liddy's heart was pre-occupied; and immediately the idea of Wilton recurring to his imagination, his family-pride took the alarm: he denounced vengeance against that adventurer, and was disposed to be very peremptory with his litter; but I desisted he would suppress his resentment, until I should have talked with her in private.

The poor girl, when I earnestly pressed her on this head, owned, with a flood of tears, that Wilton had actually come to the Hot-Well at Bristol, and even introduced himself into our lodgings as a Jew pedlar; but that nothing had passed between them, farther than her begging him to withdraw immediately, if he had any regard for her peace of mind; that he had disappeared accordingly, after having attempted to prevail upon his father's maid to deliver a letter; which, however, she refused to receive, though she had contented to carry a message, importing that he was a gentleman of a good family; and that, in a very little time, he would avow his passion in that character. She confessed, that although he had not kept his word in this particular, he was not yet altogether indifferent to her affection; but solemnly promised she would never carry on any correspondence with him, or any other admirer, for the future, without the pri

By this declaration, she made her own peace with Jerry; but the hot-headed boy is more than ever incensed against Wilton, whom he now considers as an impostor, that harbours some infamous design upon the honour of his family. As for Barton, he was not a little mortified.
tified to find his present returned, and the confusion into which we may suffer a poor country lad to be thrown on such an occasion. I am still persuaded he is innocent; and, in this persuasion, I can do no less than use my utmost endeavours that he may not be oppressed. I shall, to-morrow, send my nephew to wait on the gentleman who was robbed, and beg he will have the humanity to go and see the prisoner; that, in case he should find him quite different from the person of the highwayman, he may bear testimony in his behalf. However it may fare with Clinker, this cursed affair will be to me productive of intolerable chagrin. I have already caught a dreadful cold, by rushing into the open air from the justice's parlour, where I had beenewing in the crowd; and though I should not be laid up with the gout, as I believe I shall, I must stay at London for some weeks; till this poor devil comes to his trial at Rochester; so that, in all probability, my Northern expedition is blown up.

If you can find any thing in your philosophical budget, to console me in the midst of these distresses and apprehensions, pray let it be communicated to your unfortunate friend.


London, June 12.

To Sir Watkin Phillips, Bart. of Jesus College, Oxon.

Dear Wat,

The farce is finished, and another piece of a graver cast brought upon the stage. Our aunt made a desperate attack upon Barton, who had no other way of saving himself but by leaving her in possession of the field, and avowing his pretensions to Eddy, by whom he has been rejected in his turn. Lady Grifkin acted as his advocate and agent on this occasion, with such zeal as embroiled her with Mrs. Tabitha, and a high scene of altercation passed between these two religiousists, which might have come to action, had not my uncle interpreted. They are, however, reconciled, in conference of an event which hath involved us all in trouble and disquiet. You must know, the poor preacher, Humphry Clinker, is now exercising his ministry among the felons in Clerkenwell prison: A petition having sworn a robbery against him, no bail could be taken, and he was committed;
ted to jail, notwithstanding all the remonstrances and interest my uncle could make in his behalf.

All things considered, the poor fellow cannot possibly be guilty; and yet, I believe, he runs some risk of being hanged. Upon his examination, he answered with such hesitation and reserve, as persuaded most of the people who crowded the place that he was really a knave; and the justice's remarks confirmed their opinion. Exclusive of my uncle and myself, there was only one person who seemed inclined to favour the culprit. He was a young man, well dressed; and, from the manner in which he cross-examined the evidence, we took it for granted, that he was a student in one of the inns of court. He freely checked the justice for some uncharitable inferences he made to the prejudice of the prisoner; and even ventured to dispute with his worship on certain points of law.

My uncle, provoked at the unconnected and dubious answers of Clinker, who feared in danger of falling a sacrifice to his own simplicity, exclaimed—

"In the name of God, if you are innocent, say so!"—"No!" cried he, "God forbid that I should call myself innocent, while my conscience is burdened with sin!"—"What, then, you did commit this robbery?" returned his master. "No, sire!" said he. "Blessed be the Lord, I am free of that guilt!"

Here the justice interposed, observing, that the man seemed inclined to make a discovery, by turning king's evidence, and desired the clerk to take his confession; upon which Humphry declared, that he looked upon confession to be a popish fraud, invented by the Whore of Babylon. The Templar affirmed, that the poor fellow was non compert; and exhorted the justice to discharge him as a lunatick. "You know very well," added he, "that the robbery in question was not committed by the prisoner."

The thief-takers grinned at another; and Mr. Justice Buzzard replied, with great emotion—"Mr. Martin, I defire you will mind your own business; I shall convince you one of these days that I understand mine. In short, there was no remedy; the mitimus was made out, and poor Clinker sent to prison in a hackney-coach, guarded by the constable, and accompanied by your humble servant. By the way, I was not a little surprised to hear this retainer to justice bid the prisoner to keep up his spirits, for that he did not at all doubt but that he would get off for a few weeks confinement. He said, his worship knew very well that Clinker was innocent of the fact; and that the real highwayman, who robbed the chaise, was no other than that very individual Mr. Martin, who had pleaded to stem on occasion for honest Humphry.

Confounded at this information, I asked—'Why, then, is he suffered to go about at his liberty, and this poor innocent fellow treated as a malefactor?''—"We have exact intelligence of all Mr. Martin's transactions," said he; "but as yet there is no evidence sufficient for his conviction: and as for this young man, the justice could do no less than commit him, as the policy of leaving point-blank to his identity."

—"So if this rashly put opinion should persist in the falsity to which he is sworn, said I, 'this innocent lad may be brought to the gallows!'"

The constable observed, that he would have time enough to prepare for his trial, and might prove an abettor; or, perhaps, Martin might be apprehended and convicted for another fact; in which case, he might be prevailed upon to take this affair upon himself: or, finally, if these chances should fail, and the evidence stand good against Clinker, the jury might recommend him to mercy, in consideration of his youth, especially if this should appear to be the first fact of which he had been guilty.

Humphry owned he could not pretend to recollect where he had been on the day when the robbery was committed, much less prove a circumstance of that kind so far back as six months, though he knew he had been sick of the fever and ague; which, however, did not prevent him from going about. Then, turning up his eyes, he ejaculated—"The Lord's will be done! If it be my fate to suffer, I hope I shall not disgrace the faith of which, though unworthy, I make profession!"

When I expressed my surprise, that the accuser should persist in charging Clinker, without taking the least notice of the real robber, who stood before him, and to whom, indeed, Humphry bore not the smallest resemblance, the constable
(who was himself a thief-taker) gave me to understand that Mr. Martin was the best qualified for business of all the gentlemen on the road he had ever known; that he had always acted on his own bottom, without partner or correspondent; and never went to work but when he was cool and sober; that his courage and presence of mind never failed him; that his address was genteel, and his behaviour void of all cruelty and insolence; that he never incumbered himself with watches or trinkets, nor even with bank-notes, but always dealt for ready-money, and that in the current coin of the kingdom; and that he could disguise himself and his house in such a manner, that, after the action, it was impossible to recognize either the one or the other. 'This great man,' said he, 'has reigned paramount in all the roads within fifty miles of London above fifteen months, and has done more business in that time than all the rest of the profession put together; for those who pass through his hands are so delicately dealt with, that they have no desire to give him the least disturbance: but, for all that, his race is almost run; he is now fluttering about justice like a moth about a candle; there are so many lime-twigs laid in his way, that I will bet a hundred he swings before Christ mas.'

Shall I own to you, that this portrait, drawn by a ruffian, heightened by what I myself had observed in his deportment, has interested me warmly in the fate of poor Martin, whom nature seems to have intended for a useful and honourable member of that community upon which he now preys for subsistence? It seems, he lived some time as a clerk to a timber-merchant, whose daughter Martin having privately married, was deserted, and his wife turned out of doors. She did not long survive her marriage; and Martin, turning fortune-hunter, could not supply his occasions any other way than by taking to the road, in which he has travelled hitherto with uncommon success. He pays his respects regularly to Mr. Justice Buzzard, the thief-catcher-general of this metropolis; and sometimes they smoke a pipe together very lovingly, when the conversation generally turns upon the nature of evidence. The justice has given him fair warning to take care of himself, and he has received his caution in good part. Hitherto he has baffled all the vigilance, art, and activity, of Buzzard and his eminaries, with such conduct as would have done honour to the genius of a Cæsar or a Turenne: but he has one weakness, which has proved fatal to all the heroes of the tribe; namely, an indirect devotion to the fair-sex; and, in all probability, he will be attacked on this defenceless quarter.

Be that as it may, I saw the body of poor Clinker consigned to the gaoler of Clerkenwell, to whose indulgence I recommended him so effectually, that he received him in the most hospitable manner, though there was a necessity for equipping him with a suit of iron, in which he made a very useful appearance. The poor creature seemed as much affected by my uncle's kindness as by his own misfortune, when I assured him that nothing should be left undone for procuring his enlargement, and making his confinement easy in the mean time; he fell down on his knees, and kissing my hand, which he bathed with his tears—'O fquire! cried he, sobbing, 'what shall I say? I cannot—no—I cannot speak! My poor heart is bursting with gratitude to you and my dear—dear—generous—noble benefactor!'

I protest, the scene became so pathetic, that I was fain to force myself away, and returned to my uncle, who sent me in the afternoon with a compliment to Mr. Mead, the person who had been robbed on Blackheath. As I did not find him at home, I left a message, in consequence of which he called at our lodgings this morning, and very humanely agreed to visit the prisoner. By this time, Lady Griskin had come to make her formal compliments of condolence to Mrs. Tabitha, on this domestic calamity; and that prudent maiden, whose passion was now cooled; thought proper to receive her ladyship so civilly, that a reconciliation immediately ensued. These two ladies resolved to comfort the poor prisoner in their own persons; and Mr. Mead and I squeezed them to Clerkenwell, my uncle being detained at home by some slight complaints in his stomach and bowels.

The turnkey, who received us at Clerkenwell, looked remarkably full; and when we enquired for Clinker—'I do not care if the devil had him,' said he; 'here has been nothing but canting and praying since the fellow entered the place. Rabbit him! the tap will be
be ruined! We have not sold a cask of beer, nor a dozen of wine, since he paid his garnish: the gentlemen get drunk with nothing but your damned religion! For my part, I believe as how your man deals with the devil! Two or three as bold hearts as ever took the air upon Houblow, have been buff- bering all night; and if the fellow isn’t speedily removed by Habeas Corpus, or otherwise, I’ll be damn’d if there’s a grain of true spirit left within these walls! We than’t have a soul to do cre- dit to the place, or make his exit like a true-born Englishman! Damn my eyes! there will be nothing but snivel- ing in the cart; we shall all die like so many psalm-singing weavers?

In short, we found that Humphry was, at that very instant, haranguing the fel- lons in the chapel, and that the gaoler’s wife and daughter, together with my aunt’s woman, Win. Jenkins, and our house-maid, were among the audience, which we immediately joined. I never saw anything so strongly picturesque as this congregation of felons clanking their chains, in the midst of whom stood orator Clinker, expatiating, in a transport of fer- vour, on the torments of hell, denounced in Scripture against evil-doers; comprehen- sively murdering, robbers, thieves, and whoresoners. The variety of attention exhibited in the faces of those ragamuffins, formed a group that would not have disgraced the pencil of a Raphael. In one, it denoted admiration; in an- other, doubt; in a third, disdain; in a fourth, contempt; in a fifth, terror; in a sixth, derision; and in a seventh, indig- nation. As for Mrs. Whinfred Jen- kins, she was in tears, overwhelmed with sorrow; but whether for her own sins, or the misfortune of Clinker, I cannot pre- tend to say. The other females seemed to listen with a mixture of wonder and devotion. The gaoler’s wife declared he was a faint in trouble, saying, the withed from her heart there was such another good soul, like him, in every gaol in England.

Mr. Mead, having earnestly surveyed the preacher, declared his appearance was so different from that of the person who robbed him on Blackheath, that he could freely make oath he was not the man. But Humphry himself was by this time pretty well rid of all apprehensions of being hanged; for he had been the night before solemnly tried and acquitted by his fellow-prisoners, some of whom he had already converted to methodism. He now made proper acknowledgments for the honour of our visit, and was per- mitted to kiss the hands of the ladies, who assured him he might depend upon their friendship and protection. Lady Gridkin, in her great zeal, exhorted his fellow-prisoners to profit by the precious opportunity of having such a faint in bonds among them, and turn over a new leaf for the benefit of their poor souls; and, that her admonition might have the greater effect, she reinforced it with her bounty.

While she and Mrs. Tabby returned in the coach, with the two maid-servants, I waited on Mr. Mead to the house of Justice Buzzard; who, having heard his declaration, said his oath could be of no use at present, but that he would be a material evidence for the prisoner at his trial; to that there seems to be no remedy but patience for poor Clinker; and, in- deed, the same virtue or medicine will be necessary for us all, I suppose, in partic- ular, who had felt his heart upon his ex- cursion to the northward.

While we were visiting hon. Hum- phry in Clerkenwell prison, my uncle re- ceived a much more extraordinary visit at his own lodgings. Mr. Martin, of whom I have made such honourable mention, desired permission to pay him his respects, and was admitted accordingly. He told him, that having observed him, at Mr. Buzzard’s, a good deal distressed by what had happened to his servant, he had come to assure him he had nothing to appre- hend for Clinker’s life; for, if it was possible that any jury could find him guilty upon such evidence, he, Mar- tin himself, would produce in court a person, whose deposition would bring him off clear as the sun at noon. Sure, the fellow would not be so romantick as to take the robbery upon himself! He said, the position was an infamous fel- low, who had been a dabbler in the same profession, and saved his life at the Old Bailey by impeaching his companions; who being now reduced to great poverty, he had made this desperate pungi, to swear away the life of an innocent man, in hopes of having the reward upon his conviction; but that he would find him- self miserably disappointed, for the just- ice and his myrmidons were determined to admit of no interposer in this branch of business; and that he did not at all doubt
doubt but that they would find matter enough to stop the evidence himself before the next goal-delivery. He affirmed, that all these circumstances were well known to the justice; and that his severity to Clinker was no other than a hint to his master to make him a present in private, as an acknowledgment of his candour and humanity.

This hint, however, was so unpleasant to Mr. Bramble, that he declared, with great warmth, he would rather confine himself for life to London, which he detested, than be at liberty to leave it to-morrow, in consequence of encouraging corruption in a magistrate. Hearing, however, how favourable Mr. Mead's report had been for the prisoner, he is resolved to take the advice of counsel in what manner to proceed for his immediate enlargement. I make no doubt, but that in a day or two this troublesome business may be discussed; and in this hope we are preparing for our journey. If our endeavours do not miscarry, we shall have taken the field before you hear again from yours,

J. MELFORD.

LONDON, JUNE II.

TO DR. LEWIS.

THANK Heaven, dear Lewis, the clouds are dispersed, and I have now the clearest prospect of my summer campaign, which, I hope, I shall be able to begin to-morrow. I took the advice of counsel with respect to the case of Clinker, in whose favour a lucky incident has intervened. The fellow who accused him has had his own battery turned upon himself. Two days ago he was apprehended for a robbery on the highway, and committed on the evidence of an accomplice. Clinker, having moved for a writ of habeas corpus, was brought before the lord chiefjustice, who, in consequence of an affidavit of the gentleman who had been robbed, importing that the said Clinker was not the person who stopped him on the highway, as well as in consideration of the position's character and present circumstances, was pleased to order that my servant should be admitted to bail, and he has been discharged accordingly, to the unspeakable satisfaction of our whole family, to which he has recommended himself in an extraordinary manner, not only by his obliging deportment, but by his talents of preaching, praying, and singing psalms, which he has exercised with such effect, that even Tabby respects him as a chosen vessel. If there was any thing like affection or hypocrisy in this excess of religion, I would not keep him in my service; but, so far as I can observe, the fellow's character is downright simplicity, warmed with a kind of enthusiasm, which renders him very susceptible of gratitude and attachment to his benefactors.

As he is an excellent horseman, and understands farriery, I have bought a stout gelding for his use, that he may attend us on the road, and have an eye to our cattle, in case the coachman should not mind his business. My nephew, who is to ride his own saddle-horse, has taken upon trial a servant just come from abroad with his former master, Sir William Strollop, who vouches for his honesty. The fellow, whose name is Dutton, seems to be a petit-maitre. He has got a matter of French, bows, and grins, and thrugs, and takes snuff a la mode de France; but values himself chiefly upon his skill and dexterity in hair-dressing. If I am not much deceived by appearance, he is in all respects the very contrast of Humphry Clinker.

My sister has made up matters with Lady Grisken; though I must own I should not have been sorry to see that connection entirely destroyed: but Tabby is not of a disposition to forgive Barton, who, I understand, is gone to his seat in Berkshire for the summer feast. I cannot help suspecting, that in the treaty of peace which has been lately ratified betwixt those two females, it is stipulated that her ladyship shall use her best endeavours to provide an agreeable helpmate for our sister Tabitha, who seems to be quite desperate in her matrimonial designs. Perhaps the match-maker is to have a valuable consideration in the way of brokerage, which she will most certainly deserve, if she can find any man in his femes who will yoke with Mrs. Bramble from motives of affection or interest.

I find my spirits and my health affect each other reciprocally; that is to say, every thing that discomfits my mind, produces a correspondent disorder in my body; and my bodily complaints are remarkably mitigated by those considerations that dissipate the clouds of mental chagrin. The imprisonment of Clinker brought
brought on those symptoms which I mentioned in my last, and now they are vanished at his discharge. It must be owned, indeed, I took some of the tincture of ginseng, prepared according to your prescription, and found it exceedingly grateful to the stomach; but the pain andicknees continued to return, after short intervals, till the anxiety of my mind was entirely removed, and then I found myself perfectly at ease. We have had fair weather these ten days, to the astonishment of the Londoners, who think it portentous. If you enjoy the same indulgence in Wales, I hope Barnes has got my hay made, and sate cocked, by this time. As we shall be in motion for some weeks, I cannot expect to hear from you as usual; but I shall continue to write from every place at which we make any halt, that you may know our track, in case it should be necessary to communicate any thing to your affixed friend.


London, June 14.

To Mrs. Mary Jones, at Brambleton-Hall.

Dear Mary,

Having the occasion of my cousin Jenkins of Abergavny, I send you, as a token, a turkey-shiel comb, a kiple of yards of green ribbon, and a furmant upon the nothingness of good works, which was preached in the Tabernacle; and you will also receive a horn-buck for Saul, whereby she may learn her letters; for I'm much confirmed about the state of her poor soul; and what are all the pursuits of life to the confirm of that immortal part? What is life but a veil of affliction? O Mary! the whole family have been in such a constipation! Mr. Clinker has been in trouble, but the gates of hell have not been able to prevail again him. His virtue is like poor goul, seven times tried in the fire. He was tuck up for a rubbbery, and had before gustails Bushard, who made his mitamoufe; and the pore youth was sent to prison upon the false oaf of a willian, that wanted to trave his life away for the looker of Cain.

The fquire did all in his power, but could not prevent his being put in chains; and confined among common manufac-tors, where he flud like an innocent sheep in the midft of wolves and tigers. Lord knows what mought have happened to this peyebyoue young man, if mafter had not applied to Apis Korkus, who lives with the oild balliff, and is, they say, five hundred years oild, (God blefs us!) and a congeror: but if he be, fure I am he don't deal with the devil, otherwise he wouldn't have fought out Mr. Clinker as he did, in spite of stone walle, iron bolts, and double locks, that flew open at his command; for oild Scratch has not a greater enemy upon earth than Mr. Clinker, who is, indeed, a very powerfull labourer in the Lord's vineyard. I do no more than yufe the words of my good lady, who has got the infec-tual calling; and, I truft, that even myself, though unworthy, shall find greafe to be excepted. Miss Liddy has been touched to the quick, but is a little mor-tome: howsoever, I make no doubt, but she, and all of us, will be brought, by the endeavours of Mr. Clinker, to produce blessed fruit of generation and repentance. As manner and the young fquire, they haveas yet had narro glimpse of the new light. I doubt as how their harts are hardened by worldly wildom, which, as the pyebill faith, is foolishness in the fight of God.

O Mary Jones! pray without feizing for greafe to prepare you for the operations of this wondreful instrument, which, I hope, will be exercifed this winter, upon you and others at Brambleton Hall. To-morrow we are to fet out in a cox and four for Yorkshire; and, I believe, we shall travel that way far, and far, and farther than I can tell; but I fhall go so far as to forget my friends; and Mary Jones will always be remembered as one of them by her humble fervant,

London, June 14.

To Mrs. Gwillim, Housekeeper at Brambleton-Hall.

Mrs. Gwillim,

I can't help thinking it very strange that I never had an answer to the letter. I wrote you some weeks ago from Bath, concerning the four bear, the gander, and the maids eating butter, which I won't allow to be wasted. We are now going upon a long gurney to the north, whereby I defire you will redouble your care and circumfexion, that the family may
may be well mangled in our absence; for you know you must tender account, not only to your earthly master, but also to him that is above; and if you are found a good and faithful servant, great will be your reward in heaven. I hope there will be twenty him of cheese ready for market by the time I got home, and as much oil upon as will make half a dozen pair of blankets; and that the savings of the butter-milk will fetch me a good penny before Martinmas, as the two pigs are to be fed for baking with birch-malt and acorns.

I wrote to Doctor Lews for the same purport, but he never had the good manners to take the least notice of my letter; for which reason I shall never favour him with another, though he besits me on his bended knees. You will do well to keep a watchful eye over the hind Williams, who is one of his assistants, and, I believe, no better than he should be at bottom. God forbid that I should lack Christian charity; but charity begins at home; and fore nothing can be a more charitable work than to rid the family of such vermine. I do suppose that the hobbled cow has been had to the parson’s bull, that old Moll has had another litter of pigs, and that Dick becomes a mighty monster. Pray order every thing for the belt, and be frugal, and keep the maids to their labour. If I had a private opportunity, I would send them some hymns to sing instead of prophane ballads; but, as I can’t, they and you must be contented with the prayers of your assured friend,

T. BRAMELE.

LONDON, JUNE 14.

TO SIR WATKIN PHILLIPS, BART. OF JESUS COLLEGE, OXON.

DEAR PHILLIPS,

THE very day after I wrote my last, Clinker was set at liberty. As Martin had foretold, the accuser was himself committed for a robbery upon unquestionable evidence. He had been for some time in the haunts of the thief-taking society; who, retorting his presumption in attempting to entroach upon their monopoly of impeachment, had him taken up and committed to Newgate, on the deposition of an accomplice, who has been admitted, as evidence for the king. The petition being upon record as an old offender, the chief justice made no scruple of admitting Clinker to bail, when he perused the affidavit of Mr. Mead, importing that the said Clinker was not the person that robbed him on Blackheath; and hence Humphry was discharged. When he came home, he expressed great eagerness to pay his respects to his matter; and here his elocution failed him, but his silence was pathetick: he fell down at his feet, and embraced his knees, shedding a flood of tears, which my uncle did not see without emotion. He took a snuff in some confusion; and, putting his hand in his pocket, gave him his blessing in something more substantial than words. ‘Clinker,’ said he, ‘I am so well convinced, both of your honesty and courage, that I am resolved to make you my life-guardian on the highway.’

He was accordingly provided with a case of pistols, and a carbine to be flung across his shoulders; and every other preparation being made, we set out lait Thursday, at seven in the morning; my uncle, with the three women, in the coach; Humphry well mounted on a black gelding bought for his use; myself on horseback, attended by my new valet, Mr. Dutton, an exceeding coxcomb, fresh from his travels, whom I have taken upon trial. The fellow wears a f obtaining, utes paint, and takes rappee with all the grimace of a French marquis. At present, however, he is in a riding-dress, jack-boots, leather breeches, a scarlet waistcoat with gold binding, a laced hat, a hanger, a French pocket-whip in his hand, and his hair en queue.

Before we had gone nine miles, my horse loft one of his shoes; so that I was obliged to stop at Barnet to have another, while the coach proceeded at an easy pace over the common. About a mile short of Hatfield, the petition, stopping the carriage, gave notice to Clinker that there were two sanguine fellows on horseback at the end of a lane, who seemed waiting to attack the coach. Humphry forthwith apprized my uncle, declaring he would stand by him to the last drop of his blood; and, unflinging his carbine, prepared for action. The squire had pistols in the pockets of the coach, and resolved to make use of them directly; but he was effectually prevented by his female companions, who flung themselves about his neck, and threatened in concert. At that instant, who should come
come up at a hand-gallop but Martin, the highwayman; who advancing to the coach, begged the ladies would compose themselves for a moment; then, defining Clinker to follow him to the charge, he pulled a pistol out of his holost, and they rode up together to give battle to the rogues: who, having fired at a great distance, fled across the common. They were in pursuit of the fugitives when I came up, not a little alarmed at the shrieks in the coach, where I found my uncle in a violent rage, without this periwig, struggling to disentangle himself from Tabby and the other two, and swearing with great vociferation. Before I had time to interpose, Martin and Clinker returned from the pursuit, and the former paid his compliments with great politeness, giving us to understand that the fellows had scampered off, and that he believed they were a couple of raw prentices from London. He commended Clinker for his courage, and said, if we would give him leave, he would have the honour to accompany us as far as Stevenage, where he had some business.

The squire, having recollected and adjusted himself, was the first to laugh at his own situation; but it was not without difficulty that Tabby’s arms could be untwisted from his neck, Liddy’s teeth chattered, and Jenkins was threatened with a fit, as usual. I had communicated to my uncle the character of Martin, as it was described by the constable, and he was much struck with its singularity. He could not suppose the fellow had any design on our company, which was so numerous and well armed: he therefore thanked him for the service he had just done them, said he would be glad of his company, and asked him to dine with us at Hatfield. This invitation might not have been agreeable to the ladies, had they known the real profession of our guest; but this was a secret to all, except my uncle and myself. Mrs. Tabitha, however, would by no means consent to proceed with a case of loaded pistols in the coach, and they were for a time discharged, in compliance to her and the rest of the women.

Being gratified in this particular, they became remarkably good-humoured, and at dinner behaved in the most affable manner to Mr. Martin, with whose polite address and agreeable conversation she seemed to be much taken. After dinner, the landlord, accosting me in the yard, asked, with a significant look, if the gentleman that rode the forreul belonged to our company. I understood his meaning, but answered—‘No;’ that he had come up with us on the common, and helped us to drive away two fellows that looked like highwaymen. He nodded three times distinctly, as much as to say, he knows his cue. Then he enquired if one of those men was mounted on a bay mare, and the other on a chestnut gelding, with a white streak down his forehead; and being answered in the affirmative, he assured me they had robbed three post-chauses that very morning. I enquired in my turn if Mr. Martin was of his acquaintance; and, nodding three times again, he answered, that he had seen the gentleman.

Before we left Hatfield, my uncle, fixing his eyes on Martin with such expression as is more easily conceived than described, asked if he often travelled that road; and he replied with a look which denoted his understanding the question, that he very seldom did business in that part of the country. In a word, this adventurer favoured us with his company to the neighbourhood of Stevenage, where he took his leave of the coach and me in very polite terms, and turned off upon a crois road, that led to a village on the left. At supper, Mrs. Tabby was very full in the praise of Mr. Martin’s good sense and good breeding, and seemed to regret that she had not a farther opportunity to make some experiment upon his affection. In the morning, my uncle was not a little surprized to receive from the waiter a billet couched in these words.

SIR,

I could easily perceive from your looks, when I had the honour to converse with you at Hatfield, that my character is not unknown to you; and, I dare say, you will not think it strange that I should be glad to change my present way of life for any other honest occupation, let it be ever so humble, that will afford me bread in moderation, and sleep in safety. Perhaps you may think I flatter, when I say, that from the moment I was witness to your generous concern in the cause of your servant, I conceived a particular esteem and veneration for your person; and yet what I say is true. I should think myself...
myself happy if I could be admitted
into your protection and service, as
house-warden, clerk, butler, or bailiff;
for either of which places I think my-
self tolerably well qualified; and sure
I am, I should not be found deficient
in gratitude and fidelity. At the same
time, I am very sensible how much you
must deviate from the common max-
ims of discretion, even in putting my
proffessions to the trial: but I do not
look upon you as a person that thinks
in the ordinary style; and the delicacy
of my situation will, I know, justify
this address to a heart warmed with
beneficence and compassion. Under-
standing you are going pretty far north,
I shall take an opportunity to throw
myself in your way again before you
reach the borders of Scotland; and I
hope, by that time, you will have taken
into consideration the truly disreput-
case of, honoured Sir, your very hum-
ble and devoted servant,

Edward Martin.'

The squire having perused this letter,
put it into my hand without saying a
 syllable; and when I had read it, we
looked at each other in silence. From a
certain sparkling in his eyes, I disco-
overed there was more in his heart than
he cared to express with his tongue, in fa-
vour of poor Martin; and this was pre-
cisely my own feeling, which he did not
fail to discern by the same means of
communication. 'What shall we do,'
said he, 'to save this poor sinner from
the gallows, and make him a useful
member of the commonwealth? And
yet the proverb says—'Save a thief
from the gallows, and he will cut
your throat.' I told him I really
believed Martin was capable of giving
the proofs of the, and that I should
heavily concur in any step he might take
in favour of his solicitation. We mu-
tually resolved to deliberate upon the
subject, and, in the mean time, proce-
ed on our journey. The roads, having
been broke up by the heavy rains in the
spring, were too rough, that, although we
travelled very slowly, the jolting oc-
curred such pain to my uncle, that he
was become exceedingly peevish when
we arrived at this place, which lies about
eight miles from the post-road, between
Wetherby and Boroughbridge.

Harrigate water, so celebrated for its
efficacy in the scurvy and other differen-
pers, is supplied from a copious spring
in the hollow of a wild common, round
which a good many houses have been
built for the convenience of the drinkers,
though few of them are inhabited. Most
of the company lodge at some distance,
in five separate inns, situated in different
parts of the common, from whence they
go every morning to the well in their own
carrriages. The lodgers of each inn form
a distinct society, that eat together; and
there is a commodious public room,
where they breakfast in silence, at fe-
parate tables, from eight o'clock till ele-
ven, as they chance or chuse to come in.
Here also they drink tea in the afternoon,
and play at cards or dance in the even-
ing. One custom, however, prevails,
which I look upon as a solecism in pol-
liteness. The ladies treat with tea in
their rooms; and even girls of sixteen are
not exempted from this shameful im-
plication. There is a publick ball by sub-
scription every night at one of the houses,
to which all the company from the others
are admitted by tickets: and, indeed,
Harrigate treads upon the heels of Bath,
in the articles of gaiety and dissipation;
with this difference, however, that here
we are more sociable and familiar. One
of the inns is already full up to the very
garrets, having no less than fifty lodgers,
and as many servants. Our family does
not exceed thirty-six; and I should be
forry to fee the number augmented, as
our accommodations will not admit of
much increase.

At present the company is more agree-
able than one could expect from an acci-
dental assemblage of persons who are ut-
ter strangers to one another. There
seems to be a general disposition among
us to maintain good fellowship, and pro-
mote the purposes of humanity, in favour
of those who come hither on the score of
health. I see several faces which we left
at Bath, although the majority are of the
northern counties, and many come from
Scotland for the benefit of these waters.
In such a variety there must be some ori-
ginals, among whom Mrs. Tabitha
Bramble is not the most inconsiderable.
No place where there is such an inter-
course between the sexes, can be disa-
greable to a lady of her views and tem-
perament. She has had some warm dis-
putes at table with a lame parson from
Northumberland, on the new birth, and
the insignificance of moral virtue; and
her arguments have been reinforced by
an
an old Scotch lawyer, in a tye-periwig; who, though he has lost his teeth, and the use of his limbs, can still wag his tongue with great volubility. He has paid her such fulsome compliments upon her piety and learning, as seem to have won her heart; and she, in her turn, treats him with such attention, as indicates a design upon his perion; but, by all accounts, he is too much a fox to be inveigled into any snare that she can lay for his affection.

We do not propose to stay long at Harrigate, though at present it is our head-quarters; from whence we shall make some excursions to visit two or three of our rich relations, who are settled in this county. Pray remember me to all our friends of Jesus, and allow me to be still yours affectionately,

J. MELFORD.

HARRIGATE, JUNE 23.

TO DR. LEWIS.

DEAR DOCTOR,

CONSIDERING the tax we pay for turnpikes, the roads of this country constitute a most intolerable grievance. Between Newark and Weatherby, I have suffered more from jolting and juggling than ever I felt in the whole course of my life, although the carriage is remarkably commodious and well hung, and the politicians were very careful in driving. I am now safely housed at the New Inn, at Harrigate, whither I came to satisfy my curiosity, rather than with any view of advantage to my health; and truly, after having considered all the parts and particulars of the place, I cannot account for the concourse of people one finds here, upon any other principle but that of caprice, which seems to be the character of our nation.

Harrigate is a wild common, bare and bleak, without tree or shrub, or the least signs of cultivation; and the people who come to drink the water are crowded together in paltry inns, where the few tolerable rooms are monopolized by the friends and favourites of the house, and all the rest of the lodgers are obliged to put up with dirty holes, where there is neither space, air, nor convenience. My apartment is about ten feet square; and when the folding-bed is down, there is just room sufficient to pass between it and the fire. One might expect, indeed, that there would be no occasion for a fire at Midsummer; but here the climate is so backward, that an ash-tree, which our landlord has planted before my window, is just beginning to put forth its leaves; and I am faint to have my bed warmed every night.

As for the water, which is said to have effected so many surprizing cures, I have drank it once, and the first draught has cured me of all desire to repeat the medicine. Some people say it dries up the milk of rotten eggs, and others compare it to the fountains of a foul gun. It is generally supposed to be strongly impregnated with sulphur; and Dr. Shaw, in his book upon mineral waters, says, he has seen flakes of sulphur floating in the well—Pace tantù virtù; I, for my part, have never observed any thing like sulphur, either in or about the well, neither do I find that any brimstone has ever been extracted from the water. As for the small, if I may be allowed to judge from my own organs, it is exactly that of bilge-water; and the saline taste of it seems to declare that it is nothing else than salt water putridified in the bowels of the earth. I was obliged to hold my nose with one hand, while I advanced the glass to my mouth with the other; and after I had made shift to swallow it, my stomach could hardly retain what it had received. The only effects it produced were sick nerves, griping, and insurmountable disgust. I can hardly mention it without puking. The world is strangely milled by the affection of singularity. I cannot help suspecting that this water owes its reputation in a great measure to its being so strikingly offensive. On the same kind of analogy, a German doctor has introduced hemlock and other poisons, as specifics, into the materia medica. I am persuaded that all the cures ascribed to the Harrigate water would have been as efficaciously, and infinitely more agreeably performed, by the internal and external use of sea-water. Sure I am, this last is much less nauseous to the taste and smell, and much more gentle in its operation as a purge, as well as more extenuic in its medical qualities.

Two days ago, we went across the country to visit Squire Burdock, who married a first cousin of my father, an heiress, who brought him an estate of a thousand a year. This gentleman is a declared opponent of the ministry in parliament; and
and having an opulent fortune, piques himself upon living in the country, and maintaining old English hospitality. By the bye this is a phrase very much used by the English themselves, both in words and writing; but I never heard of it out of the island, except by way of irony and sarcasm. What the hospitality of our forefathers has been I should be glad to see recorded, rather in the memoirs of strangers who have visited our country, and were the proper objects and judges of such hospitality, than in the discourse and lucubrations of the modern English, who seem to describe it from theory and conjecture. Certain it is, we are generally looked upon by foreigners as a people totally destitute of this virtue; and I never was in any country abroad where I did not meet with persons of distinction, who complained of having been inhumanely used in Great Britain. A gentleman of France, Italy, or Germany, who has entertained and lodged an Englishman at his house, when he afterwards meets with his guest at London, is asked to dinner at the Saracen’s Head, the Turk’s Head, the Boar’s Head, or the Bear, eats raw beef and butter, drinks excreable port, and is allowed to pay his share of the reckoning.

But to return from this digression, which my feeling for the honour of my country obliged me to make. Our Yorkshire cousin has been a mighty fox-hunter before the Lord; but now he is too fat and unwieldy to leap ditches and five-bar gates; nevertheless, he still keeps a pack of hounds, which are well exercised; and his huntsman every night entertains him with the adventures of the day’s chase, which he recites in a tone and terms that are extremely curious and significant. In the meantime, his broad brow is scratched by one of his grooms. This fellow, it seems, having no inclination to curry any beast out of the stable, was at great pains to scopolop his nails in such a manner that the blood flowed at every stroke. He was in hopes that he would be dismissed from this disagreeable office, but the event turned out contrary to his expectation. His master declared he was the best_scratcher in the family; and now he will not suffer any other servant to draw a nail upon his carcase.

This squire’s lady is very proud, without being stiff or inaccessible. She receives even her inferiors in point of fortune with a kind of arrogant civility; but then she thinks she has a right to treat them with the most ungracious freedoms of speech, and never fails to let them know she is sensible of her own superior influence. In a word, she speaks well of no living soul, and has not one single friend in the world. Her husband hates her mortally; but although the brute is sometimes too powerful in him that he will have his own way, he generally truckles to her dominion, and dreads, like a school-boy, the lash of her tongue. On the other hand, she is afraid of provoking him too far, lest he should make some desperate effort to shake off her yoke. She, therefore, acquiesces in the proofs he daily gives of his attachment to the liberty of an English freeholder, by faying, and doing, at his own table, whatever gratifies the brutality of his disposition, or contributes to the ease of his person. The house, though large, is neither elegant nor comfortable. It looks like a great inn, crowded with travellers, who dine at the landlord’s ordinary, where there is a great profusion of victuals and drink, but mine host seems to be misplaced; and I would rather dine upon fillets with a hermit, than feed upon venison with a hog. The footmen might be aptly compared to the waiters of a tavern, if they were more servile, and less rapacious; but they are generally insolent and inattentive, and too greedy, that, I think, I can dine better and for less expence, at the Star and Garter in Pall Mall, than at our cousin’s castle in Yorkshire. The squire is not only accommodated with a wife, but he is also blessed with an only son, about two and twenty, just returned from Italy, a compleat fiddler, and dilettante; and he flips no opportunity of manifesting the most perfect contempt for his own father.

When we arrived, there was a family of foreigners at the house; on a visit to this virtuo, with whom they had been acquainted at the Spa; it was the Count De Melville, with his lady, on their way to Scotland. Mr. Burdock had met with an accident, in consequence of which both the count and I would have retired, but the young gentleman and his mother insisted upon our staying dinner; and their serenity seemed to be so little ruffled by what had happened, that we complied with their invitation. The squire had been brought home over night in his post chaise, so terribly belaboured about the pate, that
he seemed to be in a state of stupification, and had ever since remained speechless. A country apothecary, called Grieve, who lived in a neighbouring village, having been called to his assistance, had let him blood, and applied a poultice to his head, declaring, that he had no fever, nor any other bad symptom but the loss of speech, if he really had lost that faculty. But the young squire said this practitioner was an ignorant ass, that there was a fracture in the cranium, and that there was a necessity for having him trepanned without loss of time. His mother, espousing this opinion, had sent an express to York for a surgeon to perform the operation, and he was already come with his apprentice and instruments. Having examined the patient's head, he began to prepare his dressings; though Grieve still retained his first opinion that there was no fracture, and was more confirmed in it, as the squire had passed the night in profound sleep, uninterrupted by any catching or convulsion. The York surgeon said he could not tell whether there was a fracture, until he should take off the scalp; but, at any rate, the operation might be of service in giving vent to any blood that might be extravasated, either above or below the dura mater. The lady and her fon were clear for trying the experiment; and Grieve was dismisled with some marks of contempt, which, perhaps, he owed to the plainness of his appearance. He seemed to be about the middle age, wore his own black hair, without any sort of dressings; by his garb, one would have taken him for a quaker, but he had none of the stiffness of that sect; on the contrary, he was very submissive, respectful, and remarkably taciturn.

Leaving the ladies in an apartment by themselves, we adjourned to the patient's chamber; where the dressings and instruments were displayed in order upon a pewter dish. The operator, laying aside his coat and periwig, equipped himself with a night-cap, apron, and sleeves, while his apprentice and footman, feizing the squire's head, began to place it in a proper posture. But mark what followed: the patient, bolting upright in the bed, collared each of these afflants with the grapple of Hercules, elamining in a lowering tone—'I ha'n't lived so long in Yorkshire to be trepanned by such vulgar 'min as you!' and, leaping on the floor, put on his breeches quietly, to the astonishment of us all. The surgeon still in-

fisted upon the operation, alledging it was now plain that the brain was injured, and defiring the servants to put him into bed again; but nobody would venture to execute his orders, or even to interpose; when the squire turned him and his assiduants out of doors, and threw his apparatus out at the window. Having thus affected his prerogative, and put on his cloaths with the help of a valet, the count, with my nephew and me, were introduced by his son, and received with his usual style of rustic civility; the squire turning to Signor Macaroni, with a farcical grin—'I tell thee what, Dick, 'tis a man's skull; is not to be bored every time his head is broken; and I'll convince thee and thy mother, that I know as many tricks as e'er an old fox in the West Riding.'

We afterwards understood he had quarrelled at a publick-house with an exciseman, whom he challenged to a bout at single-stick, in which he had been worsted; and that the shame of this defeat had tied up his tongue. As for madam, she had flown no concern for his dittafter, and now heard of his recovery without emotion. She had taken some little notice of my sister and niece, though rather with a view to indulge her own petulance than out of any sentiment of regard to our family. She said Liddy was a freight, and ordered her woman to adjut her head before dinner; but she would not meddle with Tabby, whose spirit, the soon perceived, was not to be irritated with impudence. At table, she acknowledged me so far as to say, she had heard of my father; though the hinted, that he had disoblige his family by making a poor match in Wales. She was disagreeably familiar in her inquiries about our circumstances; and asked if I intended to bring up my nephew to the law. I told her, that, as he had an independent fortune, he should follow no profession but that of a country gentleman; and that I was not without hopes of procuring for him a seat in parliament. 'Pray, cousin,' said she, 'what may his fortune be?' When I answered, that, with what I should be able to give him, he would have better than two thousand a year, she replied, with a disflantful toss of her head, that it would be impossible for him to preserve his independence on such a paltry provision.

Not a little nettled at this arrogant remark, I told her, I had the honour to sit in parliament with her father, when he...
had little more than half that income; and I believed there was not a more independent and incorruptible member in the house. ‘Ay; but times are changed,’ cried the squire. ‘Country gentlemen now a days live after another fashion. My table alone flands me in a cool thousand a quarter, though I raise my own flock, import my own liquors, and have every thing at the first hand. True it is, I keep open house, and receive all comers, for the honour of Old England.’—If that be the cafe,’ said I, ‘it is a wonder you can maintain it at so small an expense; but every private gentleman is not expected to keep a coach and six for the accommodation of travellers: indeed, if every individual lived in the same style, you would not have such a number of guests at your table, of consequence your hospitality would not, shine so bright for the glory of the West Riding. The young squire, tickled by this ironical observation, exclaimed—‘Oh the burla!’ His mother eyed me in silence with a supercilious air; and the father of the feast, taking a bumper of October—‘My service to you, cousin Bramble,’ said he. ‘I have always heard there was something keen and biting in the air of the Welsh mountains.’

I was much pleased with the Count de Melville, who is sensible, easy, and polite; and the countess is the most amiable woman I ever beheld. In the afternoon they took leave of their entertainers; and the young gentleman, mounting his horse, undertook to conduct their coach through the park, while one of their servants rode round to give notice to the rest, whom they had left at the public-house on the road. The moment their backs were turned, the censorious demon took possession of our Yorkshire landlady and our sister Tabitha. The former observed, that the countess was a good sort of a body, but totally ignorant of good breeding, consequently awkward in her address. The squire said he did not pretend to the breeding of any thing but colts; but that the jade would be very handsome, if she was a little more in flesh. ‘Handsome!’ cried Tabby: ‘She has, indeed, a pair of black eyes without any meaning; but there is not a good feature in her face.’—‘I know not what you call good features in Wales,’ replied our landlord; ‘but they’ll pass in Yorkshire.’ Then turning to Liddy, he added—‘What say you, my pretty Redfleak? What is your opinion of the countess?’—‘I think,’ cried Liddy, with great emotion, ‘she is an angel.’ Tabby chid her for talking with such freedom in company; and the lady of the house said, in a contemptuous tone, the supposed Mifs had been brought up at some country boarding-school.

Our conversation was suddenly interrupted by the young gentleman, who galloped into the yard all aghast, exclamings, that the coach was attacked by a great number of highwaymen. My nephew and I rushing out, found his own and his servant’s horse ready-faddled in the stable, with pistols in the caps. We mounted instantly, ordering Clinker and Dutton to follow with all possible expedition; but notwithstanding all the speed we could make, the action was over before we arrived, and the count with his lady, safe lodged at the house of Grieve, who had signalized himself in a very remarkable manner on this occasion. At the turning of a lane, that led to the village where the count’s servants remained, a couple of robbers on horseback suddenly appeared, with their pistols advanced: one kept the coachman in awe, and the other demanded the count’s money, while the young squire went off at full speed, without ever casting a look behind. The count desiring the thief to withdraw his pistol, as the lady was in great terror, delivered his parole, without making the least resistance; but, not satisfied with this boast, which was pretty considerable, the rascal infilled upon rifling her of her ear-rings and necklace, and the countess screamed with affright. Her husband, exasperated at the violence with which she was threatened, wrestled the pistol out of the fellow’s hand, and turning it upon him, snapped it in his face; but the robber knowing there was no charge in it, drew another from his bosom, and in all probability would have killed him on the spot, had not his life been saved by a wonderful interposition. Grieve, the apothecary, chancing to pass that very instant, ran up to the coach, and with a crab-stick, which was the only weapon he had, brought the fellow to the ground with the first blow; then seizing his pistol, presented it to his colleague, who fired his piece at random, and fled without farther opposition. The other was secured by the assistance of the count and the coachman; and his legs being tied under the belly of his own horse, Grieve conducted him to the village.
lage, whither also the carriage proceeded. It was with great difficulty the countess could be kept from swooning; but at last she was happily conveyed to the house of the apothecary, who went into the shop to prepare some drops for her, while his wife and daughter administered to her in another apartment.

I found the count standing in the kitchen with the parson of the parish, and expressing much impatience to see his protector, whom as yet he had scarce found time to thank for the efficient service he had done him and the countess. The daughter palling at the same time with a glass of water, Monfieur de Melville could not help taking notice of her figure, which was strikingly engaging. 'Ay,' said the parson, 'she is the prettiest girl, and the best girl in all my parish; and if I could give my son an estate of ten thousand a year, he should have my consent to lay it at her feet.' If Mr. Grieve had been as solicitous about getting money, as he has been in performing all the duties of a primitive Christian, Fy would not have hung long upon his hands. — 'What is her name?' said I. 'Sixteen years ago,' answered the vicar, 'I christened her by the names of Seraphina Melvillia.'

'Ha! — What! — How!' cried the count eagerly; 'sure, you said Seraphina Melvillia.' — 'I did,' said he. Mr. Grieve told me those were the names of two noble persons abroad, to whom he had been obliged for more than life.'

The count, without speaking another syllable, rushed into the parlour, crying—

'This is your god-daughter, my dear. Mrs. Grieve then seizing the countess by the hand, exclaimed with great agitation—'O Madam! — O Sir! — I am—I am your poor Eliza. This is my Seraphina Melvillia. O child! these are the count and countess of Melville, the generous, the glorious benefactors of thy once unhappy parents.'

The countess rising from her seat, threw her arms about the neck of the amiable Seraphina, and clasped her to her breast with great tenderness, while she herself was embraced by the weeping mother. This moving scene was completed by the entrance of Grieve himself, who falling on his knees before the count—'Behold,' said he, 'a penitent, who at length can look upon his patron without thinking.' — 'Ah! Ferdinand!' cried he, raising and folding him in his arms, 'the playfellow of my infancy — the companion of my youth! Is it to you then I am indebted for my life?' — 'Heaven has heard my prayers,' said the other, 'and given me an opportunity to prove myself not altogether unworthy of your clemency and protection.' He then kissed the hand of the countess, while Monfieur de Melville saluted his wife and lovely daughter, and all of us were greatly affected by this pathetic recognition.

In a word, Grieve was no other than Ferdinand Count Fathom, whose adventures were printed many years ago. Being a sincere convert to virtue, he had changed his name, that he might elude the enquiries of the count, whose generous allowance he determined to forego, that he might have no dependence but upon his own industry and moderation. He had accordingly settled in this village as a practitioner in surgery and physic, and for some years wrestled with all the miseries of indigence, which, however, he and his wife had borne with the most exemplary resignation. At length, by dint of unwearied attention to the duties of his profession, which he exercised with equal humanity and success, he had acquired a tolerable share of business among the farmers and common people, which enabled him to live in a decent manner. He had been fearless ever seen to smile; was unaffectedly pious; and all the time he could spare from the avocations of his employment, he spent in educating his daughter, and in studying for his own improvement. In short, the adventurer Fathom was, under the name of Grieve, universally respected among the commonalty of this district, as a prodigy of learning and virtue. These particulars I learned from the vicar, when we quitted the room, that they might be under no restraint in their mutual effusions. I make no doubt that Grieve will be pleased to leave off business, and revive himself to the count's family; and as the countess seemed extremely fond of his daughter, she will, in all probability, infatuate Seraphine's accompanying her to Scotland.

Having paid our compliments to these noble persons, we returned to the squire's, where we expected an invitation to pass the night, which was wet and raw; but, in truth, Squire Burdock's hospitality reached not far: for the honour of Yorkshire we therefore departed in the evening, and lay at an inn, where I caught cold.
In hope of riding it down before it could take fast hold on my constitution, I resolved, to visit another relation, one Mr. Pimpernel, who lived about a dozen miles from the place where we lodged. Pimpernel being the youngest of four sons, was bred an attorney at Furnivall's Inn; but all his elder brothers dying, he got himself called to the bar for the honour of his family; and soon after this preferment, succeeded to his father's estate, which was very considerable. He carried home with him all the knavish chicanery of the lowest petitifogger, together with a wife whom he had purchased of a drayman for twenty pounds; and he soon found means to obtain a Decimus as an acting justice of peace. He is not only a forlorn miser in his disposition, but his avarice is mingled with a spirit of dejotifim which is truly diabolical. He is a brutal husband, an unnatural parent, a harsh master, an oppressive landlord, a litigious neighbour, and a partial magistrate. Friends he has none; and in point of hospitality and good-breeding, our cousin Burdock is a prince in comparison of this ungracious miscreant, whose house is the lively representation of a gaol. Our reception was suitable to the character I have sketched. Had it depended upon the wife, we should have been kindly treated. She is really a good sort of a woman, in spite of her low original, and well respeeted in the county; but she has not interest enough in her own house to command a draught of table-beer, far less to bestow any kind of education on her children, who run about, like ragged colts, in a state of nature. Pox on him! he is such a dirty fellow, that I have not patience to prosecute the subject.

By that time we reached Harrigate, I began to be visited by certain rheumatic symptoms. The Scotch lawyer, Mr. Micklewhinnen, recommended a hot bath of these waters so earnestly, that I was over-perfused to try the experiment. He had used it often with success, and always found an hour in the bath, which was a tub filled with Harrigate water, heated for the purpose. If I could hardly bear the smell of a single tumbler when cold, you may guess how my nose was regaled by the fumes arising from a hot-bath of the same fluid. At night, I was conducted into a dark hole on the ground-floor, where the tub sinished and flunk like the pot of Acheron, in one corner, and in another flood a dirty bed provided with thick blankets, in which I was to sweat after coming out of the bath. My heart seemed to die within me when I entered this dismal bagnio, and found my brain assaulted by such infufferable effluvia, I cursed Micklewhinnen for not considering that my organs were formed on this side of the Tweed; but being ashamed to recoil upon the threshold, I submitted to the process.

After having endured all but real suffocation for above a quarter of an hour in the tub, I was moved to the bed, and wrapped in blankets. There I lay a full hour panting with intolerable heat; but not the least moisture appearing on my skin, I was carried to my own chamber, and passed the night without closing an eye, in such a flutter of spirits as rendered me the most miserable wretch in being. I should certainly have run distracted, if the rarefaction of my blood, occasioned by that Stygian bath, had not burst the vessels, and produced a violent hemorrhage, which, though dreadful and alarming, removed the horrible disquiet, I lost two pounds of blood, and more, on this occasion, and find myself still weak and languid; but, I believe, a little exercise will forward my recovery; and therefore I am resolved to set out to-morrow for York, in my way to Scarborough; where I propose to brace up my fibres by sea-bathing, which, I know, is one of your favourite specificks. There is, however, one difease, for which you have found as yet no specifick; and that is old age, of which this tedious unconnected epistle is an infallible symptom: what, therefore, cannot be cured, must be endured, by you, as well as by yours,


Harrigate, June 26.

To Sir Watkin Phillips, Bart. of Jesus College, Oxon.

Dear Knight,

The manner of living at Harrigate was so agreeable to my disposition, that I left the place with some regret. Our aunt Tabby would have probably made some objection to our departing so soon, had not an accident embroiled her with Mr. Micklewhinnen, the Scotch advocate, on whose heart she had been practicing from the second day after our arrival.
Arrival. That original, though seemingly precluded from the use of his limbs, had turned his genius to good account. In short, by dint of groaning and whining, he had excited the compassion of the company so effectually, that an old lady, who occupied the very best apartment in the house, gave it up for his ease and convenience. When his man led him into the Long-room, all the females were immediately in commotion; one set an elbow-chair, another shook up the cushion, a third brought a stool, and a fourth a pillow, for the accommodation of his feet. Two ladies (of whom Tabby was always one) supported him into the dining-room, and placed him properly at the table; and his taste was indulged with a succession of delicacies, cull'd by their fair hands. All this attention he repaid with a profusion of compliments and benedictions, which were not the least agreeable for being delivered in the Scottish dialect. As for Mrs. Tabitha, his respects were particularly addressed to her; and he did not fail to mingle them with religious reflections, touching free grace, knowing her bias to metho-
dliness, which he also professed upon a Cal-
vinistical model.

For my part, I could not help thinking this lawyer was not such an invalid as he pretended to be. I observed he ate very heartily three times a day; and, though his bottle was marked Stomachick Tincture, he had recourse to it so often, and seemed to swallow it with such peculiar relish, that I suspected it was not compounded in the apothecary's shop, or the chemist's laboratory. One day, while he was earnest in discourse with Mrs. Tabitha, and his servant had gone out on some occasion or other, I dextrously exchanged the labels and situation of his bottle and mine; and having tasted his tincture, found it was excellent claret.

I forthwith handed it about to some of my neighbours; and it was quite emptied before Mr. Micklewhimmen had occasion to repeat his draught. At length, turning about, he took hold of my bottle, instead of his own; and, filling a large glass, drank to the health of Mrs. Ta-
bitha. It had scarce touched his lips, when he perceived the change which had been put upon him, and was at first a little out of countenance: He seemed to retire within himself, in order to delibe-
rate; and in half a minute his resolution was taken. Addressing himself to our quarter—' I give the gentleman credit for his wit,' said he; 'it was a gude practical joke: but sometimes bi joc
in seria ducent mala. I hope, for his own sake, he has na drank all the lic-
cor; for it was a vara poorful infusion of jallop in Bourdeaux wine; as it's possible he may ha ta'en sic a dose as will produce a terrible catastrophe in his ain booles.'

By far the greater part of the contents had fallen to the share of a young clo-
thier from Leeds, who had come to make a figure at Harrigate, and was, in effect, a great coxcomb in his way. It was with a view to laugh at his fellow-guests, as well as to mortify the lawyer, that he had emptied the bottle, when it came to his turn, and he had laughed accordingly: but now his mirth gave way to his appre-hension. He began to spit, to make wry faces, and writhe himself into var-
ious contortions. 'Damn the stuff!' cried he; 'I thought it had a villainous twang! Pah! He that would cozen a Scot, mun get oop betimes, and take Old Scratch for his counsellor!'—In troth, menter what-d'y-e-ca'um,' replied the lawyer, 'your wit has run you into a filthy puddle! I'm truly con-
fronted for your wasteful cafe. The best advice I can give you in sic a dilemma, is to send an express to Rippon for Doctor Waugh, without delay; and, in the mean time, swallow all the oil and butter you can find in the house, to de-
fend your poor stomach and intestins from the villication of the particles of the jallap, which is vara violent, even when taken in moderation.'

The poor clothier's torments had al-
ready begun; he refiled, roaring with pain, to his own chamber; the oil was swallowed, and the doctor sent for; but before he arrived, the miserable patient had made such discharges upwards and downwards, that nothing remained to give him farther offence: and this double evacuation was produced by imagination alone; for what he had drank was gen-
uine wine of Bourdeaux, which the lawyer had brought from Scotland for his own private use. 'The clothier, find-
ing the joke turn out so expensive and disagreeable, quitted the house next morning, leaving the triumph to Mickle-
whimmen, who enjoyed it internally, without any outward signs of exultation: on the contrary, he affected to pity the young man for what he had suffered; and
and acquired fresh credit from this shew of moderation.

It was about the middle of the night which succeeded this adventure, that the vent of the kitchen-chimney being foul, the foot, took fire, and the alarm was given in a dreadful manner. Every body leaped naked out of bed, and in a minute the whole house was filled with cries and confusion. There were two stairs in the house, and to these we naturally ran; but they were both so blocked up by the people pressing one upon another, that it seemed impossible to pass, without throwing down and trampling upon the women. In the midst of this anarchy, Mr. Micklewhimmen, with a leather portmanteau on his back, came running as nimble as a buck along the passage; and Tabby, in her under-petticoat, endeavouring to hook him under the arm, that she might escape through his protection, he very fairly pushed her down, crying—

"Na, na, guide faith, charity begins at home!" Without paying the least respect to the furies and entreaties of his female friends, he charged through the midst of the crowd, overturning every thing that opposed him; and actually fought his way to the bottom of the stair-case. By this time, Clinker had found a ladder, by which he entered the window of my uncle's chamber, where our family was assembled, and proposed that we should make our exit successively by that conveyance. The squire exhorted his father to begin the decent; but, before she could resolve, her woman, Mrs. Winifred Jenkins, in a transport of terror, threw herself out at the window upon the ladder, while Humphry dropped upon the ground, that he might receive her in her decent. This maiden was just as she had started out of bed, the moon shone very bright, and a fresh breeze of wind blowing, none of Mrs. Winifred's beauties could possibly escape the view of the fortunate Clinker, whose heart was not able to withstand the united force of so many charms; at last, I am much mistaken, if he has not been her humble slave from that moment. He received her in his arms; and, giving her his coat to protect her from the weather, ascended again with admirable dexterity.

At that instant, the landlord of the house called out with an audible voice, that the fire was extinguished, and the ladies had nothing farther to fear. This was no welcome note to the audience, and produced an immediate effect; the shrieking ceased, and a confused sound of expostulation ensued. I conducted Mrs. Tabitha and my father to their own chamber, where Liddy fainted away; but was soon brought to herself. Then I went to offer my services to the other ladies, who might want assistance. They were all confuding through the passage to their several apartments; and as the thoroughfare was lighted by two lamps, I had a pretty good observation of them in their transit; but as most of them were naked to the knees and all their heads thronged in huge night-caps, I could not distinguish one face from another, though I recognized some of their voices. These were generally plaintive; some wept, some folded, and some prayed. I lifted up one poor old gentlewoman, who had been overturned and fore bruised by a multitude of feet; and this was also the case with the lame parson from Northumberland, whom Micklewhimmen had in his passage overthrown, though not with impunity; for the cripple, in falling, gave him such a good pelting on the head with his crutch, that the blood followed.

As for this lawyer, he waited below till the hurly-burly was over, and then stole softly to his own chamber, from whence he did not venture to make a second sally till eleven in the forenoon; when he was led into the publick room by his own servant and another attendant, groaning most woefully, with a bloody napkin round his head. But things were greatly altered: the selfish brutality of his behaviour on the stairs had feebled their hearts against all his arts and addresses. Not a soul offered to accommodate him with a chair, cushion, or footstool; so that he was obliged to sit down on a hard wooden bench. In that position, he looked around with a rueful aspect; and, bowing very low, said in a whining tone—"Your most humble servant, ladies. Fire is a dreadful calamity!"—"Fire purifies gold, and it tries friendship," cried Mrs. Tabitha, bristling. "Yea, Madam," replied Micklewhimmen, and it trieth discretion also."—"If discretion conflicts with forbidding a friend in adversity, you are evidently poffefed of that virtue," refused our aunt. "Na, Madam," rejoined the advocate, "well I wot, I cannot claim any merit from the mode of my rētreat. Ye'll please
plea to observe, ladies, there are two independent principles that actuate our nature. One is instinct; which we have in common with the brute creation; and the other is reason. No, in certain great emergencies, when the faculty of reason is suspended, instinct takes the lead; and when this predominates, having no affinity with reason, it pays no sort of regard to its connections; it only operates for the preservation of the individual, and that by the most expeditions and effectual means; therefore, begging your pardon, ladies, I am no accountable in foro conscientiae for what I did, while under the influence of this irresistible passion.

Here my uncle interposing—'I should be glad to know,' said he, 'whether it was infant that prompted you to retreat with bag and baggage; for, I think, you had a portmanteau on your shoulder.' The lawyer answered, without hesitation—'Gif I might tell my mind freely, without incurring the suspicion of presumption, I should think it was something superior to either reason or instinct which suggested that measure; and this on a twofold account. In the first place, the portmanteau contained the writings of a worthy nobleman's estate; and their being burnt would have occasioned a loss that could not be repaired. Secondly, my good angel seems to have laid the portmanteau on my shoulders, by way of defence, to sustain the violence of a most inhuman blow from the crutch of a reverend clergyman; which, even in spite of that medium, has wounded me sorely, even unto the pericranium. —'By your own doctrine,' cried the parson, who chanced to be present, 'I am not accountable for the blow, which was the effect of instinct.' —'I crave your pardon, reverend sir,' said the other; 'infinit never acts but for the preservation of the individual; but your preservation was out of the case; you had already received the damage, and therefore the blow must be imputed to revenge, which is a sinful passion, that ill becomes any Christian, especially a Protestant divine. And let me tell you, most reverend doctor, gin I had a mind to please, the law would hould my libel relevant.'—"Why, the damage is pretty equal on both sides,' cried the parson; 'your head is broke, and my crutch is snapped in the middle.

Now, if you will repair the one, I will be at the expense of curing the other.'

This fully raised the laugh against Micklewhinmen, who began to look grave; when my uncle, in order to change the discourse, observed, that instinct had been very kind to him in another respect; for it had restored to him the use of his limbs, which, in his exit, he had moved with surprising agility.

He replied, that it was the nature of fear to brace up the nerves; and mentioned some surprising feats of strength and activity performed by persons under the impulse of terror; but he complained, that, in his own particular, the effects had ceased when the caufe was taken away. The figure said he would lay a tea-drinking on his head that he should dance a Scotch measure without making a false step; and the advocate grinning, called for the piper. A fiddler being at hand, this original started up, with his bloody napkin over his black tye-periwig, and acquitted himself in such a manner as excited the mirth of the whole company: but he could not regain the good graces of Mrs. Tabby, who did not understand the principle of instinct; and the lawyer did not think it worth his while to proceed to farther demonstration.

From Harrigate we came hither, by the way of York, and here we shall tarry some days, as my uncle and Tabitha are both resolved to make use of the waters. Scarborough, though a paltry town, is romantick from its situation along a cliff that over-hangs the sea. The harbour is formed by a small elbow of land that runs out as a natural mole, directly opposite to the town; and on that side is the castle, which stands very high, of considerable extent, and, before the invention of gunpowder, was counted impregnable. At the other end of Scarborough are two publick rooms for the use of the company, who refer to this place in the summer, to drink the waters, and bathe in the sea; and the diversions are pretty much on the same footing here as at Bath. The Spa is a little way beyond the town, on this side, under a cliff, within a few paces of the sea, and thither the drinkers go every morning in dabbible; but the descent is by a great number of steps, which invalids find very inconvenient. Between the well and the harbour,
harbour, the bathing machines are ranged along the beach, with all their proper utensils and attendants. You have never seen one of these machines. Image to yourself a small, snug, wooden chamber, fixed upon a wheel-carriage, having a door at each end, and on each side a little window above, a bench below. The bather, ascending into this apartment by wooden steps, flutters himself in, and begins to undress, while the attendant yokes a horse to the end next the sea, and draws the carriage forwards, till the surface of the water is on a level with the floor of the dressing-room, then he moves and fixes the horse to the other end. The person within, being stripped, opens the door to the sea-ward, where he finds the guide ready, and plunges headlong into the water. After having bathed, he re-ascends into the apartment by the steps, which had been shifted for that purpose, and puts on his cloaths at his leisure, while the carriage is drawn back again upon the dry land; so that he has nothing farther to do but to open the door, and come down as he went up. Should he be so weak or ill as to require a servant to put off and on his cloaths, there is room enough in the apartment for half a dozen people. The guides who attend the ladies in the water, are of their own sex; and they and the female-bathers have a dress of flannel for the sea; nay, they are provided with other conveniences for the support of decorum. A certain number of the machines are fitted with tilted, that project from the sea-ward ends of them, so as to screen the bathers from the view of all persons whatsoever. The beach is admirably adapted for this practice, the descent being gently gradual, and the sand soft as velvet; but then the machines can be used only at a certain time of the tide, which varies every day; so that sometimes the bathers are obliged to rise very early in the morning. For my part, I love swimming as an exercise, and can enjoy it at all times of the tide, without the formality of an apparatus. You and I have often plunged together into the Isis; but the sea is a much more noble bath, for health as well as pleasure. You cannot conceive what a flow of spirits it gives, and how it braces every finew of the human frame. Were I to enumerate half the diseases which are every day cured by sea-bathing, you might justly say you had received a treatise, instead of a letter, from your affectionate friend, and servant,

J. MELFORD.

SCARBOROUGH, JULY 1.

TO DR. LEWIS.

I have not found all the benefit I expected at Scarborough, where I have been these eight days. From Harrogate we came hither by the way of York, where we stayed only one day to visit the Castle, the Minster, and the Assembly-Room. The first, which was heretofore a fortress, is now converted to a prison, and is the best, in all respects, I ever saw at home or abroad. It stands in a high situation, extremely well ventilated; and has a spacious area within the walls, for the health and convenience of all the prisoners, except those whom it is necessary to secure in close confinement. Even these last have all the comforts that the nature of their situation can admit. Here the aires are held, in a range of buildings erected for that purpose.

As for the Minster, I know not how to distinguish it, except by its great size, and the height of its spire, from those other ancient churches in different parts of the kingdom which used to be called monuments of Gothic architecture; but it is now agreed, that this file is Saracen rather than Gothic; and I suppose it was first imported into England from Spain, great part of which was under the dominion of the Moors. Those British architects who adopted this file, do not seem to have considered the propriety of their adoption. The climate of the country possesses by the Moors or Saracens, both in Africa and Spain, was so exceedingly hot and dry, that those who built places of worship for the multitude, employed their talents in contriving edifices that should be cool; and, for this purpose, nothing could be better adapted than those buildings; vast, narrow, dark, and lofty, impervious to the sun-beams, and having little communication with the scorching external atmosphere; but ever affording a refreshing coolness, like subterranean cellars in the heats of summer, or natural caverns in the bowels of huge mountains. But nothing could be more preposterous than to imitate such a mode of architecture in a country like England,
England, where the climate is cold, and the air eternally loaded with vapours; and where, of consequence, the builder's intention should be to keep the people dry and warm. For my part, I never entered the Abbey-church at Bath but once, and the moment I stepped over the threshold, I found myself chilled to the very marrow of my bones. When we consider that, in our churches in general, we breathe a gross stagnated air, fur-charged with damp from vaults, tombs, and charnel-houses, may we not term them so many magazines of rheums, created for the benefit of the medical faculty; and safely aver, that more bodies are lost, than souls saved, by going to church, in the winter especially, which may be paid to engros eight months in the year. I should be glad to know what offence it would give to tender con-

This text is a part of a larger work, and it seems to discuss the climate and architecture of England, particularly the climatic conditions inside churches and the impact on visitors. It mentions the experience of visiting the Abbey-church at Bath and the coldness felt by the author upon entering. The text also touches upon the general practice of visiting churches during the winter, which was not considered healthy. A comparison is made with the climate and conditions inside churches to those outdoors. The text concludes by stating that the practice of visiting churches during such cold conditions was not considered beneficial for the health of the people.
HUMPHRY CLINKER.

man I ever knew, who had resolution enough to live in his own way, in the midst of foreigners; for neither in deeds, diet, customs, or conversation, did he deviate one tittle from the manner in which he had been brought up. About twelve years ago, he began a Giro or circuit, which he thus performed. At Naples, where he fixed his head-quarters, he embarked for Marseilles, from whence he travelled, with a voiturin, to Antibes. There he took his passage to Genoa and Lerici; from which last place he proceeded by the way of Cambratina to Pisa and Florence. After having halted some time in this metropolis, he set out with a vetturino for Rome, where he repose'd himself a few weeks, and then continued his rout to Naples, in order to wait for the next opportunity of embarkation. After having twelve times described this circle, he lately flew off at a tangent to visit some trees at his country-house in England, which he had planted above twenty years ago, after the plan of the double colonnade in the piazza of St. Peter's at Rome. He came hither to Scarborough, to pay his respects to his noble friend and former pupil the M—— of G——; and, forgetting that he is now turned of seventy, sacrificed so liberally to Bacchus, that next day he was feiz'd with a fit of apoplexy, which has a little impaired his memory; but he retains all the oddity of his character in perfection, and is going back to Italy, by the way of Geneva, that he may have a conference with his friend Voltaire, about giving the last blow to the Christian superstitition. He intends to take shipping here for Holland or Hamburg; for it is a matter of great indifference to him at what part of the continent he first lands.

When he was going abroad the last time, he took his passage in a ship bound for Leghorn, and his baggage was actually embarked. In going down the river, by water, he was by mistake put on board of another vessel under sail; and, upon enquiry, understood he was bound to Peterburgh. 'Peterburgh! Peterburgh!' said he; 'I don't care if I go along with you.' He forthwith struck a bargain with the captain; bought a couple of shills of the mate, and was safe conveyed to the court of Muscovy, from whence he travelled by land to receive his baggage at Leghorn. He is now more likely than ever to execute a whim of the same nature; and I will hold any wager, that, as he cannot be supposed to live much longer, according to the course of nature, his exit will be as odd as his life has been extravagant.

But, to return from one humourist to another; you must know I have received benefit both from the chalybes and the sea; and would have used them longer, had not a most ridiculous adventure, by making me the town-talk, obliged me to leave the place; for I cannot bear the thoughts of affording a spectacle to the multitude. Yesterdai morning, at six o'clock, I went down to the bathing-place, attended by my servant Clinker, who waited on the beach as usual. The wind blowing from the north, and the weather being hazy, the water proved too chill, that, when I rose from my first plunge, I could not help sobbing and bawling out from the effects of the cold. Clinker, who heard me cry, and saw me indifferently a good way without the guide, buffeting the waves, took it for granted I was drowning; and, rushing into the sea, cloaths and all, over turned the guide in his hurry to save his master. I had swam out a few frokes; when, hearing a noise, I turned about and saw Clinker already up to his neck, advancing towards me, with all the wildness of terror in his aspect. Afraid he would get out of his depth, I made haste to meet him; when, all of a sudden, he seized me by one ear, and dragged me, bellowing with pain, upon the dry beach, to the astonishment of all the people, men, women, and children, there assembled.

* This gentleman crossed the sea to France, visited and conferred with Mr. de Voltaire at Ferney, refurbished his old circuit at Genoa, and died in 1767, at the house of Vanini in Florence. Being taken with a suppression of urine, he resolved, in imitation of Pompeius Atticus, to take himself off by abstinence; and this resolution he executed like an ancient Roman. He saw company to the last, cracked his jokes, conversed freely, and entertained his guests with mufick. On the third day of his last, he found himself entirely freed of his complaint; but refused taking sustenance. He said the most disagreeable part of the voyage was past, and he should be a cursed fool indeed to put about ship when he was just entering the harbour. In these sentiments he persisted, without any marks of affection; and thus finished his course with such ease and serenity, as would have done honour to the firmest Stock of antiquity.

I was
I was so exasperated by the pain of my ear, and the disgrace of being exposed in such an attitude, that, in the first transport, I struck him down; then running back into the sea, took shelter in the machine, where my cloths had been deposited. I soon recollected myself so far as to do justice to the poor fellow, who, in great simplicity of heart, had acted from motives of fidelity and affection. Opening the doors of the machine, which was immediately drawn on shore, I saw him standing by the wheel, dropping like a water-work, and trembling from head to foot, partly from cold, and partly from the dread of having offended his master. In a measure acknowledgments for the blow he had received, assured him I was not angry, and insisted upon his going home immediately to shift his cloths; a command which he could hardly find in his heart to execute, so well disposed was he to furnish the mob with farther entertainment at my expense. Clinker’s intention was laudable, without all doubt; but, nevertheless, I am a sufferer by his simplicity. I have had a burning heat, and a strange buzzing noise, in that ear, ever since it was so roughly treated; and I cannot walk the street, without being pointed at as the monster that was hauled naked afloat upon the beach. Well, I affirm that folly is often more provoking than knavery; aye, and more mischievous too: and whether a man had not better chuse a sensible rogue, than an honest simpleton, for his servant, is no matter of doubt with yours,


Scarborough, July 4.

To Sir Watkin Phillips, Bart. of Jesus College, Oxon.

Dear Watt,

We made a precipitate retreat from Scarborough, owing to the excessive delicacy of our squire, who cannot bear the thoughts of being praterentium digito maniaturus.

One morning, while he was bathing in the sea, his man Clinker took it in his head that his master was in danger of drowning; and, in this conceit, plunging into the water, he hugged him out naked on the beach, and almost pulled off his ear in the operation. You may guess how this achievement was relished by Mr. Bramble, who is impatient, irascible, and has the most extravagant ideas of decency and decorum in the economy of his own person. In the first ebullition of his choler, he knocked Clinker down with his fist; but he afterwards made him amends for this outrage, and, in order to avoid the farther notice of the people, among whom this incident had made him remarkable, he resolved to leave Scarborough the next day.

We set out accordingly over the moors, by the way of Whitby, and began our journey betimes, in hopes of reaching Stockton that night; but in this hope we were disappointed. In the afternoon, crossing a deep gutter, made by a torrent, the coach was so hard strained, that one of the irons which connect the frame snapped, and the leather fling on the same side cracked in the middle. The shock was so great, that my sister Liddy struck her head against Mrs. Tabitha’s nose with such violence, that the blood flowed; and Win. Jenkins was darted through a small window, in that part of the carriage next the horses, where the stick like a bawd in the pillory, till the same was released by the hand of Mr. Bramble. We were eight miles distant from any place where we could be supplied with chaises, and it was impossible to proceed with the coach, until the damage should be repaired. In this dilemma, we discovered a blacksmith’s forge on the edge of a small common, about half a mile from the scene of our disaster, and thither the positions made shift to draw the carriage slowly, while the company walked a-foot: but we found the blacksmith had been dead some days; and his wife, who had been lately delivered, was deprived of her lentis, under the care of a nurse hired by the parish. We were exceedingly mortified at this disappointment; which, however, was surmounted by the help of Humphry Clinker, who is a surprising compound of genius and simplicity. Finding the tools of the defunct, together with some coals, in the smithy, he uncrewed the damaged iron in a twinkling, and, kindling a fire, united the broken pieces with equal dexterity and dispatch. While he was at work upon this operation, the poor woman in the straw, struck with the well-known sound of the hammer and anvil, started up, and, notwithstanding all the nurse’s efforts, came running into the smithy; where throwing her arms about

O 2

Clinker’s
Clinker's neck—"Ah, Jacob," cried she, "how could you leave me in such a condition?"

This incident was too pathetick to occasion mirth; it brought tears into the eyes of all present. The poor widow was put to bed again; and we did not leave the village without doing something for her benefit. Even Tabitha's charity was awakened on this occasion. As for the tender-hearted Humphry Clinker, he hammered the iron and wept at the same time. But his ingenuity was not confined to his own province of ferrier and blacksmith: it was necessary to join the leather sling which had been broke; and this service he likewise performed, by means of a broken awl, which he new-pointed and ground; a little hemp, which he spun into ringels; and a few tacks, which he made for the purpose. Upon the whole, we were in a condition to proceed in little more than one hour; but even this delay obliged us to pass the night at Gifborough. Next day we crossed the Tees, at Stockton, which is a neat agreeable town; and there we resolved to dine, with purpose to lie at Durham.

Whom should we meet in the yard, when we alighted, but Martin the adventurer? Having handed out the ladies, and conducted them into an apartment, where he paid his compliments to Mrs. Tabby, with his usual address, he begged leave to speak to my uncle in another room; and there, in some confusion, he made an apology for having taken the liberty to trouble him with a letter at Stevenage. He expressed his hope that Mr. Bramble had bestowed some consideration on his unhappy cafe, and repeated his desire of being taken into his service.

My uncle, calling me into the room, told him, that we were both very well inclined to rescue him from a way of life, that was equally dangerous and dishonourable; and that he should have no scruples in trusting to his gratitude and fidelity, if he had any employment for him, which he thought would suit his qualifications and his circumstances; but that all the departments he had mentioned in his letter were filled up by persons of whose conduct he had no reason to complain of consequence, he could not, without injustice, deprive any one of them of his bread. Nevertheless, he declared himself ready to assist him in any feasible project, either with his purse or credit.

Martin seemed deeply touched at this declaration. The tear started in his eye, while he said, in a faltering accent—"Worthy Sir, your generosity oppresses me. I never dreamed of troubling you for any pecuniary assistance. Indeed, I have no occasion. I have been so lucky at billiards and betting in different places, at Buxton, Harrogate, Scarborough, and Newcastle races, that my stock in ready-money amounts to three hundred pounds, which I would willingly employ in profecting some honest scheme of life; but my friend, Justice Buzzard, has fed so many springs for my life, that I am under the necessity of either retiring immediately to a remote part of the country, where I can enjoy the protection of some generous patron, or of quitting the kingdom altogether. It is upon this alternative that I now beg leave to ask your advice. I have had information of all your route, since I had the honour to see you at Stevenage; and, supposing you would come this way from Scarborough, I came hither last night from Darling-ton, to pay you my respects."

"It would be no difficult matter to provide you with an asylum in the country," replied my uncle; "but a life of indolence and obscurity would not suit with your active and enterprising disposition. I would therefore advise you to try your fortune in the East Indies. I will give you a letter to a friend in London, who will recommend you to the directors, for a commissio in the company's service; and if that cannot be obtained, you will at least be received as a volunteer: in which case, you may pay for your passage, and I shall undertake to procure you such credentials, that you will not be long without a commissio." Martin embraced the proposal with great eagerness; it was therefore resolved, that he should sell his horse, and take a passage by sea for London, to execute the project without delay. In the mean time he accompanied us to Durham, where we took up our quarters for the night. Here, being furnished with letters from my uncle, he took his leave of us with strong symptoms of gratitude and attachment, and set out for Sunderland, in order to embark in the first collier bound for the River Thames. He had not been gone half an hour, when we were joined by another character, which promised something
something extraordinary. A tall, meagre figure, answering, with his horse, the description of Don Quixote mounted on Rozinante, appeared in the twilight at the inn door, while my aunt and Liddy stood at a window in the dining-room. He wore a coat, the cloth of which had once been scarlet, trimmed with Brandenburg, now totally deprived of their metal, and he had holster-caps and houging of the same stuff and same antiquity. Perceiving ladies at the window above, he endeavoured to dismount with the most graceful air he could assume; but the officer neglecting to hold the stirrup, when he wheeled off his right-foot, and stood with his whole weight on the other, the girth unfortunately gave way, the saddle turned, down came the cavalier to the ground, and his hat and periwig falling off, displayed a head-piece of various colours, patched and plaited in a woeful condition. The ladies, at the window above, shrieked with affright, on the supposition that the stranger had received some notable damage in his fall; but the greatest injury he had sustained arose from the dishonour of his decent, aggravated by the disgrace of exposing the condition of his cranium; for certain plebeians that were about the door, laughed aloud, in the belief that the captain had got either a scald head, or a broken head, both equally opprobrious.

He forthwith leaped up in a fury, and snatching one of his pistols, threatened to put the officer to death, when another squall from the women checked his resentment. He then bowed to the window, while he kissed the butt end of his pistol, which he replaced; adjusted his wig in great confusion, and led his horse into the stable. By this time I had come to the door, and could not help gazing at the strange figure that prefented itself to my view. He would have measured above six feet in height, had he stood upright; but he flopped very much; was very narrow in the shoulders, and very thick in the calves of the legs, which were cased in black patterdaffes. As for his thighs, they were long and slender, like those of a grashopper; his face was at least half a yard in length, brown, and thrivelled, with projecting cheek-bones, little grey eyes, on the greenish hue, a large hook-nose, a pointed chin, a mouth from ear to ear, very ill furnished with teeth, and a high narrow forehead, well furrowed with wrinkles. His horse was exactly in the style of it's rider; a refutation of dry bones, which (as we afterwards learned) he valued exceedingly, as the only present he had ever received in his life.

Having seen this favourite fed properly accommodated in the stable, he sent up his compliments to the ladies, begging permission to thank them in person for the marks of concern they had shewn at his disfain in the court-yard. As the squire said they could not decently decline his visit, he was shewn up stairs, and paid his respects in the Scotch dialect, with much formality. 'Laddies,' said he, 'perhaps ye may be scandalized at the appearance my head made, when it was uncovered by accident; but I can assure you the condition you saw it in, is neither the effects of disease nor of drunkenness; but an honest fear received in the service of my country.' He then gave us to understand, that having been wounded at Ticonderago in America, a party of Indians rifed him, scaled him, broke his skull with the blow of a tomahawk, and left him for dead in the field of battle; but that being afterwards found with signs of life, he had been cured in the French hospital, though the loss of substance could not be repaired; so that the skull was left naked in several places, and thee he covered with patches.

There is no hold by which an Englishman is sooner taken than that of compaffion. We were immediately interested in behalf of this veteran. Even Tabby's heart was melted; but our pity was warmed with indignation, when we learned, that in the course of two fanguinary wars, he had been wounded, maimed, mutilated, taken, and enslaved, without ever having attained a higher rank than that of a lieutenant. My uncle's eyes gleamed, and his nether lip quivered, while he exclaimed—'I vow to God, Sir, your cafe is a reproach to the service. The injustice you have met with is so flagrant—' I must crave your pardon, Sir,' cried the other, interrupting him; 'I complain of no injustice. I purchased an ensigny thirty years ago; and, in the course of service, rofe to be a lieutenant, according to my seniority.'—But in such a length of time, refumed the squire, ' you must have seen a great many young officers put over your head.'—' Neverthelefs,' said he, 'I have no caufe to murm. They bought their pre- ferment with their money. I had no money
money to carry to market; that was my misfortune; but nobody was to blame."

--'What! no friend to advance a sum of money?' said Mr. Bramble. 'Perhaps, I might have borrowed money for the purchase of a company,' answered the other; 'but that loan must have been refunded; and I did not chuse to incum
ber myself with a debt of a thousand pounds, to be paid from an income of ten shillings a day.'-- So you have spent the best part of your life,' cried Mr. Bramble, 'your youth, your blood, and your constitution, amidst the dangers, the difficulties, the horrors, and hardships of war, for the consideration of three or four shillings a day; a consideration--" Sir,' replied the Scot, with great warmth, 'you are the man that does me injustice, if you lay or think I have been actuated by any such paltry consideration. I am a gentleman; and entered the service as other gentle
men do, with such hopes and sentiments as honourable ambition inspires. If I have not been lucky in the lottery of life, so neither do I think myself unfortunate. I owe no man a farthing; I can always command a clean shirt, a mutton-chop, and a truss of straw; and when I die, I shall leave effects sufficient to defray the expense of my burial.

My uncle assured him, he had no in
tention to give him the least offence, by the observations he had made; but, on the contrary, spoke from a sentiment of friendly regard to his interest. The lieute
nant thanked him with a diffines of civility, which nettled our old gentleman, who perceived that his moderation was all affected: for, whatsoever his tongue might declare, his whole appearance denoted dissatisfaction. In short, without pretending to judge of his military merit, I think I may affirm, that this Caledonian is a self-conceited pedant, awkward, rude, and disputatious. He has had the benefit of a school-education, seems to have read a good number of books, his memory is tenacious, and he pretends to speak several different languages; but he is so addicted to wrangling, that he will cavil at the clearest truths, and, in the pride of argumentation, attempt to reconcile contradi
tions. Whether his address and qualifi
cations are really of that kind, which is agreeable to the taste of our aunt, Mrs. Tabitha, or that indefatigable maiden is determined to shoot at every fort of game, certain it is he has begun to practice upon the heart of the lieutenant, who favoured us with his company to supper.

I have many other things to lay of this man of war, which I shall communicate in a post or two; mean while, it is but reasonable that you should be indulged with some refpite from these weary lucu
brations of yours,

J. MELFORD.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE,
JULY 10.

TO SIR WATKIN PHILLIPS, OF JESUS COLLEGE, OXON.

DEAR PHILLIPS,

In my last I treated you with a high
flavoured dish, in the character of the Scotch lieutenant, and I must present him once more for your entertainment. It was our fortune to feed upon him the best part of three days, and I do not doubt that he will start again in our way before we shall have finished our northern excursion. The day after our meeting with him at Durham proved so tempestuous, that we did not chuse to proceed on our journey; and my uncle persuaded him to stay till the weather should clear up, giv
him, at the same time, a general in
vitation to our mets. The man has cer
tainly gathered a whole budget of shrewed observations, but he brings them forth in such an ungracious manner, as would be extremely disgusting, if it was not mark
ed by that characteristic oddity which never fails to attract the attention. He and Mr. Bramble discoursed, and even disputed, on different subjects in war, po
licy, the belles lettres, law, and meta
physicks; and sometimes they were war
ned into such altercation, as seemed to threaten an abrupt dissolution of their so
ociety; but Mr. Bramble set a guard over his own irrefutability, the more vigilantly as the officer was his guest: and when, in spite of all his efforts, he began to wax warm, the other prudently cooled in the same proportion.

Mrs. Tabitha chances to accost her brother by the familiar diminutive of MATT.-- Pray, Sir, said the lieutenant, 'is your name Matthias?' It must know, it is one of our uncle's foibles to be ashamed of his name Matthew, be
cause it is puritanical; and this question chagrined him so much, that he answered, No, by G--d!' in a very abrupt
tone of displeasure. The Scot took umbrage at the manner of his reply; and, bristling up—"If I had known," said he, "that you did not care to tell your name, I should not have asked the question.

The lady called you Matt, and I naturally thought it was Matthias: perhaps it may be Methuselah, or Metrodorus, or Metellus, or Mathurinus, or Malthinus, or Metamorus, or—" No," cried my uncle, laughing, "it is neither of those, captain; my name is Matthew Bramble, at your service.

The truth is, I have a foolish pique at the name of Matthew, because it favours of those canting hypocrites, who, in Cromwell's time, christened all their children by names taken from the scriptures."—"A foolish pique indeed," cried Mrs. Tabby; "and even finful, to fall out with your name, because it is taken from holy writ. I would have you to know, you was called after great-uncle Matthew, ap Madoc ap Meredith, Esquire, of Llewelyn, in Montgomeryshire, justice of the quorum, and crufty cutleorum, a gentleman of great worth and property, descended in a direct line, by the female side, from Llewellyn, Prince of Wales."

This genealogical anecdote seemed to make some impression upon the North Briton, who bowed very low to the descendants of Llewellyn; and observed that he himself had the honour of a scriptural nomination. The lady expressing a desire of knowing his address, he said, he designed himself Captain Obadiah Lifmahago; and, in order to affit her memory, he presented her with a slip of paper, inscribed with these three words, which she repeated with great emphasis, declaring it was one of the most noble and honourable names she had ever heard. He observed that Obadiah was an adventitious appellation derived from his great-grandfather, who had been one of the original covenanters; but Lifmahago was the family surname, taken from a place in Scotland so called. He likewise dropped some hints about the antiquity of his pedigree, adding, with a smile, of self-denial—"Sed genus et procer, et quon non fecinus ip, vox ea nostra voco," which quotation he explained in deference to the ladies; and Mrs. Tabitha did not fail to compliment him on his modesty, in waving the merit of his ancestry, adding, that it was the less necessary to him as he had such a considerable fund of his own. She now began to glee herself to his favour with the grossest adulation. She experimented upon the antiquity and virtues of the Scottish nation, upon their valour, probity, learning, and politeness. She even descended to encomiums on his own personal address, his gallantry, good figure, and erudition. She appealed to her brother, whether the captain was not the very image of our cousin, Governor Griffith. She discovered a surprising eagerness to know the particulars of his life, and asked a thousand questions concerning his achievements in war; all which Mr. Lifmahago answered with a sort of judicial reserve, affecting a reluctance to satisfy her curiosity on a subject that concerned his own exploits.

By dint of her interrogations, however, we learned, that he and Ensign Murphy had made their escape from the French hospital at Montreal, and taken to the woods, in hope of reaching some English settlement; but mistaking their route, they fell in with a party of Miami, who carried them away in captivity. The intention of these Indians was to give one of them as an adopted son to a venerable sachem, who had lost his own in the course of the war, and to sacrifice the other according to the custom of the country. Murphy, as being the younger and handier of the two, was designed to fill the place of the deceased, not only as the son of the sachem, but as the ippec of a beautiful squaw, to whom his predecessor had been betrothed; but in passing through the different wigwams or villages of the Miami, poor Murphy was so mangled by the women and children, who have the privilege of torturing all prisoners in their passage, that, by the time they arrived at the place of the sachem's residence, he was rendered altogether unfit for the purposes of marriage: it was determined, therefore, in the assembly of the warriors, that Ensign Murphy should be brought to the stake, and that the lady should be given to Lieutenant Lifmahago, who had likewise received his share of torments, though they had not produced emasculation. A joint of one finger had been cut, or rather sawed off with a rusty knife; one of his great toes was crushed into a mashing betwixt two bones; some of his teeth were drawn, or dug out with a crooked nail; splintered reeds had been thrust up his nostrils, and other tender parts; and the calves
calves of his legs had been blown up with
mines of gunpowder dug in the flesh with
the sharp point of the tomahawk.

The Indians themselves allowed that
Murphy died with great heroism, singing,
as his death song, the drimmenloog, in con-
cert with Mr. Lifmahago, who was pre-
sent at the solemnity. After the warriors
and matrons had made a hearty meal
upon the muscular flesh which they pared
from the victim, and had applied a great
variety of tortures, which he bore with-
out flinching; an old lady, with a sharp
knife, scooped out one of his eyes, and
put a burning coal in the socket. The pain
of this operation was so exquisite, that
he could not help bellowing, upon which
the audience raised a shout of exultation,
and one of the warriors feeling behind
him, gave him the coup de grace with a
hatchet.

Lifmahago’s bride, the Squaw Squin-
kinaccofta, ‘distinguished herself’ on this
occasion. She shewed a great superiority
of genius in the tortures which she con-
trived and executed with her own hands.
She vied with the stoutest warrior in eat-
ing the flesh of the sacrifice; and after all
the other females were fuddled with dram-
drinking, she was not so intoxicated but
that she was able to play the game of the
platter with the conjuring fachem, and
afterwards go through the ceremony of
her own wedding, which was com-
mumated that same evening. The captain
had lived very happily with this accom-
plished squaw for two years, during which
she bore him a son, who is now the re-
presentative of his mother’s tribe; but, at
length, to his unpeachable grief, she died
of a fever, occasioned by eating too much
raw bear, which they had killed in a
hunting excursion.

By this time, Mr. Lifmahago was elec-
ted fachem, acknowledged first warrior of
the Badger tribe, and dignified with the
name or epithet of Occacanaftaogara, which
signifies nimble as a weasel; but
all these advantages and honours he was
obliged to resign, in consequence of being
exchanged for the orator of the commu-
nity, who had been taken prisoner by the
Indians that were in alliance with the
English. At the peace, he had fold out
upon half-pay, and was returned to Bri-
tain, with a view to pass the rest of his
life in his own country, where he hoped
to find some retreat where his slender
finances would afford him a decent sub-
finance. Such are the outlines of Mr.

Lifmahago’s history, to which Tabitha
did seriously incline her ear; indeed, she
seemed to be taken with the same charms
that captivated the heart of Deflemonds,
who loved the Moor for the dangers he
had past.

The description of poor Murphy’s suf-
ferings, which threw my filler Liddy into
a swoon, extracted some signs from the
breast of Mrs. Tabby: when she under-
stood he had been rendered unfit for mar-
riage, she began to spt, and ejaculated—
‘Jetus, what cruel barbarians!’ and she
made wry faces at the lady’s nuptial re-
pa; but she was eagerly curious to know
the particulars of her marriage-dress;
whether she wore high-breded stays or
bodice, a robe of silk or velvet, and faces
of Mechlin or Minionette: she supposed,
as they were connected with the French,
she used rouge, and had her hair dressed
in the Parian fashion. The captain
would have declined giving a categorical
explanation of all these particulars, ob-
serving, in general, that the Indians were
too tenacious of their own customs to
adopt the modes of any nation whatsoever:
he said, moreover, that neither the sim-
plcity of their manners, nor the commerce
of their country, would admit of those
articles of luxury which were deemed
magnificence in Europe; and that they
were too virtuous and sensible to en-
courage the introduction of any fashion which
might help to render them corrupt and
effeminate.

These observations served only to en-
flame her desire of knowing the particu-
lar’s about which she had enquired; and,
with all his evasion, he could not help
discovering the following circumstances:
that his princess had neither shoes, stock-
hings, shift, nor any kind of linen; that
her bridal dress consisted of a petticoat of
red bays, and a fringed blanket, fastened
about her shoulders with a copper skewer;
but of ornaments she had great plenty.
Her hair was curiously plaited, and inter-
woven with bobbins of human bone; one
eye-lid was painted green, and the other
yellow; the cheeks were blue, the lips white,
the teeth red, and there was a black lift
drawn down the middle of the forehead, as
far as the tip of the nose; a couple of gaudy
parrot’s feathers were stuck through the
division of the nostrils; there was a blue
flure set in the chin; her ear-rings con-
sisted of two pieces of hickery, of the size
and shape of drum-flicks; her arms and
legs were adorned with bracelets of wam-
pum;

HUMPHRY CLINKER.
pum; her breast glittered with numerous
lings of glass beads; she wore a curious
pouch, or pocket, of woven grass ele-
gantly painted with various colours; about
her neck was hung the fresh scalp of a
Mohawk warrior, whom her deceased
lover had lately slain in battle; and, finally,
she was anointed from head to foot with
bear’s grease, which sent forth a most
agreeable odour.

One would imagine that these para-
phernalia would not have been much ad-
mired by a modern fine lady; but Mrs.
Tabitha was resolved to approve of all
the captain’s connexions. She wished, in-
deed, the squaw had been better provided
with linen; but she owned there was much
taste and fancy in her ornaments; she
made no doubt, therefore, that Madam
Squankimascoota was a young lady of good
fence and rare accomplishments, and a
good Christian at bottom. Then she
asked whether his comfort had been high-
church or low-church, presbyterian or
anabaptist, or had been favoured with any
glimmering of the new light of the gos-
pel. When he confessed that she and her
whole nation were utter strangers to the
Christian faith, she gazed at him with
signs of astonishment; and Humphry
Clinker, who chanced to be in the room,
uttered a hollow groan.

After some pause—’ In the name of
God, Captain Liramahago,’ cried she,
what religion do they profess?’—’ As
to religion, Madam,’” answered the lieu-
tenant, ‘it is among those Indians a mat-
ter of great simplicity. They never
heard of any Alliance between Church
and State. They, in general, worship
two contending principles; one the
Fountain of all Good, the other the
source of evil. The common people
there, as in other countries, run into the
aburdities of superstitition; but sensible
men pay adoration to a Supreme Being,
who created and fubjains the universe.’

‘O! what pity!’ exclaimed the pious
Tabby, ‘that some holy man has not
been inspired to go and convert these
poor heathens!’

The lieutenant told her, that while he
refused among them, two French mis-
ionaries arrived, in order to convert them
to the Catholick religion; but when they
talked of mysteries and revelations, which
they could neither explain nor authenti-
cate, and called in the evidence of mira-
cles which they believed upon hearsay;
when they taught, that the Supreme Cre-
ator of Heaven and Earth had allowed his
only Son, his own equal in power and
glory, to enter the bowels of a woman,
to be born as a human creature, to be in-
flicted, flagellated, and even executed as
a malefactor; when they pretended to
create God himself, to swallow, digest,
revive, and multiply him ad infinitum,
by the help of a little flour and water, the In-
dians were shocked at the impiety of their
presumption. They were examined by
the assembly of the fachems, who desired
them to prove the divinity of their mission
by some miracle. They answered that it
was not in their power. ‘ If you really
were sent by Heaven for our conver-
sion,’ said one of the fachems, ‘you
would certainly have some supernatural
downments, at least you would have
the gift of tongues, in order to explain
your doctrine to the different nations
among which you are employed; but
you are so ignorant of our language,
that you cannot express yourselves even
on the most trifling subjects.’

In a word, the assembly were convinced
of their being cheats, and even suspected
them of being spies: they ordered them
a bag of Indian corn a piece, and ap-
pointed a guide to conduct them to the
frontiers; but the missionaries having
more zeal than discretion, refused to quit
the vineyard. They perfused in saying
mals, in preaching, baptizing, and squab-
bling with the conjurers, or priests of the
country, till they had thrown the whole
community into confusion. Then the as-
sembly proceeded to try them as impious
impostors, who represented the Almighty
as a trifling, weak, capricious being, and
pretended to make, unmake, and repro-
duce himself at pleasure; they were, there-
fore, convicted of blasphemy and sedi-
tion, and condemned to the stake, where
they died singing Salve regina, in a rup-
ture of joy, for the crown of martyrdom
which they had thus obtained.

In the course of this conversation,
Liemahago dropped some hints by which it appeared he himself
was a free-thinker. Our aunt seemed to be startled at certain farrains he threw
out against the Creed of St. Athanasius.
He dwelt much upon the words reason,
philosophy, and contradiction in terms;
he bid defiance to the eternity of hell-
firle; and even threw such quibbles at the
immortality of the soul, as flushed a little
the whiskers of Mrs. Tabithia’s faith;
for, by this time, he began to look upon
P
Liramahago
Lisnalahgo as a prodigy of learning and sagacity. In truth, he could be no longer insensible to the advances he made towards his aution: and, although there was something repulsive in his nature, he overcame it so far as to make some return to his civilities. Perhaps, he thought it would be no bad scheme, in a superannuated lieutenant on half-pay, to effect a confederation with an old maid, who, in all probability, had fortune enough to keep him easy and comfortable in the fag-end of his days. An agoing correspondence forthwith commenced between this amiable pair of originals. He began to sweeten the natural acidity of his discourse with the treacle of compliment and commendation. He from time to time offered her smoke, of which he himself took great quantities, and even made her a present of a purse of silk-grafs, woven by the hands of the amiable Squinkina-cootta, who had used it as a shot-pouch in her hunting-expeditions.

From Doncaster northwards, all the windows of all the inns are fringed with doggerel rhymes, in abufe of the Scotch nation: and what surprized me very much, I did not perceive one line written in the way of retribution. Curious to hear what Lisnalahgo would say on this subject, I pointed out to him a very farfions epigram against his countrymen, which was engraved on one of the windows of the parlour where we sat. He read it with the most itchted composure; and when I asked his opinion of the poetry—"It is varn tere and varn poignant," said he; but with the help of a wat dith-clout, it might be rendered more clear and parbicious. I marvel much that some modern wit has not publithed a collection of these effays under the title of—The Glazier's Triumph over Sawney the Scot. I am perfuaded it would be a varn agreeable offering to the patriots of London and Welfe.

When I expressed some surprize that the natives of Scotland, who travel this way, had not broke all the windows upon the road—"With sub-maxion," replied the lieutenant, "that were but illaw policy; it would only serve to make the fater more cutting and severe; and, I think, it is much better to let it ftray in the window, than have it prefented in the reckon-

"My uncle's jays began to quiver with indignation. "He said, the scribbler of such infamous stuff deferred to be fcorugel at the cart's tail for disgracing their country with fuch monuments of malice and itupidity. "Thief vermin," said he, do not consider that they are affording their fellow-subjects, whom they abuse, continual matter of self-gratulation, as well as the means of executing the moft manly vengeance that can be taken for fuch low, illiberal attacks. For my part, I admire the philosophick forbearance of the Scots, as much as I"—

Mrs. Tabby broke forth again in praise of his moderation, and declared that Scotland was the foil which produced every virtue under heaven. When Lisnalahgo took his leave for the night, she asked her brother if the captain was not the prettieft gentleman he had ever seen; and whether there was not something wonderfully engaging in his apext? Mr. Bramble having eyed her some time in silence—"Sillery," said he, the lieutenant is, for aught I know, an honest man, and a good officer; he has a considerable share of underfand-

"I have endeavoured to ingratiate myself with this North Briton, who is really a curiosity; but he has been very shy of my conversation ever since I laughed at his afferting that the English tongue was spoke with more propriety at Edinburgh than at London. Looking at me with a double fqueeze of fourcing in his apext—"If the old definition be true," said he, that rufibility is the distinguishing cha-

characterick of a rational creature, the English are the moft distinguished for ration al
Unrationality of any people I ever knew;" I owned, that the English were easily struck with any thing that appeared ludicrous, and apt to laugh accordingly; but it did not follow, that, because they were more given to laughter, they had more rationality than their neighbours. I said, such an inference would be an injury to the Scots, who were by no means defective in rationality, though generally supposed little subject to the impressions of humour.

The captain answered, that this supposition must have been deduced either from their conversation or their compositions, of which the English could not possibly judge with precision, as they did not understand the dialect used by the Scots in common discourse, as well as in their works of humour. When I desired to know what those works of humour were, he mentioned a considerable number of pieces, which he informed were equal in point of humour to any thing extant in any language, dead or living. He, in particular, recommended a collection of detached poems, in two small volumes, entitled, The Ever-green, and the works of Allan Ramsay, which I intend to provide myself with at Edinburgh. He observed, that a North Briton is seen to a disadvantage in an English company, because he speaks in a dialect that they cannot relish, and in a phraseology which they do not understand: he therefore finds himself under a restraint, which is a great enemy to wit and humour. These are faculties which never appear in full stature, but when the mind is perfectly at ease, and, as an excellent writer says, enjoys her eleva-room.

He proceeded to explain his assertion that the English language was spoken with greater propriety at Edinburgh than in London. He said what we generally called the Scottish dialect, was, in fact, true genuine old English, with a mixture of some French terms and idioms, adopted in a long intercourse betwixt the French and Scotch nations; that the modern English, from affectation and false refinement, had weakened, and even corrupted, their language, by throwing out the guttural sounds, altering the pronunciation and the quantity, and diluting many words and terms of great significance. In consequence of these innovations, the works of our best poets, such as Chaucer, Spencer, and even Shakespeare, were become, in many parts, unintelligible to the natives of South Britain; whereas the Scots, who retain the ancient language, understand them without the help of a glossary. For instance," he said, "how have your commentators been puzzled by the following expression in the Tempest—

"He's gentle, and not fearful;" as if it was a paradoxism to say, that being gentle, he must of course be courageous.

But the truth is, one of the original meanings, if not the sole meaning, of that word was, noble, high-minded; and, to this day, a Scotch woman, in the situation of the young lady in the Tempest, would express herself nearly in the same terms. "Don't provoke him; for, being gentle, that is, high-spirited, he won't tamely bear an insult." Spencer, in the very first stanza of his Fairy Queen, says—

"A gentle knight was pricking on the plain;" which knight, far from being tame and fearful, was so stout, that—

"Nothing did he dread, but ever was ydread." To prove that we had impaired the energy of our language by false refinement, he mentioned the following words, which, though widely different in signification, are pronounced exactly in the same manner—awright, awrite, right, rite; but, among the Scots, these words are, in different pronunciation, as they are in meaning and orthography: and this is the case with many others which he mentioned by way of illustration. He, moreover, took notice, that we had (for what reason he could never learn) altered the sound of our vowels from that which is retained by all the nations in Europe; an alteration which rendered the language extremely difficult to foreigners, and made it almost impracticable to lay down general rules for orthography and pronunciation. Besides, the vowels were no longer simple sounds in the mouth of an Englishman, who pronounced both i and u as diphthongs. Finally, he affirmed, that we mumbled our speech with our lips and teeth, and ran the words together without pause or distinction, in such a manner, that a foreigner, though he understood English tolerably well, was
often obliged to have recourse to a Scotchman to explain what a native of England had said in his own language.

The truth of this remark was confirmed by Mr. Bramble from his own experience; but he accounted for it on another principle. He said, the same observation would hold in all languages; that a Scotchman talking French was more easily understood than a Parisian, by a foreigner who had not made himself master of the language; because every language had its peculiar recitative, and it would always require more pains, attention, and practice, to acquire both the words and the mufick, than to learn the words only; and yet nobody would deny that the one was imperfect without the other: he therefore apprehended, that the Scotchman and the Swiss were better understood by learners, because they spoke the words only, without the mufick, which they could not rehearse. One would imagine this check might have damped the North Britons; but it served only to agitate his humour for disputat

ion. He said, if every nation had its own recitative or mufick, the Scots had theirs; and the Scotchman who had not yet acquired the cadence of the English, would naturally use his own in speaking his language; therefore, if he was better understood than the native, his recitative must be more intelligible than that of the English; of consequence, the dialect of the Scots had an advantage over that of their fellow-subjects; and this was another strong presumption that the modern English had corrupted their language in the article of pronunciation.

The lieutenant was, by this time, become so polemical, that, every time he opened his mouth, out flew a paradox, which he maintained with all the enthusiasm of alteration; but all his paradoxes favoured strongly of a partiality for his own country. He undertook to prove that poverty was a blessing to a nation; that oatmeal was preferable to white flour; and that the worship of Cloacina, in temples which admitted both sexes; and every rank of votaries promiscuously, was a filthy species of idolatry that outraged every idea of delicacy and decorum. I did not so much wonder at his broaching these doctrines, as at the arguments, equally whimsical and ingenious, which he adduced in support of them.

In fine, Lieutenant Lifshago is a curiosity which I have not yet sufficiently perused; and therefore I shall be sorry when we lose his company, though, God knows, there is nothing very amiable in his manner or disposition. As he goes directly to the south-west division of Scotland, and we proceed in the road to Berwick, we shall part to-morrow at a place called Felton-Bridge; and, I dare say, this separation will be very grievous to our aunt, Mrs. Tabitha, unless she has received some flattering assurance of his meeting her again. If I fail in my purpose of entertaining you with these unimportant occurrences, they will at least serve as exercises of patience, for which you are indebted to yours always,

J. MELFORD.

MORPETH, JULY 13.

TO DR. LEWIS.

DEAR DOCTOR,

I have now reached the northern extremity of England, and am, close to my chamber-window, the Tweed gliding through the arches of that bridge which connects this suburb to the town of Berwick. Yorkshire you have seen, and therefore I shall say nothing of that opulent province. The city of Durham appears like a confused heap of stones and brick, accumulated to cover a mountain, round which a river winds it's brawling course. The streets are generally narrow, dark, and unpleasant, and many of them almost impassable in consequence of their declivity. The cathedral is a huge gloomy pile; but the clergy are well lodged. The bishop lives in a princely manner; the golden prebends keep plentiful tables; and, I am told, there is some good sociable company in the place: but the country, when viewed from the top of Gateshead Fell, which extends to Newcastle, exhibits the highest scene of cultivation that ever I beheld. As for Newcastle, it lies mostly in a bottom, on the banks of the Tyne, and makes an appearance still more disagreeable than that of Durham: but it is rendered populous and rich by industry and commerce; and the country lying on both sides the river, above the town, yields a delightful prospect of agriculture and plantation. Morpeth and Alnwick.
wick are neat, pretty towns; and this last is famous for the cattle which has belonged to many ages to the noble house of Piercy, Earls of Northumberland. It is, doubtless, a large edifice, containing a great number of apartments, and stands in a commanding situation; but the strength of it seems to have consisted not so much in its site, on the manner in which it is fortified, as in the valour of its defenders.

Our adventures since we left Scarborough are scarce worth relating; and yet I must make you acquainted with my sister Tabby's progress in husband-hunting, after her disappointments at Bath and London. She had actually begun to practice upon a certain adventurer, who was, in fact, a highwayman by profession; but he had been used to shares much more dangerous than any she could lay, and escaped accordingly. Then she opened her batteries upon an old weather-beaten Scotch lieutenant, called Lismahago, who joined us at Durham, and is, I think, one of the most singular personages I ever encountered. His manner is as hard as his countenance; but his peculiar turn of thinking, and his pack of knowledge made up of the remnants of rarities, rendered his conversation desirable, in spite of his pedantry and ungracious address. I have often met with a crab-apple in a hedge, which I have been tempted to eat for its flavour, even while I was disgustfed by its austerity. The spirit of contradiction is naturally so strong in Lismahago, that I believe in my confidence he has rummaged, read, and studied, with indefatigable attention, in order to qualify himself to refuteablished maxims, and thus raise trophies for the gratification of polemical pride. Such is the apter of his self-conceit, that he will not even acquiesce in a transient compliment made to his own individual in particular, or to his country in general.

When I observed that he must have read a vast number of books to be able to discourse on such a variety of subjects, he declared he had read little or nothing, and asked how he should find books among the woods of America, where he had spent the greatest part of his life. My nephew remarking that the Scots in general were famous for their learning, he denied the imputation, and defied him to prove it from their works. The Scots, said he, have a slight taste of letters, with which they make a parade among people who are more illiterate than themselves; but they cannot be said to float on the surface of science, and they have made very small advances in the useful arts.' At last I cried Tabby, 'all the world allows that the Scots behaved gloriously in fighting and conquering the savages of America.' 'I can assure you, Madam, you have been misinformed,' replied the lieutenant; 'in that continent the Scots did nothing more than their duty; nor was there one corps in his majesty's service that distinguished itself more than another. Those who affected to extol the Scots for superior merit, were no friends to that nation.'

Though he himself made free with his countrymen, he would not suffer any other person to glance a farcean at them with impunity. One of the company -in the company chanceing to mention Lord B—'s inglorious peace, the lieutenant immediately took up the cudgels in his lordship's favour, and argued very strenuously to prove that it was the most honourable and advantageous peace that England had ever made since the foundation of the monarchy. Nay, between friends, he offered such reasons on this subject, that I was really confounded, if not convinced. He would not allow that the Scots abounded above their proportion in the army and navy of Great Britain, or that the English had any reason to say his countrymen had met with extraordinary encouragement in the service. 'When a South and North Briton,' said he, are competitors for a place or commission, which is in the disposal of an English minister or an English general, it would be abrid to suppose that the preference will not be given to the native of England, who has so many advantages over his rival. First of all, and foremost, he has in his favour that laudable partiality which Mr. Addison says never fails to cleave to the heart of an Englishman; secondly, he has more powerful connections, and a greater share of parliamentary interest, by which those contests are generally decided; and, lastly, he has a greater command of money to smooth the way to his successes. For my own part,' said he, 'I know no Scotch officer who has risen in the army above the rank of a subaltern, without purchasing every degree.
Humphry Southcote, in his verdict oppofite the branch that had been divided, faid that the afcertain that my countrymen have been deferved to fearch the grounds of a high spirit will tamely submit to be thwarted in all his meafures, abfurd and infulted by a populace of unprifed ferocity, when he has it in his power to crush all opposition under his feet with the concurrence of the legislature. He faid, he should always confider the liberty of the people as a national evil, while it enabled the vileft reptile to foil the ftrife of the moft thriving merit, and furnished the moft infamous incendiary with the means of disturbing the peace and defoying the good order of the community. He owned, however, that, under due reftriétions, it would be a valuable privilege; but affirmed, that at prefent there was no faw in England fufficient to ftrain it within proper bounds.

With refpect to juries, he expreffed himfelf to this effect: 'Juries are generally composed of illiterate plebeian, apt to be miiftaken, eafily misled, and open to the influence of the parties to be tried can gain over one of the twelve jurors, he has secured the verdict in his favour: the jurymen thus brought over, will, in defiance of all evidence and conviction, generally hold out till his fellows are fatigued, and harraffed, and starved into concurrence; in which cafe the verdict is unift, and the jurors are all perfured. But cafes will often occur, when the jurors are really divided in opinion, and each fide is convinced in opposition to the other; but no verdict will be received, unlefs they are unanimous, and they are all bound, not only in confcience, but by oath, to judge and declare according to their conftitution. What, then, will be the confequence? They must either fubmit in
luted by an irresistible impulse to revisit
the paternus lar, or patricianus, though
he expected little satisfaction, inasmuch as
he understood that his nephew, the
present possessor, was but ill qualified to
support the honour of the family. He
afforded us, however, as we designed to re-
\return by the west-road, that he would
watch our motions, and endeavour to pay
his respects to us at Dumfries. Accord-
ingly, he took his leave of us at a place
half-way between Morpeth and Alnwick,
and pranced away in great state, mounted
on a tall, meagre, raw-boned, shamblying
grey gelding, without a tooth in his
head, the very counter-part of the rider;
and, indeed, the appearance of the two
was fo: picturesque, that I would give
twenty guineas to have them tolerably
represented on canvas.

Northumberland is a fine county,
extending to the Tweed, which is a pleasant
pastoral stream; but you will be surprized
when I tell you that the English side
of that river is neither so well cultivated
nor so populous as the other. The farms
are thinly scattered, the lands uninclosed,
and scarce a gentleman's seat is to be seen
in some miles from the Tweed; whereas
the Scots are advanced in crowds to the
very brink of the river; so that you may
reckon above thirty good houses, in the
compass of a few miles, belonging to
proprietors whose ancestors had fortified
castles in the same situations; a circum-
stance that shews what dangerous neigh-
bours the Scots must have formerly
been to the northern counties of Eng-
land.

Our domestic economy continues on
the old footing. My sister Tabby still
adheres to methodism, and had the bene-
fit of a sermon at Wesley's meeting in
Newcastle; but I believe the passion of
love has in some measure abated the fer-
vour of devotion both in her and her wo-
man, Mrs. Jenkins, about whose good
graces there has been a violent contest
between my nephew's valet, Mr. Dutton,
and my man, Humphry Clinker. Jerry
has been obliged to interfere his authori-
ty to keep the peace; and to him I
have left the direction of that important
affair, which had like to have kindled the
flames of discord in the family of yours
always.

MATT. BRAMBLE.

TWEEDMOH. JULY 15.
TO SIR WATKIN PHILLIPS, BART. AT OXON.

DEAR SIR,

I have had so much of Lisbonagho, that I suppose you are glad, he is gone off the stage for the present. I must now descend to domestic occurrences. Love, it seems, is resolved to avert his dominion over all the females of our family. After having practised upon poor Liddy's heart, and played strange vagaries with our aunt Mrs. Tabitha, he began to run riot in the affection of her woman Mrs. Winifred Jenkins, whom I have had occasion to mention more than once in the course of our memoirs. Nature intended Jenkins for something very different from the character of her mistress; yet custom and habit have effectually a wonderful resemblance betwixt them in many particulars. Win, to be sure, is much younger, and more agreeable in her person; she is likewise tender-hearted and benevolent; qualities for which her mistress is by no means remarkable, no more than she is for being of a timorous disposition, and much subject to fits of the mother, which are the infirmities of Win's constitution; but then she seems to have adopted Mrs. Tabby's manner with her cast cloaths. She dresses and endeavours to look like her mistress, although her own looks are much more engaging. She enters into her scheme of frugality, learns her phrases, repeats her remarks, imitates her style in folding the inferior servants, and, finally, subscribes implicitly to her system of devotion. This, indeed, the found the more agreeable, as it was in a great measure introduced and confirmed by the ministrations of Clinker, with whose personal merit she seems to have been struck ever since he exhibited the pattern of his naked skin at Marlborough.

Nevertheless, though Humphry had this double hang upon her inclinations, and exerted all his power to maintain the conquest he had made, he found it impossible to guard it on the side of vanity, where poor Win was as frail as any female in the kingdom. In short, my rascal Dutton professed himself her admirer, and, by dint of his outlandish qualifications, threw his rival Clinker out of the faddle of her heart. Humphry may be compared to an English pudding, composed of good wholesome flour and suet; and decorative, but not always consistent with his employer, for having turned the poor young woman's brain. The other affected to treat him with contempt; and, mistaking his forbearance for want of courage, threatened to horse-whip him into good manners. Humphry then came to me, humbly...
by begging I would give him leave to chastise my servant for his insolence. He has challenged me to fight him at sword's points, said he; but I might as well challenge him to make a horse-shoe, or a plough-iron; for I know no more of the one than he does of the other.

Besides, it doth not become servants to use those weapons, or to claim the privilege of gentlemen to kill one another when they fall out; moreover, I would not have his blood upon my conscience for ten thousand times the profit or satisfaction I should get by his death; but, if your honour won't be angry, I'll engage to see 'en a good drubbing, that mayhap will do him service, and I'll take care it shall do 'en no harm. I said I had no objection to what he proposed, provided he could manage matters so as not to be found the aggressor; in case Dutton should prosecute him for an assault and battery.

Thus licensed, he retired; and that same evening easily provoked his rival to strike the first blow, which Clinker returned with such interest, that he was obliged to call for quarter; declaring, at the same time, that he would exact severe and bloody satisfaction the moment we should pass the border, when he could run him through the body without fear of the consequence. This scene passed in presence of Lieutenant Lifmahago, who encouraged Clinker to hazard a thrust of cold iron with his antagonist. Cold iron, cried Humphry, I shall never use against the life of any human creature; but I am so far from being afraid of his cold iron, that I shall use nothing in my defence but a good cudgel, which shall always be at his service. In the mean time, the fair cauce of this contest, Mrs. Winifred Jenkins, seemed overwhelm'd with affliction, and Mr. Clinker acted much on the reserve, though he did not presume to find fault with her conduct.

The dispute between the two rivals was soon brought to a very unexpected issue. Among our fellow-lodgers at Berwick, was a couple from London, bound to Edinburgh, on the voyage of matrimony. The female was the daughter and heiress of a pawnbroker deceased, who had given her, guardians the slip, and put herself under the tutition of a tall Hibernian, who had conducted her thus far in quest of a clergyman to unite them in marriage without the formalities required by the law of England. I know not how the lover had behaved on the road, to as to decline in the favour of his inamorata; but, in all probability, Dutton perceived a coldness on her side, which encouraged him to whisper it was a pity she should have cast her affections upon a taylor, which he affirmed the Irishman to be. This discovery complicated her diffiult, of which my man taking the advantage, began to recommend himself to her good graces; and the smooth-tongued rascal found no difficulty to intimate himself into the place of her heart from which the other had been discarded. Their resolution was immediately taken. In the morning, before day, while poor Teague lay sprawling a-bed, his indefatigable rival ordered a post-chaise, and set out with the lady for Coldstream, a few miles up the Tweed, where there was a parson who dealt in this branch of commerce, and there they were married, before the Irishman ever dreamt of the matter. But when he got up at fix o'clock, and found the bird was flown, he made such a noise, as alarmed the whole house. One of the first persons he encountered, was the position returned from Coldstream, where he had been witness to the marriage, and, over and above a handsome gratuity, had received a bride's favour, which he now wore in his cap. When the forsaken lover understood they were actually married, and set out for London, and that Dutton had discovered to the lady that he (the Hibernian) was a taylor, he had like to have run distracted. He tore the ribbon from the fellow's cap, and beat it about his ears. He swore he would pursue him to the gates of hell, and ordered a post-chaise and four to be got ready as soon as possible; but, recollecting that his finances would not admit of this way of travelling, he was obliged to countermand this order.

For my part, I knew nothing at all of what had happened, till the position brought me the keys of my trunk and portmanteau, which he had received from Dutton, who sent me his respects, hoping I would excuse him for his abrupt departure, as it was a step upon which his fortune depended. Before I had time to make my uncle acquainted with this event, the Irishman burst into my chamber, without any introduction, exclaiming— By my soul, your servant has robbed me of five thousand pounds, and I'll have satisfaction, if I should...
be hanged to-morrow!' When I asked him who he was—"My name," said he, "is Master Macloughlin; but it should be Leighlin O'Neale, for I am come from Ter-Owen the Great; and so I am as good a gentleman as any in Ireland; and that rogue your servant said I was a taylor, which was as big a lyce as if he had called me the pope. I'm a man of fortune, and have spent all I had; and so being in distress, Mr. Cofgrave, the fashioner in Suffolk Street, tuck me out, and made me his own private secretary: by the same token, I was the last he bailed; for his friends obliged him to tie himself up, that he would bail no more above ten pounds: for why, because as how, he could not refuse any body that asked, and therefore in time would have robbed himself of his whole fortune, and, if he had lived long at that rate, must have died bankrupt very soon. And so I made my addresses to Miss Skinner, a young lady of five thousand pounds fortune, who agreed to take me for better nor worse; and, to be sure, this day would have put me in possession, if it had not been for that rogue your servant, who came like a thief, and stole away my property, and made her believe I was a taylor, and that she was going to marry the ninth part of a man; but the devil burn my soul, if ever I catch him on the mountains of Tullo-ghegboily, if I don't shew him that I'm nine times as good a man as he, or ever a bug of his country.'

When he had run out his first alarm, I told him I was sorry he had allowed himself to be so jockied; but it was no business of mine; and that the fellow who robbed him of his bride, had likewise robbed me of my servant. ' Didn't I tell you, then,' cried he, 'that Rogue was his true Christian name? Oh if I had but one fair truth with him upon the sad, I'd give him leave to hang all the rest of his life!'

My uncle hearing the noise, came in; and being informed of this adventure, began to comfort Mr. O'Neale for the lady's elopement; observing, that he seemed to have had a lucky escape; that it was better she should elope before, than after marriage. The Hibernian was of a very different opinion; he said, if he had been once married, she might have eloped as soon as she pleased; he would have taken care that she should not have carried her fortune along with her. 'Ah!' said he, she's a Judas Iscariot, and has betrayed me with a kiss! And, like Judas, she carried the bag, and has not left me money enough to bear my expenses back to London; and so as I'm come to this pass, and the rogue that was the occasion of it has left you without a servant, you may put me in his place; and, by Jafus! it is the best thing you can do.' I begged to be excused, declaring I could put up with any inconvenience, rather than treat as a footman the defendant of Ter-Owen the Great. I advised him to return to his friend Mr. Cofgrave, and take his passage from Newcastle by sea, towards which I made him a small present, and he retired, seemingly resigned to his evil fortune. I have taken upon trial a Scotchman, called Archy M'Alpin, an old soldier, whose last matter, a colonel, lately died at Berwick.

The fellow is old and wittered; but he has been recommended to me for his fidelity by Mrs. Humphrey, a very good fort of a woman, who keeps the inn at Tweedmouth, and is much respected by all the travellers on this road. Clinker, without doubt, thinks himself happy in the removal of a dangerous rival, and he is too good a Christian to repine at Dutton's success. Even Mrs. Jenkins will have reason to congratulate herself upon this event, when the coolly reflects upon the matter; for, howsoever she was forced from her poise for a season, by snares laid for her vanity, Humphry is certainly the north-star to which the needle of her affection would have pointed at the long run. At present, the same vanity is exceedingly mortified, upon finding herself abandoned by her new admirer, in favour of another inamorata. She received the news with a violent burst of laughter, which soon brought on a fit of crying; and this gave the finishing blow to the patience of her mistress, which had held out beyond all expectation. She now opened all those floodgates of reflections which had been shut so long. She not only reproached her with her levity and indiscretion, but attacked her on the score of religion, declaring roundly that she was in a state of apostacy and reprobation; and, finally, threatened to send her a packing at this extremity of the kingdom. All the family interceded for poor Winifred, not even excepting her slighted swain, Mr. Clinker, who, on his knees, importuned and obtained her pardon.

There was, however, another consideration
mention the mountaineers of Wales, and the red shanks of Ireland.'

We entered Scotland by a frightful moor of sixteen miles, which promises very little for the interior parts of the kingdom; but the prospect mended as we advanced. Passing through Dunbar, which is a neat little town, situated on the sea side, we lay at a country inn, where our entertainment far exceeded our expectation; but for this we cannot give the Scots credit, as the landlord is a native of England. Yesterday we dined at Haddington, which has been a place of some consideration, but is now gone to decay; and in the evening arrived at this metropolis, of which I can say very little. It is very romantick, from its situation on the declivity of a hill, having a fortified castle at the top, and a royal palace at the bottom. The first thing that strikes the nose of a stranger, shall be nameless; but what first strikes the eye, is the unconceivable height of the houses, which generally rise to five, six, seven, and eight stories, and, in some places, as I am assured, to twelve. This manner of building, attended with num

berless inconveniences, must have been originally owing to want of room. Certain it is, the town seems to be full of people; but their looks, their language, and their customs, are so different from ours, that I can hardly believe myself in Great Britain.

The inn at which we put up, if it may be so called, was so filthy and disagreeable in all respects, that my uncle began to fret, and his gouty symptoms to recur. Recollecting, however, that he had a letter of recommendation to one Mr. Michelson, a lawyer, he sent it by his servant, with a compliment, importing that he would wait upon him next day in person; but that gentleman visited us immediately, and insisted upon our going to his own house, until he could provide lodgings for our accommodation. We gladly accepted of his invitation, and repaired to his house, where we were treated with equal elegance and hospitality, to the utter confusion of our aunt, whose prejudices, though beginning to give way, were not yet entirely removed. To-day, by the assistance of our friend, we are settled in convenient lodgings, up four pairs of stairs, in the High Street, the fourth story being, in this city, reckoned more genteel than the first. The air, in all probability, the better; but it

requires
requires good lungs to breathe it at this distance above the surface of the earth. While I do remain above it, whether higher or lower, provided I breathe at all, I shall ever be, dear Phillips, yours,

J. MELFORD.

JULY 18.

TO DR. LEWIS.

DEAR LEWIS,

THAT part of Scotland contiguous to Berwick, nature seems to have intended as a barrier between two hostile nations. It is a brown desart of considerable extent, that produces nothing but heath and fern; and what rendered it the more dreary when we passed, there was a thick fog that hindered us from seeing above twenty yards from the carriage. My sister began to make wry faces, and use her smelling-bottle; Liddy looked blank, and Mrs. Jenkins dejected: but in a few hours these clouds were diffipated; the sea appeared upon our right, and on the left the mountains retired a little, leaving an agreeable plain betwixt them and the beach; but, what surprized us all, this plain, to the extent of several miles, was covered with as fine wheat as ever I saw in the most fertile parts of South Britain. This plentiful crop is raised in the open field, without any enclosure, or other manure, than the alga marina, or sea-weed, which abounds on this coast; a circumstance which shews that the soil and climate are favourable, but that agriculture in this country is not yet brought to that perfection which it has attained in England. Inclosures would not only keep the grounds warm, and the several fields distinct, but would also protect the crop from the high winds which are so frequent in this part of the island.

Dunbar is well situated for trade, and has a curious basin, where ships of small burden may be perfectly secure; but there is little appearance of business in the place. From thence, all the way to Edinburgh, there is a continual succession of fine feats, belonging to noblemen and gentlemen; and as each is surrounded by its own parks and plantation, they produce a very pleasing effect in a country which lies otherwise open and exposed. At Dunbar there is a noble park, with a lodge, belonging to the Duke of Roxburgh, where Oliver Cromwell had his head-quarters, when Leffey, at the head of a Scotch army, took possession of the mountains in the neighbourhood, and hampered him in such a manner, that he would have been obliged to embark and get away by sea, had not the fanaticism of the enemy forfeited the advantage which they had obtained by their general’s conduct. Their ministers, by exhortation, prayer, assurance, and prophecy, instigated them to go down and stay the Philistines in Gilgal, and they quitted their ground accordingly, notwithstanding all that Leffey could do to restrain the madness of their enthusiasm. When Oliver saw them in motion, he exclaimed—‘Prized be the Lord, he hath delivered them into the hands of his servant!’ and ordered his troops to sing a psalm of thanksgiving, while they advanced in order to the plain, where the Scots were routed with great slaughter.

In the neighbourhood of Haddington there is a gentleman’s house, in the building of which, and the improvements about it, he is said to have expended forty thousand pounds: but I cannot say I was much pleased with either the architecture or the situation; though it has in front a pastoral stream, the banks of which are laid out in a very agreeable manner. I intended to pay my respects to Lord Elibank, whom I had the honour to know at London many years ago. He lives in this part of Lothian, but was gone to the North on a visit. You have often heard me mention this nobleman, whom I have long revered for his humanity and universal intelligence, over and above the entertainment arising from the originality of his character. At Musselburgh, however, I had the good fortune to drink tea with my old friend Mr. Cardonel; and at his house I met with Dr. C——, the patron of the parli, whose humour and conversation inflamed me with a desire of being better acquainted with his person. I am not at all surprized that these Scots make their way in every quarter of the globe.

This place is but four miles from Edinburgh, towards which we proceeded along the sea-shore, upon a farm bottom of smooth sand, which the tide had left uncovered, in it’s retreat. Edinburgh, from this avenue, is not seen to much advantage. We had only an imperfect view of the castle and upper parts of the town, which varied excellently according to the

inflexions
inflexions of the road, and exhibited the
appearance of detached spires and turrets
belonging to some magnificent edifice in
ruins. The palace of Holyrood House
stands on the left, as you enter the Canon
Gate. This is a street continued from
hence to the gate called Nether Bow,
which is now taken away; so that there
is no interruption for a long mile from the
bottom to the top of the hill on which
the castle stands in a most imperial situa-
tion. Considering it's fine pavement,
it's width, and the lofty houses on each
side, this would be undoubtedly one of the
noblest streets in Europe, if an ugliness
of mean buildings, called the Lucken
Booths, had not shrunk itself, by what ac-
cident I know not, into the middle of the
way, like Middle Row in Holborn. The
city stands upon two hills, and the bottom
between them; and, with all it's defects,
may very well pass for the capital of a
moderate kingdom. It is full of people,
and continually resounds with the noise
of coaches, and other carriages, for luxury
as well as commerce. As far as I can
perceive, here is no want of provisions.
The beef and mutton are as delicate here
as in Wales; the sea affords plenty of
good fish; the bread is remarkably fine;
and the water is excellent, though I am
afraid not in sufficient quantity to answer
all the purposes of cleanliness and conve-
nience; articles in which, it must be al-
lowed, our fellow-subjects are a little de-
fective. The water is brought in leaden
pipes from a mountain in the neighbour-
hood, to a cistern on the Castle Hill, from
whence it is distributed to publick con-
ducts in different parts of the city. From
these it is carried in barrels, on the backs
of male and female porters, up two,
three, four, five, six, seven, and eight pair
of stairs, for the use of particular families.
Every storey is a complete house, occupied
by a separate family; and the stair being
common to them all, is generally left in
a very filthy condition; a man must tread
with great circumspection to get safe
housed with unpolluted shoes: Nothing can
form a stronger contrast, than the differ-
ence betwixt the outside and inside of the
door; for the good women of this metrop-
olis are remarkably nice in the orna-
ments and propriety of their apartments,
as if they were resolved to transfer the
imputation from the individual to the pub-
lick. You are no stranger to their method
of discharging all their impurities from
their windows, at a certain hour of the
night, as the custom is in Spain, Portu-
gal, and some parts of France and Italy;
practice to which I can by no means be
reconciled; for notwithstanding all the
care that is taken by their savages to
remove this nuisance every morning by
break of day, enough still remains to of-
fend the eyes, as well as other organs of
those whom use has not hardened against
delicate of sensation.

The inhabitants are sensible to these
impressions, and are apt to imagine the
disgust that we arouse is little better than
indifference; but they ought to have some
compassion for strangers, who have not
been used to this kind of suffering; and
consider, whether it may not be worth
while to take some pains to vindicate them-
selves from the reproach that, on this ac-
count, they bear among their neighbours.
As to the surprising height of their houses,
it is absurd in many respects; but in one
particular it: I cannot view it without
horror; that is, the dreadful situation of
all the families above, in case the com-
mon stair-case should be rendered impaf-
fable by a fire in the lower stories. In
order to prevent the shocking consequences
that must attend such an accident, it would
be a right measure to open doors of com-
munication from one house to another,
on every story, by which the people might
fly from such a terrible visitation. In all
parts of the world, we see the force of
habit prevailing over all the dictates of
convenience and sagacity. All the people
of business at Edinburgh, and even the
genteel company, may be seen strolling
in crowds every day, from one to two in
the afternoon, in the open street, at a
place where formerly stood a market-
cross, which (by the bye) was a curious
piece of Gothic architecture, full to be
seen in Lord Somerville's Garden in this
neighbourhood. I say, the people stand
in the open street from the force of custom,
rather than move a few yards to an Ex-
change that stands empty on one side,
or to the Parliament Close on the other,
which is a noble square, adorned with a
fine equestrian statue of King Charles II.
The company thus assembled are enter-
tained with a variety of tunes played upon
a set of bells, fixed in a freele hard by.
As these bells are well-toned, and the mu-
ician, who has a falar from the city, for
playing upon them with keys, is no bad
performer, the entertainment is really
agreeable, and very striking to the ears of
a stranger.
HUMPHRY CLINKER.

The publick inns of Edinburgh are still worse than those of London: but by means of a worthy gentleman, to whom I was recommended, we have got decent lodgings in the house of a widow gentlewoman, of the name of Lockhart; and here I shall stay until I have seen every thing that is remarkable in and about this capital. I now begin to feel the good effects of exercise. I eat like a farmer, sleep from midnight till eight in the morning without interruption, and enjoy a constant tide of spirits, equally distant from inanition and excess; but whatever ebbs or flows my constitution may undergo, my heart will still declare that I am, dear Lewis, your affectionate friend and servant.

MATT. BRAMBLE.

EDR. JULY 18.

TO MRS. MARY JONES, AT BRAMBLETON-HALL.

DEAR MARY,

The squire has been so kind as to trap my bit of nonfence under the kiver of his own theet. O, Mary Jones! Mary Jones! I have had trials and trembulation. God help me! I have been a vixen and a griffin these many days. Satan has had power to tempt me in the shape of van Ditton, the young squire's wally de shamble; but by God's grace he did not purvail. I thofet as how there was no arm in going to a play at Newcastle, with my hair dressed in the Parish fashion; and as for the trefle of paint, he said as how my complexion wanted rough, and fo I let him put it on with a little Spanish owl; but a mischiefous mob of colliers, and fuch promicious tibble rabble, that could bear no smut but their own, attacked us in the street, and called me boar and painted Iffabel, and splashed my close, and spoilet me a compleat fet of blood lace triple ruffles, not a pin the worse for the ware. They cot me feven good fillings to Lady Griskin's woman at London.

When I axed Mr. Clinker what they meant by calling me Iffabel, he put the byebill into my hand, and I read of van Iffabel a painted harlot, that was thrown out of a vindaer, and the dogs came and licked her blood. But I am no harlot; and, with God's blessing, no dog shall have my poor blood to lick: marry, Heaven forbid, amen! As for Ditton, after all his courting and his compliment, he stole away an Irishman's bride, and took a French leave of me and his master; but I value not his going a farthing; but I have had hanger on his account. Mistresses scoulded like mad; thof I have the comfit that all the family took my part, and even Mr. Clinker pleaded for me on his bended knee; thof, God he knows, he has reasons enuif to complain; but he's a good sile abounding with Christian meekness, and one day will meet with his reward.

And now, dear Mary, we have got to Haddinborough, among the Scots, who are civil enuif for our money, thof I don't speak their lingo. But they should not go for to impose upon foreigners; for the bills in their houses fay, they have different eajements to let; and behold there is nurro geaks in the whole kingdom, nor any thing for poor farvants, but a barrel with a pair of tongs thrown acros; and all the chairs in the family are emptied into this here barrel once a day; and at ten o'clock at night the whole cargo is flung out of a back windore that looks into some street or lane, and the maid calls—'Cardy 'looy,' to the passengers, which signifies ' Lord have mercy upon you!' and this is done every night in every house in Had dingborough; fo you may guels, Mary Jones, what a sweet favor comes from such a number of profuming pans; but they fay it is wholome, and, truly, I believe it is; for being in the vapours, and thinking of Iffabel and Mr. Clinker, I was going into a fit of aftericks, when this fit, saving your preference, took me by the nofe so powerfully, that I freezed three times, and found myself wonderfutly refreshed; and this to be sure is the raisin why there are no fits in Haddinborough.

'I was likewise made believe, that there was nothing to be had but oat-meal and knee-sheets; but if I hadn't been a fool, I ought have known there could be no heads without kerkaflies. This very blessed day I dined upon a delicate leg of Velth mutton and cumly-flowver; and as for the oat-meal, I leave that to the farvants of the country, which are pore drudges, many of them without shoes or stockings. Mr. Clinker tells me here is a great call of the gospel; but I wish, I wish some of our family be not fallen off from the rite way. O, if it was given to tail-baring, I have my own secrets to disover. There has been a deal of hugging and fluctuation between mistrees and an ould Scots officer,
officer, called Kismycago. He looks for all the orld like the fcare-crow that our gardener set up to frite away the sparrow; and what will come of it, the Lord knows; but, come what will, it shall never be faid that I mentioned a fylalub of the matter. Remember me kindly to Saul and the kitten. I hope they got the horn-buck, and will put it to a good yufe, which is the conftant prayer of, dear Molly, your loving friend,

WIN. JENKINS.

ADDINGBOROUGH, JULY 13.

TO SIR WATKIN PHILLIPS, BART. OF JESUS COLLEGE, OXON.

DEAR PHILLIPS,

If I stay much longer at Edinburgh, I shall be changed into a downright Caledonian. My uncle observes that I have already acquired something of the country accent. The people here are fo focial and attentive in their civilities to strangers, that I am infenfibly fucked into the channel of their manners and customs, although they are in fact much more different from ours than you can imagine. That difference, however, which struck me very much at my first arrival, I now hardly perceive, and my ear is perfectly reconciled to the Scotch accent, which I find even agreeable in the mouth of a pretty woman. It is a fort of Dorick dialect, which gives an idea of amiable simplicity. You cannot imagine how we have been careful and feafed in the good town of Edinburgh, of which we are become free denizens and guild brothers, by the special favour of the magiftracy.

I had a whimsical commiffion from Bath, to a citizen of this metropolis. Quin understandinf our intention to visit Edinburgh, pulled out a guinea, and defired the favour I would drink it at a tavern, with a particular friend and bottle-companion of his, one Mr. R—— C——, a lawyer of this city. I charged myself with the commiffion, and taking the guinea—"You fee," said I, "I have pocketed your bounty."—"Yes," replied Quin, laughing; "and a head-ach into the bargain, if you drink fair." I made use of this introduction to Mr. C——, who received me with open arms, and gave me the rendezvous according to the cartel. He had provided a company of jolly fellows, among whom I found myself extremely happy; and did Mr. C—— and Quin all the justice in my power; but, alas! I was no more than a trio among a troop of veterans, who had compaffion upon my youth, and conveyed me home in the morning, by what means I know not. Quin was miffaken, however, as to the head-ache; the cheft was too good to treat me so roughly.

While Mr. Bramble holds conferences with the graver literati of the place, and our females are entertained at visits by the Scotch ladies, who are the bath and kindleft creatures upon earth, I pass my time among the bucks of Edinburgh; who, with a great fame of spirit and vivacity, have a certain frownders and elf-com- mand that is not often found among their neighbours, in the high-day of youth and exultation. Not a hint efcapes a Scotchman that can be interpreted into offence by any individual in the company, and national refle&ions are never heard. In this particular, I muft own, we are both unjuft and ungrateful to the Scots; for, as far as I am able to judge, they have a real effem for the natives of South Britain; and never mention our country, but with expressions of regard. Nevertheless they are far from being fer- vile imitators of modes and fashionable vices. All their customs and regulations of publick and private economy, of buff- nefs and diversion, are in their own stile. This remarkably predominates in their looks, their dress and manner, their mu- fick, and even their cookery. Our fquire declares, that he knows not another peo- ple upon earth, fo strongly marked with a national charafter. Now we are upon the article of cookery, I muft own, some of their dishes are favoury, and even delic- cate; but I am not yet Scotchman enough to relish their finged sheep's-head and hag- gice, which were provided at our requifit one day at Mr. Mitchcllon's, where we dined. The first put me in mind of the history of Congo, in which I had read of Negroes hands fold publickly in the mar- kets; the laft, being a mfs of minced lights, liver, fuet, oat-meal, onions, and pepper, inclofed in a sheep's fiamach, had a very sudden effect upon mine, and the delicate Mrs. Tabby changed colour; when the cause of our diguf was in- fantaneously removed at the nod of our entertainer. The Scots, in general, are attached to this composition, with a fort of national fondnefs, as well as to their oat-meal bread; which is prefented at every
ever table, in thin triangular cakes, baked upon a plate of iron, called a girdle; and these, many of the natives, even in the higher ranks of life, prefer to wheaten bread, which they have here in perfection. You know we used to vex poor Murray of Balliol College, by asking, if there was really no fruit but turnips in Scotland. Sure enough, I have seen turnips make their appearance, not as a dessert, but by way of hor d'oeuvres, or whets, as radishes are ferved up betwixt more substantial dishes in France and Italy; but it must be observed, that the turnips of this country are as much superior in sweetness, delicacy, and flavour, to those of England, as a m exploded is to the stock of a common cabbage. They are small and conical, of a yellowish colour, with a very thin skin; and over and above their agreeable taste, are valuable for their antiforbick quality. As to the fruit now in season, such as cherries, gooseberries, and currants, there is no want of them at Edinburgh; and in the gardens of some gentlemen who live in this neighbourhood, there is a very favourable appearance of apricots, peaches, nectarines, and even grapes; nay, I have seen a very fine shew of pine-apples within a few miles of this metropolis. Indeed we have no reason to be surprized at these particulars, when we consider how little difference there is, in fact, betwixt this climate and that of London.

All the remarkable places in the city and its avenues, for ten miles around, we have visited much to our satisfaction. In the Castle are some royal apartments, where the sovereign occasionally refided; and here are carefully preserved the regalia of the kingdom, confiding of a crown, laid to be of great value, a sceptre, and a sword of state adorned with jewels. Of these symbols of sovereignty, the people are exceedingly jealous. A report being spread, during the fitting of the union parliament, that they were removed to London, such a tumult arose, that the lord commissioner would have been torn in pieces, if he had not produced them for the satisfaction of the populace.

The palace of Holyrood House is an elegant piece of architecture, but funk in an obfcurc, and, as I take it, unwholesome bottom, where one would imagine it had been placed on purpose to be concealed. The apartments are lofty, but unfurnished; and as for the pictures of the Scottish kings, from Fergus I. to King William, they are poultry daubings, mostly by the same hand, painted either from the imagination, or porters hired to fit for the purpose. All the diversions of London we enjoy at Edinburgh in a small compass. Here is a well-conducted concert, in which several gentlemen perform on different instruments. The Scots are all musicians. Every man you meet plays on the flute, the violin, or violoncello; and there is one nobleman, whose compositions are universally admired. Our company of actors is very tolerable; and a subscription is now on foot for building a new theatre; but their assemblies please me above all other publick exhibitions.

We have been at the hunter's ball, where I was really astonished to see such a number of fine women. The English, who have never crossed the Tweed, imagined erroneously, that the Scotch ladies are not remarkable for personal attractions; but I can declare with a safe confidence, I never saw so many handsome females together, as were assembled on this occasion. At the Leith races, the best company comes hither from the remoter provinces; so that I suppose we had all the beauty of the kingdom concentrated as it were into one focus; which was indeed so vehement that my heart could hardly resist it's power. Between friends, it has sustained some damage from the bright eyes of the charming Miss R——n, whom I had the honour to dance with at the ball. The Countess of Melville attracted all eyes, and the admiration of all present. She was accompanied by the agreeable Miss Grieve, who made many conquests; nor did my sister Liddy pass unnoticed in the assembly. She is become a toast at Edinburgh, by the name of the Fair Cambric, and has already been the occasion of much wine-fesh; but the poor girl met with an accident at the ball, which has given us great disturbance.

A young gentleman, the express image of that rascal Wilton, went up to ask her to dance a minute; and his sudden appearance shocked her so much, that she fainted away. I call Wilton a rascal, because, if he had been really a gentleman, with honourable intentions, he would have, ere now, appeared in his own character. I must own, my blood boils with indignation when I think of that fellow's presumption; and Heaven confound me if I do not——But I will not be so womanish as to rail. Time will, perhaps, furnish occasion——Thank God, the cause of Liddy's
dy’s disorder remains a secret. The lady-directrees of the ball, thinking she was overcome by the heat of the place, had her conveyed to another room, where she soon recovered so well, as to return and join the country dances, in which the Scotch ladies acquit themselves with such spirit and agility, as to put their partners to the height of their mettle. I believe our aunt, Mrs. Tabitha, had entertained hopes of being able to do some execution among the cavaliers at this assembly. She had been several days in consultation with milliners and mantua-makers, preparing for the occasion, at which she made her appearance in a full suit of damask, so thick and heavy, that the sight of it alone, at this season of the year, was sufficient to draw drops of sweat from any man of ordinary imagination. She danced one minute with our friend, Mr. Mitchellson, who favoured her so far, in the spirit of hospitality and politeness; and she was called out a second time by the young Laird of Ballymawahvple, who, coming in by accident, could not readily find any other partner; but as the first was a married man, and the second paid no particular homage to her charms, which were also overlooked by the rest of the company, she became dissatisfied and censorious. At supper, she observed that the Scotch gentlemen made a very good figure, when they were a little improved by travelling; and therefore it was pity they did not all take the benefit of going abroad. She said the women were awkward, masculine creatures; that, in dancing, they lifted their legs like so many colts; that they had no idea of graceful motion, and put on their cloaths in a frightful manner: but if the truth must be told, Tabby herself was the most ridiculous figure, and the worst dressed, of the whole assembly. The neglect of the male sex rendered her malcontent and peevish; she now found fault with every thing at Edinburgh, and teased her brother to leave the place, when she was suddenly reconciled to it on a religious consideration. There is a set of fanaticks, who have separated themselves from the established kirk, under the name of Seceders. They acknowledge no earthly head of the church, reject lay-patronage, and maintain the methodist doctrines of the new birth, the new light, the efficacy of grace, the insufficiency of works, and the operations of the spirit. Mrs. Tabitha, attended by Humphry Clinker, was introduced to one of their conventicles, where they both received much edification; and she has had the good fortune to come acquainted with a pious Chriftian, called Mr. Moffat, who is very powerful in prayer, and often affists her in private exercises of devotion.

I never saw such a concourse of genteel company at any races in England as appeared on the course of Leith. Hard by, in the fields called the Links, the citizens of Edinburgh divert themselves at a game called Golf, in which they use a curious kind of bats, tipped with horn, and small ellastick balls of leather, stuffed with feathers, rather less than tennis-balls, but of a much harder consistence: this they strike with such force and dexterity from one hole to another, that they will fly to an incredible distance. Of this diversion the Scots are so fond, that, when the weather will permit, you may see a multitude of all ranks, from the factor of justice to the lowest tradesmen, mingled together in their shirts, and following the balls with the utmost eagerness. Among others, I was shown one particular set of golfers, the youngest of whom was turning of fourcore: they were all gentlemen of independent fortunes, who had amufed themselves with this pittance for the best part of a century, without having ever felt the least alarm from fickness or disgust; and they never went to bed without having each the best part of a gallon of claret in his belly. Such uninterrupted exercise, cooperating with the keen air from the sea, without all doubt, keep the appetite always on edge, and steel the constitution against all the common attacks of distemper.

The Leith races gave occasion to another entertainment of a very singular nature. There is at Edinburgh a society or corporation of errand-boys, called Cawdies, who ply in the streets at night with paper-lanterns, and are very serviceable in carrying message. These fellows, though shabby in their appearance, and rudely familiar in their address, are wonderfully acute, and so noted for fidelity, that there is no instance of a cawdy’s having betrayed his trust. Such is their intelligence, that they know, not only every individual of the place, but also every stranger, by that time he has been four and twenty hours in Edinburgh;
and no transactioi, even the most private, can escape their notice. They are particularly famous for their dexterity in executing one of the functions of Mercury; though, for my own part, I never employed them in this department of business. Had I occasion for any service of this nature, my own man, Archy McAlpine, is as well qualified as ever a cawdie in Edinburgh; and I am much mistaken if he has not been heretofore of their fraternity. Be that as it may; they resolved to give a dinner and a ball at Leith, to which they formerly invited all the young noblemen and gentlemen that were at the races; and this invitation was reinforced by an assurance that all the celebrated ladies of pleasure would grace the entertainment with their company. I received a card on this occasion, and went thither with half a dozen of my acquaintance. In a large hall the cloth was laid on a long range of tables joined together; and here the company seated themselves, to the number of about four score, lords and lairds, and other gentlemen, courtzans and cawdies mingled together, as the slaves and their masters were in the time of the Saturnalia in ancient Rome. The toast-master, who sat at the upper-end, was one Cawdie Frazer, a veteran pimp, distinguished for his humour and facility, well known and much respected in his profession by all the guests, male and female, that were there assembled. He had before the dinner and the wine; he had taken care that all his brethren should appear in decent apparel and clean linen; and he himself wore a periwig with three tails, in honour of the festival. I assure you the banquet was both elegant and plentiful, and seasoned with a thousand fallacies, that promoted a general spirit of mirth and good humour. After the deist, Mr. Frazer proposed the following toasts, which I do not pretend to explain. "The beit in Christendom." "Gibb's Contract." "The Beggar's Bennifin." "King and Kirk." "Great Britain and Ireland." Then filling a bumper, and turning to me— "Mefter Malford," said he, "may a universal kindness befall with John Bull and his sister Mogy." The next person he singled out was a nobleman who had been long abroad: "Mefter," cried Frazer, "here's a bumper to all the noblemen who have virtue enough to spend their rents in their own country." He afterwards addressed himself to a member of parliament in these words: "Mefter, I'm sure ye'll ha nae objection to my drinking—" Diplgrace and dule "to ilk a Scot that fauls his conscience and his vote." He dischargeth a third farcain at a person very gaily dressed, who had risen from small beginnings, and made a considerable fortune at play, filling his glafs, and calling him by name— "Lang life," said he, to the wylie loon that gangs a-field with a toom poke at his lunzie, and comes home with a fae-full of filler." All these toasts being received with loud bursts of applause, Mr. Frazer called for pint-glasses, and filled his own to the brim: then standing up, and all his brethren following his example— "Ma lords and gentlemen," cried he, "here is a cup of thanks for the great and undeserved honour you have done your poor errand-boys this day." So saying, he and they drank off their glasses in a trice; and, quitting their seats, took their station each behind one of the other guests, exclaiming— "Noo we're your honours cawdies again!" The nobleman who had bore the first brunt of Mr. Frazer's faire, objected to his abdication. He said, as the company was assembled by invitation from the cawdies, he expected they were to be entertained at their expense. "By no means," my lord," cried Frazer; "I wad na be guilty of the presumption for the wide world! I never affronted a gentleman since I was born; and sure, at this age, I wou'd not offer an indignity to sic an honourable convention." "Well," said his lordship, "as you have expended some wit, you have a right to save your money. You have given me good counsel, and I take it in good part. As you have voluntarily quitted your seat, I will take your place, with the leave of the good company, and think myself happy to be called father of the feast." He was forthwith elected into the chair, and complimented in a bumper in his new character.

The claret continued to circulate without interruption, till the glasses seemed to dance upon the table; and this, perhaps, was a hint to the ladies to call for mufick. At eight in the evening the hall began in another apartment: at midnight we went to supper; but it was broad day before I found the way to my lodgings; and, no doubt,
doubt, his lordship had a swingeing bill to discharge.

In short, I have lived so riotously for some weeks, that my uncle begins to be alarmed on the score of my constitution; and very seriously observes, that all his own inanities are owing to such excesses indulged in his youth. Mrs. Tabitha says it would be more for the advantage of my soul, as well as body, if, instead of frequenting these scenes of debauchery, I would accompany Mr. Moffat and her to hear a sermon of the Reverend Mr. McCorkindale. Clinker often exhorts me, with a groan, to take care of my precious health; and even Archy M'Alpine, when he happens to be overtaken, (which is oftener the case than I could with) reads me a long lecture upon temperance and sobriety; and is so very wise and sententious, that, if I could provide him with a professor's chair, I would willingly give up the benefit of his admonitions and service together; for I was tutor-fick at alma mater.

I am not, however, so much engrossed by the gaieties of Edinburgh, but that I find time to make parties in the family way. We have not only seen all the villages and villages within ten miles of the capital, but we have also crossed the Firth, which is an arm of the sea seven miles broad, that divides Lothian from the shire, or, as the Scots call it, the Kingdom of Fife. There is a number of large open sea-boats that ply on this passage from Leith and Kinghorn, which is a borough on the other side. In one of these our whole family embarked three days ago, excepting my sister, who, being exceedingly fearful of the water, was left to the care of Mrs. Mitchelson. We had an easy and quick passage into Fife, where we visited a number of poor towns on the sea-side, including St. Andrews, which is the skeleton of a venerable city; but we were much better pleased with some noble and elegant feats and castles, of which there is a great number in that part of Scotland. Yesterday we took boat again on our return to Leith, with fair wind and agreeable weather; but we had not advanced half-way when the sky was suddenly overcast, and the wind changing, blew directly in our teeth; so that we were obliged to turn, or tack the rest of the way. In a word, the gale increased to a form of wind and rain, attended with such a fog, that we could not see the town of Leith, to which we were bound; nor even the castle of Edinburgh, notwithstanding it's high situation. It is not to be doubted but that we were all alarmed on this occasion; and, at the same time, most of the passengers were seized with a nausea that produced violent retchings. My aunt defired her brother to order the boatman to put back to Kinghorn; and this expedient he actually proposed; but they assured him there was no danger. Mrs. Tabitha, finding them obstinate, began to scold, and infused upon my uncle's exerting his authority as a justice of the peace. Sick and provest as he was, he could not help laughing at this wife proposal; telling her, that his commission did not extend so far; and, if it did, he should let the people take their own way; for he thought it would be great presumption in him to direct them in the exercise of their own profession. Mrs. Winifred Jenkins made a general clearance with the assistance of Mr. Humphry Clinker, who joined her both in prayer and ejaculation. As he took it for granted that we should not be long in this world, he offered some spiritual consolation to Mrs. Tabitha, who rejected it with great disgust, bidding him keep his sermons for those who had leisure to hear such nonsensé. My uncle sat recollected in himself, without speaking; my man Archy had recourse to a brandy-bottle, with which he made so free, that I imagined he had sworn to die of drinking anything rather than sea-water: but the brandy had no more effect upon him in the way of intoxication, than if it had been sea-water in good earnest. As for myself, I was too much engrossed by the sickness at my stomach to think of any thing else. Meanwhile, the sea swelled mountains high; the boat pitched with such violence, as if it had been going to pieces; the cordage rattled, the wind roared; the lightning fliathed, the thunder bellowed, and the rain descended in a deluge: every time the vessel was put about, we shiped a sea that drenched us all to the skin. When, by dint of turning, we thought to have cleared the pier-head, we were driven to leeward; and then the boatmen themselves began to fear that the tide would fail before we should fetch up our lee-way: the next trip, however, brought us into smooth water, and we were safely landed on the quay, about one o'clock in the afternoon.

R. To
To be sure," cried Tabby, when she found herself on terra firma, "we must all have perished, if we had not been the particular care of Providence!"

"Yes," replied my uncle; "but I am much of the honest Highlander's mind.

After he had made such a passage as this, his friend told him he was much indebted to Providence. "Certainly!" said Donald: "but, by my faul, mon, "I'ne 'er trouble Providence again, so "long as the brig of Stirling stands!"

You must know, the brig, or bridge, of Stirling, stands above twenty miles up the River Forth, of which this is the outlet. I do not find that our squire has suffered in his health from this adventure: but poor Liddy is in a peaking way. I am afraid this unfortunate girl is uneasy in her mind; and this apprehension distracts me, for she is really an amiable creature.

We shall set out to-morrow or next day for Stirling and Glasgow; and we propose to penetrate a little way into the Highlands, before we turn our course to the southward. In the mean time, commend me to all our friends round Carfax; and believe me to be ever yours,

J. MELFORD.

EDINBURGH, AUG. 8.

END OF THE SECOND VOLUME.
THE EXPEDITION OF HUMPHRY CLINKER.

VOLUME THE THIRD.

TO DR. LEWIS.

I should be very ungrateful, dear Lewis, if I did not find myself disposed to think and speak favourably of this people, among whom I have met with more kindness, hospitality, and rational entertainment, in a few weeks, than ever I received in any other country during the whole course of my life. Perhaps, the gratitude excited by these benefits may interfere with the impartiality of my remarks; for a man is as apt to be prejudiced by particular favours as to be prejudiced by private motives of disgust. If I am partial, there is, at least, some merit in my conversion from illiberal prejudices which had grown up with my constitution.

The first impressions which an Englishman receives in this country, will not contribute to the removal of his prejudices; because he refers every thing he sees to a comparison with the fame articles in his own country; and this comparison is unfavourable to Scotland in all its exteriors, such as the face of the country in respect to cultivation, the appearance of the bulk of the people, and the language of conversation in general. I am not so far convinced by Mr. Liffmahago's arguments, but that I think the Scots would do well, for their own sakes, to adopt the English idioms and pronunciation; those of them, especially, who are resolved to push their fortunes in South Britain. I know, by experience, how easily an Englishman is influenced by the ear, and how apt he is to laugh, when he hears his own language spoken with a foreign or provincial accent. I have known a member of the House of Commons speak with great energy and precision, without being able to engage attention, because his observations were made in the Scotch dialect, which (no offence to Lieutenant Liffmahago) certainly gives a clownish air even to sentiments of the greatest dignity and decorum. I have declared my opinion on this head to some of the most sensible men of this country, observing, at the same time, that if they would employ a few natives of England to teach the pronunciation of our vernacular tongue, in twenty years there would be no difference, in point of dialect, between the youth of Edinburgh and of London.

The civil regulations of this kingdom and metropolis are taken from very different models from those of England, except in a few particular establishments, the necessary consequences of the union. Their college of justice is a bench of great dignity, filled with judges of character and ability. I have heard some causes tried before this venerable tribunal; and was very much pleased with the pleadings of their advocates, who are by
no means deficient either in argument or eloquence. The Scottish legislation is founded, in a great measure, on the civil law; consequently, their proceedings vary from those of the English tribunals; but I think they have the advantage of us in their method of examining wit- nesses apart, and in the constitution of their jury, by which they certainly avoid the evil which I mentioned in my last from Linlithgow's observation.

The university of Edinburgh is supplied with excellent professors in all the sciences; and the medical school, in particular, is famous all over Europe. The students of this art have the best opportunity of learning it to perfection, in all its branches, as there are different courses for the theory of medicine, and the practice of medicine; for anatomy, chemistry, botany, and the materia medica, over and above those of mathematicks and experimental philosophy; and all these are given by men of distinguished talents. What renders this part of education still more compleat, is the advantage of attending the infirmary, which is the best instituted charitable foundation that I ever knew. Now we are talking of charities, here are several hospitals, exceedingly well endowed, and maintained under admirable regulations; and these are not only useful, but ornamental to the city. Among these, I shall only mention the general workhouse, in which all the poor; not otherwise provided for, are employed, according to their different abilities, with such judgment and effect, that they nearly maintain themselves by their labour; and there is not a beggar to be seen within the precincts of this metropolis. It was Glasgow that set the example of this establishment, about thirty years ago. Even the kirk of Scotland, so long reproached with fanaticism and canting, abounds at present with ministers celebrated for their learning, and respectable for their moderation. I have heard their sermons with equal astonish- ment and pleasure. The good people of Edinburgh no longer think dirt and cob- webs essential to the house of God. Some of their churches have admitted such orna- ments as would have excited detestation, even in England, a little more than a cen- tury ago; and psalmody is here practised and taught by a professor from the cathedral of Durham. I should not be surprized, in a few years, to hear it ac- companied with an organ.

Edinburgh is a hot-bed of genius. I have had the good fortune to be made acquainted with many authors of the first distinction; such as the two Humes, Ro- bertson, Smith, Wallace, Blair, Ferguson, Wilkie, &c. and I have found them all as agreeable in conversation as they are instructive and entertaining in their writings. These acquaintances I owe to the friendship of Dr. Carlyle, who wants nothing but inclination to figure with the rest upon paper. The magi- straty of Edinburgh is changed every year by election, and seems to be very well adapted both for state and author- ity. The lord provost is equal in digni- ty to the lord mayor of London; and the four bailies are equivalent to the rank of aldermen. There is a dean of guild, who takes cognizance of mercantile af- fairs; a treasurer; a town-clerk; and the council is composed of deacons, one of whom is returned every year, in rotation, as representative of every company of artificers or handicraftsmen. Though this city, from the nature of its situation, can never be made either very conveni- ent or very clean, it has, nevertheless, an air of magnificence that commands respect. The castle is an instance of the sublime in site and architecture. It's fortifications are kept in good order, and there is always in it a Garrison of regular soldiers, which is relieved every year; but it is incapable of sustaining a siege carried on according to the modern opera- tions of war. The castle-hill, which extends from the outward gate to the upper end of the High Street, is used as a publick walk for the citizens, and commands a prospect, equally extensive and delightful, over the county of Fife, on the other side of the Frith, and all along the sea-coast; which is covered with a succession of towns that would seem to indicate a considerable share of com- merce; but, if the truth must be told, these towns have been falling to decay ever since the union, by which the Scots were in a great measure deprived of their trade with France. The palace of Holy- rood House is a jewel in architecture, thrufi into a hollow where it cannot be seen; a situation which was certainly not chozen by the ingenious architect, who must have been confined to the site of the old palace, which was a convent. Edinburgh is considerably extended on the south side, where there are divers little elegant squares built in the English man-
ner: and the citizens have planned some improvements on the north, which, when put in execution, will add greatly to the beauty and convenience of this capital.

The sea-port is Leith, a flourishing town, about a mile from the city, in the harbour of which I have seen above one hundred ships lying all together. You must know, I had the curiosity to cross the Frith in a passage-boat, and stayed two days in Fife, which is remarkably fruitful in corn, and exhibits a surprising number of fine seats, elegantly built, and magnificently furnished. There is an incredible number of noble houses in every part of Scotland that I have seen. Dalkeith, Pinkie, Yeffer, and Lord Hopton's, all of them within four or five miles of Edinburgh, are princely palaces, in every one of which a soverign might reside at his ease. I suppose the Scots affect these monuments of grandeur. If I may be allowed to mingle censure with my remarks upon a people I revere, I must observe, that their weak side seems to be vanity. I am afraid that even their hospitality is not quite free of ostentation. I think I have discovered among them uncommon pains taken to display their fine linen, of which, indeed, they have great plenty; their furniture, plate, housekeeping, and variety of wines; in which article, it must be owned, they are profuse, if not prodigal. A burgher of Edinburgh, not content to vie with a citizen of London, who has ten times his fortune, must excel him in the expense, as well as elegance, of his entertainments.

Though the villas of the Scotch nobility and gentry have generally an air of grandeur and state, I think their gardens and parks are not comparable to those of England; a circumstance the more remarkable, as I was told by the ingenious Mr. Phillip Miller of Chelsea, that almost all the gardeners of South Britain were natives of Scotland. The verdure of this country is not equal to that of England. The pleasure-grounds are, in my opinion, not so well laid out, according to the genius loci; nor are the lawns, walks, and hedges, kept in such delicate order. The trees are planted in prudish rows, which have not such an agreeable natural effect as when they are thrown into irregular groups, with intervening glades; and the first, which they generally raise around their houses, look dull and funeral in the summer season. I must confess, indeed, that they yield serviceable timber, and good shelter against the northern blasts; that they grow and thrive in the most barren soil, and continually perpierce a fine balsam of turpentine, which must render the air very salutary and favorable to lungs of a tender texture.

Tabby and I have been both frightened in our return by sea from the coast of Fife. She was afraid of drowning, and I of catching cold, in consequence of being drenched with sea-water; but my fears, as well as her's, have been happily disappointed. She is now in perfect health; I wish I could say the same of Liddy. Something uncommon is the matter with that poor child; her colour fades, her appetite fails, and her spirits flag. She is become morose and melancholy, and is often found in tears. Her brother suspects internal uneasiness on account of Wilton, and denounces vengeance against that adventurer. She was, it seems, strongly affected at the ball by the sudden appearance of one Mr. Gordon, who strongly resembles the said Wilton; but I am rather suspicious that the caught cold by being overheated with dancing. I have consulted Dr. Gregory, an eminent physician of an amiable character, who advices the highland air, and the use of goat-milk whey; which, surely, cannot have a bad effect upon a patient who was born and bred among the mountains of Wales. The doctor's opinion is the more agreeable, as we shall find those remedies in the very place which I proposed as the utmost extent of our expedition; I mean the borders of Argyle.

Mr. Smollett, one of the judges of the commissary court, which is now sitting, has very kindly inflituted upon our lodging at his country-house, on the banks of Lough-Lomond, about fourteen miles beyond Glasgow. For this last city we shall set out in two days, and take Stirling in our way, well provided with recommendations from our friends at Edinburgh, whom, I protest, I shall leave with much regret. I am far from thinking it any hardship to live in this country, that, if I was obliged to lead a town life, Edinburgh would certainly be the headquarters of your always,

TO SIR WATKIN PHILLIPS, BART. OF JESUS COLLEGE, OXON.

DEAR KNIGHT,

I am now little short of the Ultima Thule; if this appellation properly belongs to the Orkneys or Hebrides, these last are now lying before me, to the amount of some hundreds, scattered up and down the Deucalidonian sea, affording the most picturesque and romantic prospect I ever beheld; I write this letter in a gentleman's house, near the town of Inverary, which may be deemed the capital of the West Highlands, famous for nothing so much as for the finest cattle begun, and actually covered in, by the late Duke of Argyle, at a prodigious expense; whether it will ever be completely finished, is a question.

But, to take things in order. We left Edinburgh ten days ago; and the farther north we proceeded, we find Mrs. Tabitha the less manageable; so that her inclinations are not of the nature of the loadstone; they point not towards the pole. What made her leave Edinburgh with reluctance at last, if we may believe her own affections, was a dispute which the left unfinished with Mr. Moffat, touching the eternity of hell torments. That gentleman, as he advanced in years, began to be sceptical on this head, till, at length, he declared open war against the common acceptance of the word eternal. He is now persuaded, that eternal signifies no more than an indefinite number of years; and that the most absurd notions may be quit for nine millions, nine hundred thousand, nine hundred and ninety nine years of hell fire; which term or period, as he very well observes, forms but an inconsiderable drop, as it were, in the ocean of eternity. For this mitigation he contends, as a gytreum agreeable to the ideas of goodwills and mercy, which we annex to the Supreme Being. Our aunt seemed willing to adopt this doctrine in favour of the wicked; but he hinted, that no person whatever was so righteous as to be exempted entirely from punishment in a future state; and that the most pious Christian upon earth might think himself very happy to get off for a fall of seven or eight thousand years in the midst of fire and brimstone. Mrs. Tabitha revolted at this dogma, which filled her at once with horror and indignation.

She had recourse to the opinion of Humphry Clinker, who roundly declared it was the popish doctrine of purgatory, and quoted Scripture in defence of the fire everlasting prepared for the devil and his angels. The Reverend Meister Mackorkendale, and all the theologians and saints of that persuasion, were consulted, and some of them had doubts about the matter; which doubts and scruples had begun to infect our aunt, when we took our departure from Edinburgh.

We passed through Linlithgow, where there was an elegant royal palace, which is now gone to decay, as well as the town itself. This, too, is pretty much the cafe with Stirling, though it still boasts of a fine old castle, in which the kings of Scotland were wont to reside in their minority. But Glasgow is the pride of Scotland; and indeed it might very well pass for an elegant and flourishing city in any part of Christendom. There we had the good fortune to be received into the house of Mr. Moore, an eminent surgeon, to whom we were recommended by one of our friends at Edinburgh; and, truly, he could not have done us more essential service. Mr. Moore is a merry facetious companion, sensible and shrewd, with a considerable fund of humour; and his wife an agreeable woman, well bred, kind, and obliging. Kindness, which I take to be the essence of good-nature and humanity, is the distinguishing characteristic of the Scotch ladies in their own country. Our landlord showed us every thing, and introduced us to all the world at Glasgow; where, through his recommendation, we were complimented with the freedom of the town. Considering the trade and opulence of this place, it cannot but abound with gaiety and diversions. Here is a great number of young fellows that rival the youth of the capital in spirit and expense; and I was soon convinced that all the female beauties of Scotland were not assembled at the Hunter's ball in Edinburgh. The town of Glasgow flourishes in learning as well as in commerce. Here is an university, with professors in all the different branches of science, liberally endowed, and judiciously chosen. It was vacation time when I passed, so that I could not entirely satisfy my curiosity; but their mode of education is certainly preferable to ours in some respects. The students are not left to the private instruction
fruction of tutors; but taught in publick schools or colleges, each science by its particular professor or regent.

My uncle is in raptures with Glasgow. He not only visited all the manufactures of the place, but made excursions all round to Hamilton, Paisley, Renfrew, and every other place within a dozen miles, where there was anything remarkable to be seen in art or nature. I believe the exercise occasioned by these jaunts was of service to my sister Liddy, whose appetite and spirits began to revive. Mrs. Tabitha disphayed her attractions as usual, and actually believed she had entangled one Mr. Maclellan, a rich inkle-manufacturer, in her snares; but when matters came to an explanation, it appeared that his attachment was altogether spurious. founded upon an inter-course of devotion, at the meeting of Mr. John Wesley; who, in the course of his evangelical mifion, had come hither in perfon. At length, we set out for the banks of Lough-Lomond, passing through the little borough of Dumbarton; or, as my uncle will have it, Dunbritton; where there is a castle, more curious than any thing of the kind I had ever seen. It is honored with a particular description by the elegant Buchanann, as an arx inex-pugnabili; and, indeed, it must have been impregnable by the ancient manner of besieging. It is a rock of considerable extent, rising with a double top, in an angle formed by the confluence of two rivers, the Clyde and the Leven; perpendicular and inaccessible on all sides, except in one place where the entrance is fortified; and there is no rising ground in the neighbourhood from whence it could be damaged by any kind of battery.

From Dumbarton, the West Highlands appear in the form of huge, dusky mountains, piled one above another; but this prospect is not at all surprizing to a native of Glamorgan. We have fixed our head-quarters at Cameron, a very neat country-house belonging to commissary Smollett, where we found every fort of accommodation we could desire. It is situated like a Druid's temple, in a grove of oak, close by the side of Lough-Lomond, which is a surprizing body of pure transparent water, unfaftomably deep in many places, six or seven miles broad, four and twenty miles in length, displaying above twenty green islands, covered with wood; some of them cultivated for corn, and many of them stocked with red deer. They belong to different gentlemen, whose seats are scattered along the banks of the lake, which are agreeably-romantic beyond all conception. My uncle and I have left the women at Cameron, as Mrs. Tabitha would by no means trust herself again upon the water, and to come hither it was necessary to cross a small inlet of the sea, in an open ferry-boat. This country appears more and more wild and savage the further we advance; and the people are as different from the Lowland Scots, in their looks, garb, and language, as the mountaineers of Brecknock are from the inhabitants of Herefordshire.

When the Lowlanders want to drink a cheer-upping-cup, they go to the publick house, called the Change House, and call for a chopine of two-penny, which is a thin, yeasty beverage, made of malt; not quite so strong as the table-beer of England. This is brought in a pewter floop, shaped like a skittle, from whence it is emptied into a quaft; that is, a curious cup made of different pieces of wood, such as box and ebony, cut into little flaves, joined alternately, and secured with delicately hoops, having two ears or handles. It holds about a gill, is sometimes tipped round the mouth with silver, and has a plate of the same metal at bottom, with the landlord's cypher engraved. The Highlanders, on the contrary, despise this liquor, and regale themselves with whisky; a malt spirit as strong as geneva, which they swallow in great quantities, without any sign of inebriation. They are used to it from the cradle, and find it an excellent preservative against the winter cold, which must be extreme on these mountains. I am told that it is given with great success to infants, as a cordial in the con-fuent small-pox, when the eruption seems to flag, and the symptoms grow una-avourable. The Highlanders are used to eat much more animal food than falls to the share of their neighbours in the Low Country. They delight in hunting; have plenty of deer and other game, with a great number of sheep, goats, and black cattle running wild, which they sacrifice not to kill as venison, without being at much pains to ascertain the property.

Inverary is but a poor town, though it stands immediately under the protection of the Duke of Argyle, who is a mighty prince in this part of Scotland. The peasants live in wretched cabins, and seem very poor; but the gentlemen are tolerably well lodged, and so loving to strangers,
strangers, that a man runs some risk of his life from their hospitality. It must be observed that the poor Highlanders are now seen to disadvantage. They have been not only disarmed by act of parliament, but also deprived of their ancient garb, which was both graceful and convenient; and what is a greater hardship still, they are compelled to wear breeches; a restraint which they cannot bear with any degree of patience: indeed, the majority wear them, not in their proper place, but on poles or long staves over their shoulders. They are even debarred the use of their striped stuff, called Tartarne, which was their own manufacture, prized by them above all the velvets, brocades, and stuffs, of Europe and Asia. They now lounge along in loose great coats, of coarse muffet, equally mean and cumbersome, and betray manifold marks of degradation. Certain it is the government could not have taken a more effectual method to break their national spirit.

We have had princely sport in hunting the stag on these mountains. These are the lonely hills of Morven, where Fingal and his heroes enjoyed the same pastime. I felt an enthusiastic pleasure when I surveyed the brown heath Ofian was wont to tread, and hear the wind whistle through the bending grass. When I enter our landlord's hall, I look for the suspended harp of that divine bard, and listen in hopes of hearing the aerial sound of his respected spirit. The Poems of Ofian are in every mouth. A famous antiquarian of this country, the Laird of Macfarlane, at whose house we dined a few days ago, can repeat them all in the original Gaelick, which has a great affinity to the Welsh, not only in the general sound, but also in a great number of radical words; and I make no doubt but that they are both sprung from the same origin. I was not a little surprised, when asking a Highlander one day, if he knew where we should find any game, he replied—'Hu niet Saffenaugh,' which signifies no English; the very same answer I should have received from a Welshman, and almost in the same words. The Highlanders have no other name for the people of the Low Country, but Saffenagh, or Saxons; a strong presumption, that the Lowland Scots and the English are derived from the same stock. The peasantry of these hills strongly resemble those of Wales in their looks, their manners, and habitations; everything I see, and hear, and feel, seems Welsh. The mountains, vales, and streams; the air and climate; the beef, mutton, and game, are all Welsh. It must be owned, however, that this people are better provided than we in some articles. They have plenty of red deer and roebuck, which are fat and delicious at this season of the year. Their tea teems with amazing quantities of the finest filh in the world; and they find means to procure very good claret at a very small expense.

Our landlord is a man of consequence in this part of the country; a cadet from the family of Argyle, and hereditary captain of one of his castles. His name in plain English is Dougal Campbell; but as there is a great number of the same appellation, they are distingushed (like the Welsh) by patronymics; and, as I have known an ancient Briton called Macdoc ap-Morgan, ap-Jenkins, ap-Jones, our Highland chief designs himself Donl Mac-amisf mac-ouich-ian, signifying Dougal, the son of James, the son of Dougal, the son of John. He has travelled in the course of his education, and is disposed to make certain alterations in his domestic economy; but he finds it impossible to abolish the ancient customs of the family, some of which are ludicrous enough. His piper, for example, who is an hereditary officer of the household, will not part with the least particle of his privileges. He has a right to wear the kilt, or ancient Highland dress, with the purple, pibol, and dark: a broad yellow ribband, fixed to the chanter-pipe, is thrown over his shoulder, and trails along the ground, while he performs the function of his minstrelsy; and this, I suppose, is analogous to the penon or flag which was formerly carried before every knight in battle. He plays before the laird every Sunday in his way to the kirk, which he circles three times, performing the family march, which implies defiance to all the enemies of the clan; and every morning he plays a full hour by the clock, in the great hall, marching backwards and forwards all the time, with a solemn pace, attended by the laird's kinmen, who seem much delighted with the music. In this exercife, he indulges them with a variety of pibrochs or airs, fitted to the different passions, which he would either excite or afflict.

Mr. Campbell himself, who performs very
very well on the violin, has an invincible antipathy to the sound of the Highland bag-pipe, which sings in the nose with a mottlalarming twang, and, indeed, is quite intolerable to ears of common sensibility, when aggravated by the echo of a vaulted hall. He therefore begged the piper would have some mercy upon him, and dispense with this part of the morning service. A consultation of the clan being held on this occasion, it was unanimously agreed, that the laird's request could not be granted without a dangerous encroachment upon the customs of the family. The piper declared he could not give up for the moment the privilege he derived from his ancestors; nor would the laird's relations forego an entertainment which they valued above all others. There was no remedy; Mr. Campbell, being obliged to acquiesce, is fain to stop his ears with cotton, to fortify his head with three or four night-caps, and every morning retire into the penetralia of his habitation, in order to avoid this diurnal annoyance. When the mufick ceases, he produces himself at an open window that looks into the court-yard, which is by this time filled with a crowd of his vassals and dependents, who worship his first appearance, by uncovering their heads, and bowing to the earth with the most humble prostration. As all these people have something to communicate in the way of proposal, complaint, or petition, they wait patiently till the laird comes forth, and, following him in his walks, are favoured each with a short audience in his turn.

Two days ago, he dispached above an hundred different solicitors, in walking with us to the house of a neighbouring gentleman, where we dined by invitation. Our landlord's house-keeping is equally rough and hospitable, and favours much of the simplicity of ancient times: the great hall, paved with flat stones, is about forty-five feet by twenty-two, and ferves not only for a dining-room, but also for a bed-chamber to gentlemen-dependents and hangers-on of the family. At night half a dozen occasionals are ranged on each side along the wall. These are made of fresh heath, pulled up by the roots, and disposed in such a manner as to make a very agreeable couch, where they lie, without any other covering than the plaid. My uncle and I were indulged with separate chambers and down-beds, which we begged to exchange for a layer of heath; and indeed I never slept so much to my satisfaction. It was not only soft and elastick, but the plant, being in flower, diffused an agreeable fragrance, which is wonderfully refreshing and restorative.

Yesterday we were invited to the funeral of an old lady, the grandmother of a gentleman in this neighbourhood, and found ourselves in the midst of fifty people, who were regaled with a sumptuous feast, accompanied by the mufick of a dozen pipers. In short, this meeting had all the air of a grand festival; and the guests did such honour to the entertainment, that many of them could not stand when we were reminded of the business on which we had met. The company forthwith took horse, rode in a very irregular cavalcade to the place of interment, a church, at the distance of two long miles from the castle. On our arrival, however, we found we had committed a final oversight, in leaving the corpse behind; so that we were obliged to wheel about, and met the old gentlewoman half way, carried upon poles by the nearest relations of her family, and attended by the coronach, composed of a multitude of old hags, who tore their hair, beat their breasts, and howled most hideously. At the grave, the orator, or senachie, pronounced the panegyric of the deceased, every period being confirmed by a yell of the coronach. The body was committed to the earth, the pipers playing a pibroch all the time; and all the company standing uncovered. The ceremony was closed with the discharge of pistols; then we returned to the castle, refilled the bottle, and by midnight there was not a sober person in the family, the females excepted. The squire and I were, with some difficulty, permitted to retire with our landlord in the evening; but our entertainer was a little chagrined at our retreat; and afterwards seemed to think it a disfigurement to his family, that not above a hundred gallons of whisky had been drank upon such a solemn occasion. This morning we got up by four to hunt the roebuck, and in half an hour found breakfast ready served in the hall. The hunters consisted of Sir George Colquhoun and me, as strangers, (my uncle not chusing to be of the party) of the laird's son, the laird's brother, the laird's brother's son, the laird's brother's son, the laird's brother's son, and all their distant brothers, who are counted parcel of the family: but we were attended by an infinite
finite number of Gaetlys; or ragged Highlanders, without shoes or stockings.

The following articles formed our morning’s repast: one kit of boiled eggs; a second, full of butter; a third, full of cream; an entire cheese, made of goat’s milk; a large earthen pot full of honey; the beet part of a ham; a cold venison paity; a bucket of oatmeal, made in thin cakes and bannocks, with a small wheaten loaf in the middle for the strangers; a large stone bottle full of whisky, another of brandy, and a kilderkin of ale. There was a ladle chained to the cream-kit, with curious wooden bickers to be filled from this reservoir. The spirits were drank out of a silver quaft; and the ale out of horns. Great justice was done to the collation by the guests in general; one of them in particular ate above two dozen of hard eggs, with a proportionable quantity of bread, butter, and honey; nor was one drop of liquor left upon the board. Finally, a large roll of tobacco was presented by way of defterrit, and every individual took a comfortable quid, to prevent the bad effects of the morning air. We had a fine chace over the mountains, after a roebuck, which we killed, and I got home time enough to drink tea with Mrs. Campbell and our figure. To-morrow we set out on our return for Cameron. We propose to cross the Frith of Clyde, and take the towns of Greenock and Port Glasgow in our way. This circuit being finifhed, we shall turn our faces to the south, and follow the sun with augmented velocity, in order to enjoy the rest of the autumn in England, where Boreas is not quite so biting as he begins already to be on the tops of these northern hills. But our progress from place to place shall continue to be specified in these detached journals of, yours always,

J. MELFORD.

ARGYLLSHIRE, SEPT. 3.

TO DR. LEWIS.

DEAR DICK,

ABOUT a fortnight is now elapsed since we left the capital of Scotland, directing our course towards Stirling, where we lay. The castle of this place is such another as that of Edinburgh, and affords a surprizing prospect of the windings of the River Forth, which are so extraordinary, that the distance from hence to Alloa by land is but four miles, and by water it is twenty-four. Alloa is a neat thriving town, that depends in a great measure on the commerce of Glasgow, the merchants of which fend litter tobacco and other articles, to be deposited in warehouses for exportation from the Frith of Forth. In our way hither we visited a flourifting iron-work; where, instead of burning wood, they use coal, which they have the art of clearing in such a manner as frees it from the sulphur, that would otherwise render the metal too brittle for working. Excellent coal is found in almost every part of Scotland.

The soil of this district produces scarce any other grain but oats and barley; perhaps because it is poorly cultivated, and almost altogether uninclofed. The few inclosures they have consist of paltry walls of loose stones gathered from the fields, which indeed they cover, as if they had been scattered on purpose. When I expressed my surprize that the peasants did not discern what their grounds of these stones, a gentleman, well acquaint- ed with the theory as well as practice of farming, assured me that the stones, far from being prejudicial, were serviceable to the crop. This philosopher had ordered a field of his own to be cleared, manured, and sown with barley, and the produce was more scanty than before. He caused the stones to be replaced, and next year the crop was as good as ever. The stones were removed a second time, and the harvest failed: they were again brought back, and the ground retrieved it’s fertility. The same experiment has been tried in different parts of Scotland with the same success. Astonished at this information, I desired to know in what manner he accounted for this strange phenomenon; and he said there were three ways in which the stones might be serviceable. They might possibly restrain an excess in the perpiration of the earth, analogous to collquiative sweats, by which the human body is sometimes wafted and confum’d: they might act as so many fences to protect the tender blade from the piercing winds of the spring; or, by multiplying the reflection of the sun, they might increase the warmth, fo as to mitigate the natural chilines of the soil and climate. But, surely, this excessive perpiration might be more effectually checked by different kinds of manure, such as ashes, lime, chalk, or mail, of which
which last, it seems, there are many pits in this kingdom. As for the warmth, it would be much more equally obtained by inclosures; one half of the ground which is now covered would be retrieved; the cultivation would require less labour; and the plows, harrows, and horses, would not suffer half the damage which they now sustain.

These north-western parts are by no means fertile in corn: the ground is naturally barren and moorish. The peatlands are poorly lodged, meagre in their looks, mean in their apparel, and remarkably dirty. This last reproach they might easily wash off, by means of those lakes, rivers, and rivulets of pure water, with which they are so liberally supplied by nature. Agriculture cannot be expected, to flourish where the farms are small, the leaves short, and the husbandman begins upon a rack-rent, without a sufficient stock to answer the purposes of improvement. The granaries of Scotland are the banks of the Tweed; the counties of East and Mid-Lothian; the Castle of Gowrie, in Perthshire, equal in fertility to any part of England; and some tracts in Aberdeenshire and Murray; where, I am told, the harvest is more early than in Northumberland, although they lie above two degrees farther north. I have a strong curiosity to visit many places beyond the Forth and the Tay, such as Perth, Dundee, Montrofe, and Aberdeen, which are towns equally elegant and thriving; but the season is too far advanced to admit of this addition to my original plan.

I am so far happy as to have seen Glasgow, which, to the best of my recollection and judgment, is one of the prettiest towns in Europe; and, without all doubt, it is one of the most flourishing in Great Britain. In short, it is a perfect bee-hive in point of industry. It stands partly on a gentle declivity; but the greatest part of it is in a plain, watered by the River Clyde. The streets are straight, open, airy, and well paved; and the houses lofty, and well built of hewn-stone. At the upper end of the town there is a venerable cathedral, that may be compared with Yorkminster or Westminister; and about the middle of the defcent from this to the Cross is the College, a respectable pile of building, with all manner of accommodation for the professors and students, including an elegant library, and an observatory well provided with astronomical instruments.

The number of inhabitants is said to amount to thirty thousand; and marks of opulence and independency appear in every quarter of this commercial city; which, however, is not without its inconveniences and defects. The water of their publick pumps is generally hard and brackish, an imperfection the less excusable, as the River Clyde runs by their doors, in the lower part of the town; and there are rivulets and springs above the cathedral, sufficient to fill a large reservoir with excellent water, which might be thence distributed to all the different parts of the city. It is of more consequence to consult the health of the inhabitants in this article, than to employ so much attention in beautifying their towns with new streets, squares, and churches. Another defect, not so easily remedied, is the shallowness of the river, which will not float vessels of any burden within ten or twelve miles of the city; so that the merchants are obliged to load and unload their ships at Greenock and Port Glasgow, situated about fourteen miles nearer the mouth of the Frith, where it is about two miles broad.

The people of Glasgow have a noble spirit of enterprise. Mr. Moore, a surgeon, to whom I was recommended from Edinburgh, introduced me to all the principal merchants of the place. Here I became acquainted with Mr. Cochran, who may be filled one of the fages of this kingdom. He was first magistrate at the time of the last rebellion. I fat as member when he was examined in the House of Commons; upon which occasion Mr. P—— observed he had never heard such a sensible evidence given at that bar. I was also introduced to Dr. John Gordon, a patriot of a truly Roman spirit, who is the father of the linen manufacture in this place; and was a great promoter of the city workhouse, infirmary, and other works of publick utility. Had he lived in ancient Rome, he would have been honoured with a statue at the publick expense. I moreover conversed with one Mr. G——, whom I take to be one of the greatest merchants in Europe. In the last war, he is said to have had at one time five and twenty ships, with their cargoes, his own property, and to have traded for above half a million sterling a year. The last war was a fortunate period for the commerce of Glasgow. The merchants, considering that their ships bound for America, launching out at once
once into the Atlantick by the north of Ireland, pursued a track very little fre-
quented by privateers, resolved to infure one another, and saved a very consider-
able sum by this resolution, as few or none of their ships were taken. You
must know I have a fond of national at-
tachment to this part of Scotland. The
great church, dedicated to St. Monagh, the River Clyde, and other particulars
that smack of our Welsh language and
customs, contribute to flatter me with
the notion that these people are the de-
cendants of the Britons, who once pop-
ulated this country. Without all question,
this was a Cumbrian kingdom; it's ca-
pital was Dunbarton, (a corruption of
Dunbritton) which still exists as a royal
borough, at the influx of the Clyde and
Leven, ten miles below Glasgow. The
famine neighbourhood gave birth to St.
Patrick, the apostle of Ireland, at a place
where there is still a church and village,
which retain his name. Hard by are
some vestiges of the famous Roman wall,
built in the reign of Antonine, from the
Clyde to the Forth, and fortified with
castles, to restrain the incursions of the
Scots or Caledonians, who inhabited the
Weit Highlands. In a line parallel to this
wall, the merchants of Glasgow have de-
termined to make a navigable canal be-
tween the two Friths, which will be of
incredible advantage to their commerce,
in transporting merchandize from one
side of the island to the other.

From Glasgow we travelled along
the Clyde, which is a delightful stream,
adorned on both sides with villages, towns,
and villages. Here is no want of groves
and meadows, and corn-fields interper-
ced; but on this side of Glasgow there is
little other grain than oats and barley;
the first are much better, the last much
worse, than those of the same species in
England. I wonder there is so little rye,
which is a grain that will thrive in al-
mot any soil; and it is still more sur-
prising that the cultivation of potatoes
should be so much neglected in the High-
lands, where the poor people have not
meal enough to supply them with bread
through the winter. On the other side of
the river are the towns of Paisley and
Renfrew. The first, from an inconsider-
able village, is become one of the most
flourishing places of the kingdom, en-
riched by the linen, cambrick, flowered
lawn, and silk manufactures. It was
formerly noted for a rich monastery of

the monks of Cluny, who wrote the fa-
mous Scott-Chronicon, called The Black
Book of Paisley. The old abbey still re-
ains, converted into a dwelling-house,
belonging to the Earl of Dundonald.
Renfrew is a pretty town, on the banks
of Clyde, capital of the shire, which
was heretofore the patriarchy of the Stuart
family, and gave the title of Baron to the
king's eldest son, which is still assumed by
the Prince of Wales.

The Clyde we left a little on our left-
hand at Dunbritton, where it widens into
an estuary or frith, being augmented by
the influx of the Leven. On this spot
flanks the castle formerly called Alcluyd,
wafted by these two rivers on all sides,
except a narrow isthmus, which at every
spring-tide is overflowed. The whole is a
great curiosity, from the quality and form
of the rock, as well as from the nature of
it's situation. We now crossed the water
of Leven, which, though nothing near so
considerable as the Clyde, is much more
transparent, pastoral, and delightful.
This charming stream is the outlet of
Lough-Lomond, and through a tract of
four miles purifies it's winding course,
murmuring over a bed of pebbles, till
it joins the Frith at Dunbritton. A very
little above it's source, on the lake, flanks
the Houfe of Cameron, belonging to Mr.
Smollett, so embolomed in an oak wood,
that we did not see it till we were within
fifty yards of the door. I have seen the
Lago di Garda, Albano, De Vico, Bols-
ena, and Geneva; and, upon my ho-
our, I prefer Lough - Lomond to them
all: a preference which is certainly owing
to the verdant islands that seem to float
upon it's surface, affording the most en-
chanting objeets of repose to the excursive
view. Nor are the banks destitute of
beauties, which even partake of the fu-
blime. On this side they display a sweet
variety of woodland, corn-fields, and
pasture, with several agreeable villas,
emerging; as it were, out of the lake, till,
'at some distance, the prospect terminates
in huge mountains covered with heath,
which being in bloom, affords a very rich
covering of purple. Every thing here is
romantick beyond imagination. This
country is justly flied the Arcadia of
Scotland; and I do not doubt but it may
vie with Arcadia in every thing but cli-
mate: I am sure it excels it in verdure,
wood, and water. What say you to a
natural baion of pure water, near thirty
miles long, and in some places seven miles
miles broad, and in many above a hundred fathom deep, having four and twenty habitable islands, some of them stocked with deer, and all of them covered with wood, containing immense quantities of delicious fish, salmon, pike, trout, perch, flounders, eels, and poulains, the last a delicate kind of fresh-water herring peculiar to this lake; and, finally, communicating with the sea, by sending off the Leven, through which all those species (except the poulain) make their exit and entrance occasionally.

Inclosed I send you a copy of a little ode to this river, by Dr. Smollett, who was born on the banks of it, within two miles of the place where I am now writing. It is at least picturesque and accurately descriptive, if it has no other merit. There is an idea of truth in an agreeable landscape taken from nature, which pleases me more than the gayest fiction which the most luxuriant fancy can display.

I have other remarks to make; but, as my paper is full, I must reserve them till the next occasion. I shall only observe at present, that I am determined to penetrate at least forty miles into the Highlands, which now appear like a vast fantastick vision in the clouds, inviting the approach of yours always,

MATT. BRAMBLE.

CAMERON, AUG. 28.

ODE TO LEVEN WATER.

On Leven's banks, while free to rove,
And tune the rural pipe to love;
I envied not the happiest swain,
That ever trod the Arcadian plain.

Pure stream! in whose transparent wave
My youthful limbs I wont to evade;
No torrents stain thy limpid source;
No rocks impede thy dimpling course;
That sweetly warbles o'er its bed,
With white, round, polished pebbles spread.
While, lightly poised, the fealy brood
In myriads cleave thy crystal flood:
The springing trout in speckled pride;
The falmon, monarch of the tide;
The ruthless pike, intent on war;
The silver eel, and motled par.

Devolving from thy parent lake,
A charming maze thy waters make,
By bow'rs of birch, and groves of pine,
And hedges flower'd with eglantine.

Still on thy banks, so gayly green,
May numerous herds and flocks be seen;
And laffes chanting o'er the plain,
And shepherds piping in the vale,
And ancient faith that knows no guile,
And industry embrac'd with till,
And hearts resolv'd, and hands prepar'd;
The blessings they enjoy to guard.

TO DR. LEWIS.

DEAR DOCTOR,

If I was disposed to be critical, I should say this House of Cameron is too near the lake, which approaches, on one side, to within six or seven yards of the window. It might have been placed in a higher site, which would have afforded a more extensive prospect, and a drier atmosphere; but this imperfection is not chargeable on the present proprietor, who purchased it ready built, rather than be at the trouble of repairing his own family-house of Bonhill, which stands two miles from hence on the Leven, so surrounded with plantation, that it used to be known by the name of the Mavis (or a thrush) Nest. Above that house is a romantic glen or cliff of a mountain covered with hanging woods, having at bottom a stream of fine water that forms a number of cascades in its descent to join the Leven; so that the scene is quite enchanting. A captain of a man of war, who had made the circuit of the globe with Mr. Anton, being conducted to this glen, exclaimed—

'Juan Fernandez, by God!' Indeed, this country would be a perfect paradise, if it were not, like Wales, curdled with a weeping climate, owing to the same caufes in both, the neighbour-hood of high mountains, and a weetery situation, exposed to the vapours of the Atlantick Ocean. This air, however, notwithstanding it's humidity, is so healthy, that the natives are scarce ever visit-ed by any other disease than the small-pox, and certain cutaneous evils, which are the effects of dirty living, the great and general reproach of the commonalty of this kingdom. Here are a great many living monuments of longevity; and, among the rest, a person whom I treat with singular respect, as a venerable druid, who has lived near ninety years, without pain and sickness, among oaks of his own.

* The par is a small fish, not unlike the smelt, which it rivals in delicacy and flavour.
HUMPHRY CLINKER.

own planting. He was once proprietor of these lands; but being of a projecting spirit, some of his schemes miscarried, and he was obliged to part with his poffe$$ion, which hath shifted hands two or three times since that period; but every succeeding proprietor hath done every thing in his power to make his old age easy and comfortable. He has a suf$$ciency to procure the necessaries of life; and he and his old woman reside in a small convenient farm-house, having a little garden, which he cultivates with his own hands. This ancient couple live in great health, peace, and harmony; and, knowing no wants, enjoy the perfection of content. Mr. Smollet calls him the Admiral, because he infufts upon feering his pleasure-boat upon the lake; and he spends most of his time in ranging through the woods, which he declares he enjoys as much as if they were still his own property. I asked him the other day if he was never sick, and he an$$wered, Yes; he had a flight fever the year before the Union. If he was not deaf, I should take much pleasure in his conver$$sation; for he is very intelligent, and his memory is surprizingly retentive. These are the happy effects of temper$$ance, exercise, and good-nature. Notwithstanding all his innocence, however, he was the cause of great perturbation to my man Clinker, whose natural superstit$$ion has been much injured by the histo$$ries of witches, fairies, ghosts, and gob$$lins, which he has heard in this country. On the evening after our arrival, Hum$$phry strolled into the wood in the cour$$se of his meditation, and all at once the admiral flood before him, under the shadow of a spreading oak. Though the fellow is far from being timorous in cafes that are not supposod preternatural, he could not stand the sight of this apparition, but ran into the kitchen, with his hair standing on end, flaring wildly, and deprived of utterance. Mrs. Jenkins, fee$$ing him in this condition, screamed aloud — ' Lord have mercy upon us, he has seen something!' Mrs. Tabitha was alarmed, and the whole house in commotion. When he was recruited with a dram, I desired him to explain the meaning of all this agitation; and, with some reluctance, he owned he had seen a spirit, in the shape of an old man with a white beard, a black cap, and a plaid night-gown. He was undeceived by the admiral person, who, coming in at this juncture, appeared to be a creature of real flesh and blood.

Do you know how we fare in this Scotch paradise? We make free with our landlord's mutton, which is excellent, his poultry-yard, his garden, his dairy, and his cellar, which are all well flored. We have delicious salmon, pike, trout, perch, par, &c. at the door, for the taking. The Frith of Clyde, on the other side of the hill, supplies us with mullet red and grey, cod, mackarel, whiting, and a variety of sea-fish, including the finest fresh herrings that I ever tasted. We have sweet, juicy beef, and tolerable veal, with delicate bread from the little town of Dunbritton; and plenty of partridge, grouse, heath-cock, and other game, in presents.

We have been visited by all the gentlemen of the neighbourhood, and they have entertained us at their houses, not barely with hospitality, but with such marks of cordial affection, as one would wish to find among near relations, after an absence of many years.

I told you in my last I had projected an excursion to the Highlands, which project I have now happily executed, under the auspices of Sir George Colquhoun, a colonel in the Dutch service, who offered himself as our conductor on this occasion. Leaving our women at Cameron, to the care and inspection of Lady H—— C——, we set out on horse$$back for Inverary, the county-town of Argyle, and dined on the road with the Laird of Macfarlane, the greatest genealogist I ever knew in any country, and perfectly acquainted with all the ant$$iquities of Scotland.

The Duke of Argyle has an old caffle at Inverary, where he resides when he is in Scotland; and hard by is the shcill of a noble Gothic palace, built by the last duke, which, when finished, will be a great ornament to this part of the Highlands. As for Inverary, it is a place of very little importance.

This country is amazingly wild, espe$$cially towards the mountains, which are heaped upon the backs of one another, making a most stupendous appearance of savage nature, with hardly any signs of cultivation, or even of population. All is sublimity, silence, and solitude. The people live together in glens or bottoms, where they are sheltered from the cold and storms of winter; but there is a margin of plain ground spread along the seashore,
side, which is well inhabited and improved by the arts of husbandry; and this I take to be one of the most agreeable tracts of the whole island; the sea not only keeps it warm, and supplies it with fish, but affords it one of the most ravishing prospects in the whole world; I mean the appearance of the Hebrides, or Western Islands, to the number of three hundred, scattered as far as the eye can reach, in the most agreeable confusion. As the soil and climate of the Highlands are but ill adapted to the cultivation of corn, the people apply themselves chiefly to the breeding and feeding of black cattle, which turn to good account. Those animals run wild all the winter, without any shelter or subsistence but what they can find among the heath. When the snow lies so deep and hard, that they cannot penetrate to the roots of the grass, they make a diurnal progress, guided by a sure instinct, to the sea-side at low water, where they feed on the alga marina, and other plants that grow upon the beach.

Perhaps this branch of husbandry, which requires very little attendance and labour, is one of the principal causes of that idleness and want of industry which distinguishes these mountaineers in their own country. When they come forth into the world, they become as diligent and alert as any people upon earth. They are undoubtedly a very distinct species from their fellow-subjects of the Lowlands, against whom they indulge an ancient spirit of animosity; and this difference is very discernible even among persons of family and education. The Lowlanders are generally cool and circumspect; the Highlanders fiery and ferocious: but this violence of their passions serves only to enflame the zeal of their devotion to strangers, which is truly enthusiastic.

We proceeded about twenty miles beyond Inverary, to the house of a gentleman, a friend of our conductor, where we stayed a few days, and were feasted in such a manner, that I began to dread the consequence to my constitution.

Notwithstanding the solitude that prevails among these mountains, there is no want of people in the Highlands. I am credibly informed that the Duke of Argyll can assemble five thousand men in arms, of his own clan and surname, which is Campbell; and there is besides a tribe of the same appellation, whose chief is the Earl of Breadalbane. The Macdonalds are as numerous, and remarkably warlike. The Camerons, M'Lods, Fraers, Grants, M'Kenzie, M'Kays, M'Pherions, M'Intoshes, are powerful clans; so that if all the Highlanders, including the inhabitants of the Isles, were united, they could bring into the field an army of forty thousand fighting men, capable of undertaking the most dangerous enterprise. We have lived to see four thousand of them, without discipline, throw the whole kingdom of Great Britain into confusion. They attacked and defeated two armies of regular troops, accustomed to service. They penetrated into the centre of England; and afterwards marched back with deliberation, in the face of two other armies, through an enemy's country, where every precaution was taken to cut off their retreat. I know not any other people in Europe, who, without the use or knowledge of arms, will attack regular forces sword in hand, if their chief will head them in battle. When disciplined, they cannot fail of being excellent soldiers. They do not walk like the generality of mankind, but trot and bound like deer, as if they moved upon springs. They greatly excel the Lowlanders in all the exercitae that require agility; they are incredibly able-bodied, and patient of hunger and fatigue; so fleeced against the weather, that, in travelling, even when the ground is covered with snow, they never look for a house, or any other shelter, but their plaid, in which they wrap themselves up, and go to sleep under the cope of heaven. Such people, in quality of soldiers, must be invincible, when the business is to perform quick marches in a difficult country, to strike sudden strokes, beat up the enemy's quarters, harass their cavalry, and perform expeditions without the formality of magazines, baggage, forage, and artillery. The chiefship of the Highlanders is a very dangerous influence operating at the extremity of the island, where the eyes and hands of government cannot be supposed to see and act with precision and vigour. In order to break the force of this influence, administration has always practiced the political maxim, Dividere et imponere. The legislature hath not only disarmed these mountaineers, but also deprived them of their ancient garb, which contributed in a great measure to keep up their
paid a visit to his own country, and hired
a farm in the neighbourhood of his fa-
ther's house, which had been burnt to
the ground. The clan, though ruined,
and scattered, no sooner heard of his ar-
ival, than they flocked to him from all
quarters, to welcome his return, and in
a few days flocked his farm with seven
hundred black cattle, which they had
faved in the general wreck of their af-
fairs; but their beloved chief, who was
a promising youth, did not live to en-
joy the fruits of their fidelity and attach-
ment.

The most effectual method I know to
weaken, and at length destroy, this influ-
ence, is to employ the commonality in
such a manner as to give them a taste
of property and independence. In vain the
government grants them advantageous
leases on the forfeited estates, if they have
no property to prosecute the means of
improvement. The tea is an inexhausti-
bly fund of riches; but the fishery can-
not be carried on without vessels, casks,
falt, lines, nets, and other tackle. I
converted with a sensible man of this
country, who, from a real spirit of pa-
triotism, had set up a fishery on the coast,
and a manufacture of coarse linen, for
the employment of the poor Highlanders.
Cod is here in such plenty, that he told
me he had feen seven hundred taken on
one line, at one haul. It must be ob-
erved, however, that the line was of im-
mense length, and had two thousand
hooks baited with mufcles; but the fish
was so superior to the cod caught on the
banks of Newfoundland, that his corre-
spondent at Lisbon fold them immedi-
ately at his own price, although Lent
was just over when they arrived, and the
people might be supposed quite cloyed
with this kind of diet. His linen manu-
facture was likewise in a prosperoussway,
when the late war intervening, all his
best hands were pressed into the service.

It cannot be expected that the gentle-
men of this country should execute com-
mercial schemes to render their vassals
independent; nor, indeed, are such
schemes suited to their way of life and
inclination: but a company of merchants
might, with proper management, turn to
good account a fishery established in this
part of Scotland. Our people have a
strange itch to colonize America, when
the uncultivated parts of our own island
might be settled to greater advantage.

After having rambled through the
mountains
mountains and glens of Argyle, we visited the adjacent islands of Ila, Jura, Mull, and Icolmkill. In the first we saw the remains of a castle, built in a lake, where Macdonald, lord or king of the Isles, formerly resided. Jura is famous for having given birth to one Mackenzie, who lived one hundred and eighty years in one house, and died in the reign of Charles the Second. Mull affords several bays where there is safe anchorage; in one of which, the Florida, a ship of the Spanish armada, was blown up by one of Mr. Smollet's ancestors.

About forty years ago, John Duke of Argyle is said to have consulted the Spanish regis ters, by which it appeared, that this ship had the military chiet on board. He employed experienced divers to examine the wreck; and they found the hull of the vessel full entire, but so covered with sand, that they could not make their way between decks; however, they picked up several pieces of plate, that were scattered about in the bay, and a couple of fine brass cannon.

Icolmkill, or Iona, is a small island which St. Columba chose for his habitation. It was respected for its fanaticity, and college or seminary of ecclesiastics. Part of it's church is still standing, with the tombs of several Scottish, Irish, and Danish sovereigns, who were here interred. These islanders are very bold and dextrous watermen, consequently the better adapted to the fishery: in their manners they are less savage and impenurious than their countrymen on the continent, and they speak the Erse or Gaelick in it's greatest purity.

Having rent round our horses by land, we embarked in the district of Cowlar for Greenock, which is a neat little town on the other side of the Frith, with a curious harbour, formed by three stone jetties, carried out a good way into the sea. Newport Glasgow is such another place, about two miles higher up. Both have a face of business and plenty, and are supported entirely by the shipping of Glasgow, of which I counted sixty large vessels in these harbours. Taking boat again at Newport, we were in less than an hour landed on the other side, within two short miles of our head-quarters, where we found our women in good health and spirits. They had been two days before joined by Mr. Smollet and his lady, to whom we have such obliga-

- HUMPHRY CLINKER.

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- tions as I cannot mention, even to you, without blushing.

- To-morrow we shall bid adieu to the Scotch Arcadia, and begin our progress to the southward, taking our way by Lanark and Nithsdale, to the west borders of England. I have received so much advantage and satisfaction from this tour, that if my health suffers no revolution in the winter, I believe I shall be tempted to undertake, another expedition to the northern extremity of Caithness, unencumbered by those impediments which now clog the heels of, yours,

- MATT. BRAMELE.

- CAMERON, SEPT. 6.

- TO MISS LEITIJA WILLIS, AT GLOUCESTER.

- NEVER did poor prisoner long for deliverance, more than I, have longed for an opportunity to disburden my cares into your friendly bosom; and the occasion which now presents itself, is little less than miraculous. Honest Saunders Macawly, the travelling Scotchman, who goes every year to Wales, is now at Glasgow, buying goods, and coming to pay his respects to our family, has undertaken to deliver this letter into your own hand. We have been six weeks in Scotland, and seen the principal towns of the kingdom, where we have been treated with great civility. The people are very courteous; and the country being exceedingly romantick, suits my turn and inclinations. I contracted some friendships at Edinburgh, which is a large and lofty city, full of gay company; and, in particular, commenced an intimate correspondence with one Miss R— n, an amiable young lady of my own age, whose charms seemed to soften, and even to subdue, the stubborn heart of my brother Jerry; but he no sooner left the place, than he relapsed into his former insensibility. I feel, however, that this indifference is not the family constitution. I never admitted but one idea of love, and that has taken such root in my heart, as to be equally proof against all the pulls of diffusion, and the frosts of neglect.

- Dear Letty! I had an alarming adventure at the hunter's ball in Edinburgh. While I sat disconsolate with a friend in a corner, all at once the very image of

- Wilson
Wilfon stood before me, drested exactly as he was in the character of Aimwell. It was one Mr. Gordon, whom I had not seen before. Shocked at the sudden apparition, I faunted away, and threw the whole assembly in confusion. However, the cause of my disorder remained a secret to every body but my brother, who was likewise struck with the resemblance, and fled after we came home. I am very sensible of Jerry’s affection; and know he spoke as well with a view to my Wick.

My dear Willis, I am truly ashamed of my own sex. We complain of advantages which the men take of our youth, inexperience, sensibility, and all that; but I have been enough to believe, that our sex in general make it their business to ensnare the other; and for this purpose, employ arts which are by no means to be justified. In point of confidence, they certainly have nothing to reproach the male part of the creation. My poor aunt, without any regard to her years and imperfections, has gone to market with her charms in every place where she thought she had the least chance to dispose of her person, which, however, hangs still heavy on her hands. I am afraid she has used even religion as a decoy; though it has not answered her expectation.

We went accordingly to Lough-Lomond, one of the most enchanting spots in the whole world; and what with this remedy, which I had every morning fresh from the mountains, and the pure air, and cheerful company, I have recovered my flesh and appetite; though there is something still at bottom, which it is not in the power of air, exercise, company, or medicine, to remove. These incidents would not touch me so nearly, if I had a sensible confidant to sympathize with my affection, and comfort me with wholesome advice. I have nothing of this kind except Win Jenkins, who is really a good body in the main, but very ill qualified for such an office. The poor creature is weak in her nerves, as well as in her understanding; otherwise I might have known the true name and character of that unfortunate youth. But why do I call him unfortunate? Perhaps the epithet is more applicable to me for having listened to the false professions of—But, hold! I have as yet no right, and sure I have no inclination, to believe any thing to the prejudice of his honour. In that reflection I shall still exert my patience. As for Mrs. Jenkins, the herself is really an object of compassion. Between vanity, methodism, and love, her head is almost turned. I should have more regard for her, however, if she had been more constant in the object of her affections; but, truly, she aimed at conquest, and flirted at the same time with my uncle’s footman, Humphry Clinker, who is really a desiring young man; and one Dutton, my brother’s valet de chambre, a debauched fellow; who, leaving Win in the lurch, ran away with another man’s bride at Berwick.

To the honour of the family; but I cannot bear to have my wounds probed severely. I was not so much affected by the cenurse he passed upon my own indiscretion, as with the reflection he made on the conduct of Wilson. He observed, that if he was really the gentleman he pretended to be, and harboured nothing but honourable designs, he would have vindicated his pretensions in the face of day. This remark made a deep impression upon my mind. I endeavoured to conceal my thoughts, and this endeavour had a bad effect upon my health and spirits; so it was thought necessary that I should go to the Highlands, and drink the goat-milk-whey.

…
We are so far on our return to Bramleton Hall; and I would fain hope we shall take Gloucester in our way; in which case I shall have the inexpressible pleasure of embracing my dear Willis. Pray remember me to my worthy governors.

TO MRS. MARY JONES, AT BRAMLETON HALL.

DEAR MARY,

SUNDERS Macully, the Scotchman, who pushed directly for Vails, has promised to give it you into your own hand, and therefore I would not miss the opportunity to let you now, as I am still in the land of the living; and yet I have been on the brink of the other world since I sent you my last letter. We went by sea to another kingdom called Fife, and coming back, had like to have gone to pot in a storm. What between the frite and sicknefs, I thought I should have brought my heart up; even Mr. Clinker was not his own man for eight and forty hours after we got ashore. It was well for some folks that we escaped drowning; for mistres was very frexious, and seemed but indifferently prepared for a change; but, thank God, she was soon put in a better frame by the private exaltations of the Reverend Mr. Macpocodile. We afterwards churched to Starling and Grafcow, which are a kiple of handsome towns; and then we went to a gentleman's house at Loff Loming, which is a wonderful sea of fresh water, with a power of hylands in the midift on't. They say as how it has got n'er a bottom, and was made by a musician; and, truly, I believe it; for it is not in the course of nature. It has got waves without wind, fihs without fins, and a floating hyland; and one of them is a crutch-yard, where the dead are buried; and always before the perfon dies, a bell rings of itself to give warning.

O Mary! this is the land of conflagration. The bell knollled when we were there. I saw lights, and heard lamentations. The gentleman, our landlord, has got another house, which he was fain to quit, on account of a mischievous ghost, that would not suffer people to lie in their beds. The fairies dwell in a hole of Kaurmann, a mounting hard by; and they steal away the good women that are in the straw, if so be as how there a'n't a howfie nailed to the door: and I was shewn an ould-vitch, called Elfpati Kingaive, with a red petticoat, bleared eyes, and a mould of grey bristles on her fin. That she wrought do me no harm; I crofled her hand with a taffer, and bid her tell my fortune; and she told me such things—defraving Mr. Clinker to a hair: but it shall ne'er be faid that I mentioned a word of the matter. As I was troubled with fits, she advised me to bathe in the Loff, which was holy water; and fo I went in the morning to a private place along with the house-maid, and we bathed in our birth-day foot, after the fashion of the country; and behold, whilst we dabbled in the Loff, Sir George Coon started up with a gun; but we clapt our hands to our faces, and paffed by him to the place where we had left our finocks. A civil gentleman would have turned his head another way. My comfit is, he knew not which was which; and, as the faying is, All cats in the dark are grey. Whilft we stayed at Loff-Loming, he and our two sirenes went three or four days churning among the wild men of the mountings; a parcel of felves that lie in caves among the rocks, devout young children, fpeak Velfh, but the words are different. Our ladies would not part with Mr. Clinker, because he is so flout, and fo pye-hous, that he fears neither man nor devil, if fo be as they don't take him by furprise. Indeed, he was once fo flurried by an operition, that he had like to have founded. He made believe as if it had been the ould edmiral; but the ould edmiral could not have made his air to stand on end, and his teeth to flatter; but he faid fo in prudence, that the ladies ought not to be af-fear'd. Miss Liddy has been puny, and like to go into a decline. I doubt her pore art is too tender: but the got's fey has flaff her on her legs again. You now's got's-fey is mother's milk to a Velhwoman. As for mistres, blessed be God, the ails nothing. Her hemick is good, and the improves in greafe and godlimes; but, for all that, she may have infections like other people, and I believe she wouldn't be forry to be called your ladyship's; whenever Sir George thinks proper to ax the quef tion. But for my part, whatever I may fee or hear, not a praticle shall ever pas the lips of, dear Molly, your loving friend,

WIN. JENKINS.

GRASCO, SEPT. 7.

Remember
Remember me, as usual, to Sally. We are now coming home, though not the nearest road. I do suppose I shall find the kitten a fine boat at my return.

TO SIR WATKIN PHILLIPS, BART. AT OXON.

DEAR SIR,

ONCE more I tread upon English ground, which I like not the worse for the six weeks' ramble. I have made among the woods and mountains of Ca- ledonia; no offence to the land of cakes, where bannocks grow upon trees. I never saw my uncle in such health and spirits as he now enjoys. Liddy is perfectly recovered, and Mrs. Tabitha has no reason to complain. Nevertheless, I believe, she was; till yesterday, inclined to give the whole Scotch nation to the devil, as a pack of inoffensive brutes, upon whom her accomplishments had been displayed in vain. At every place where we halted, did she mount the stage, and flourish her rusty arms, without being able to make one conquest. One of her last effays was against the heart of Sir George Colquhoun, with whom the fought all the weapons more than twice over. She was grave and gay by turns. She moralized and methodized. She laughed, and romped, and danced, and sung, and sighed and ogled, and liped, and fluttered, and flattered: but all was preaching to the defeat. The baronet, being a well-bred man, carried his civilities as far as she could in conscience expect, and, if evil tongues are to be believed, some degrees farther; but he was too much a veteran in gallantry, as well as in war, to fall into any ambuscade that she could lay for his affection. While we were absent in the Highlands, the practiced sluice upon the Laird of Ladrißmore, and even gave him the rendezvous in the wood of Drumcailloch; but the laird had such a reverend care of his own reputation, that he came attended with the parson of the parish, and nothing passed but spiritual communication. After all these miscarriages, our aunt suddenly recollected Lieutenant Lismahago, whom, ever since our first arrival at Edinburgh, she seemed to have utterly forgot; but now she expressed her hopes of seeing him at Dum- fries, according to his promise.

We set out from Glasgow by the way of Lanark, the county-town of Clyde- dale, in the neighbourhood of which, the whole River Clyde, rushing down a steep rock, forms a very noble and stupendous cascade. Next day we were obliged to halt in a small borough, until the carriage, which had received some damage, should be repaired; and here we met with an incident which warmly interested the benevolent spirit of Mr. Bramble. As we stood at the window of an inn that fronted the publick prison, a person arrived on horse- back, genteelly, though plainly, decked in a blue frock, with his own hair cut short; and a gold-headed hat upon his head. Alighting, and giving his horse to the landlord, he advanced to an old man who was at work in paving the street, and accosted him in these words—'This is hard work for such an old man as you.'

So saying, he took the instrument out of his hand, and began to thump the pavement. After a few strokes—'Have you never a fouj,' said he 'to ease you of this labour?'—'Yes, an please your honour,' replied the senion, 'I have three hopeful lads, but, at present, they are out of the way.'—'Honour not me,' cried the stranger; 'it more becomes me to honour your grey hairs. Where are those sons you talk of?' The ancient pavifer said, his eldest son was a captain in the East Indies; and the youngest had lately enlisted as a soldier, in hopes of prospering like his brother. The gentleman desiring to know what was become of the second, he wiped his eyes, and owned he had taken upon him his old father's debts, for which he was now in the prison hard by.

The traveller made three quick steps towards the jail, then turning short—'Tell me,' said he, 'has that unnatural captain sent you nothing to relieve your distresses?'—'Call him not unnatural' replied the other; 'God's blessing be upon him! he sent me a great deal of money; but I made a bad use of it; I left it by being fecurity for a gentleman that was my landlord, and wasstriped of all I had in the world besides.' At that instant a young man, thrufing out his head and neck between two iron bars in the prison-window, exclaimed—'Father! father! if my brother William is in life, that's he!'—'I am!—I am!' cried the stranger, clasping the old man in his arms, and shedding a flood of tears, 'I am your son Willy, sure enough!'
Before the father, who was quite con-
confounded, could make any return to this
tenderness, a decent old woman, bolting
out from the door of a poor habitation,
cried—' Where is my bairn? Where is
my dear Willy?' The captain no sooner
beheld her, than he quitted his father and
ran into her embrace.

I can assure you, my uncle, who saw
and heard every thing that passed, was as
much moved as any one of the parties con-
cerned in this pathetick recognition. He
fobbed, and wept, and clapped his hands,
and hallooed, and finally ran down into
the street. By this time, the captain had
retired with his parents, and all the in-
habits of the place were assembled at
the door. Mr. Bramble, nevertheless,
prefed through the crowd, and entering
the house—' Captain,' said he, ' I beg the
favour of your acquaintance. I would
have travelled a hundred miles to see
this affecting scene; and I shall think
myself happy, if you and your parents
will dine with me at the publick house.'

The captain thanked him for his kind
invitation, which, he said, he would ac-
cept with pleasure; but, in the mean time,
he could not think of eating or drinking,
while his poor brother was in trouble. He
forthwith deposited a sum equal to the
debt in the hands of the magistrate, who
vented to set his brother at liberty
without farther process; and then the
whole family repaired to the inn with my
uncle, attended by the crowd, the indivi-
duals of which shook their townshman by
the hand, while he returned their caresics
without the least sign of pride or affecta-
tion.

This honest favourite of fortune, whose
name was Brown, told my uncle, that he
had been bred a weaver, and about
eighteen years ago, had, from a spirit of
idleness and dissipation, enlisted as a fol-
dier in the service of the East India Com-
pany; that, in the course of duty, he had
the good fortune to attract the notice and
approval of Lord Clive, who preferred
him from one step to another, till he
attained the rank of captain and pay-
master to the regiment, in which capaci-
ties he had honestly amass'd above twelve
thousand pounds, and, at the peace, re-
signed his commission. He had sent se-
veral remittances to his father, who re-
ceived the first only, confiding of one
hundred pounds; the second had fallen
into the hands of a bankrupt; and the
third had been configned to a gentleman
of Scotland, who died before it arrived; so
that it still remained to be accounted for
by his executors. He now presented the
old man with fifty pounds for his present
 occasions, and above bank-notes for
one hundred, which he had deposited for
his brother's release. He brought along
with him a deed ready executed, by which
he settled a perpetuity of fourscore pounds
upon his parents, to be inherited by their
other two sons after their decease. He
promised to purchase a commission for
his youngest brother; to take the other as
his own partner in a manufactury which
he intended to set up, to give employ-
ment and bread to the industrious; and to
give five hundred pounds, by way of
dower, to his sister, who had married a
farmer in low circumstances. Finally, he
gave fifty pounds to the poor of the town
where he was born, and feasted all the
inhabitants without exception.

My uncle was so charmed with the char-
acter of Captain Brown, that he drank
his health three times successively at
dinner. He said, he was proud of his ac-
quaintance; that he was an honour to his
country, and had in some measure re-
deemed human nature from the reproach
of pride, selfishness, and ingratitude. For
my part, I was as much pleased with the
modesty as with the filial virtue of this
honest soldier, who assumed no merit from
his success, and said very little of his own
transferions, though the answers he made
to our enquiries were equally sensible and
laconick. Mrs. Tabitha behaved very
graciously to him until she understood
that he was going to make a tender of his
hand to a perfon of low estate, who had
been his sweeteheart, while he worked as
a journeyman weaver. Our aunt was no
sooner made acquainted with this desig:n,
than she starked up her behaviour with
a double proportion of reserve; and when
the company broke up, she observed, with
a tos of her nose, that Brown was a civil
fellow enough, confidering the lowness of
his origin; but that Fortune, though she
had mended his circumstances, was in-
capable to raise his ideas, which were still
humble and plebeian.

On the day that succeeded this adven-
ture, we went some miles out of our road
to see Drumlanrig, a seat belonging to
the Duke of Queensbury, which appears
like a magnificent palace erected by ma-
gieck, in the midst of a wildernefs. It is
indeed a princely manfion, with fuitable
parks and plantations, rendered still more
striking
striking by the nakedness of the surrounding country, which is one of the wilder tracts in all Scotland. This wildness, however, is different from that of the Highlands; for here the mountains, instead of heath, are covered with a fine green sward, affording pasture to innumerable flocks of sheep. But the fleeces of this country, called Nithdale, are not comparable to the wool of Galloway, which is said to equal that of Salisbury Plain. Having passed the night at the castle of Drumlanrig, by invitation from the duke himself, who is one of the best men that ever breathed, we proceeded our journey to Dumfries, a very elegant trading town near the borders of England, where we found plenty of good provision, and excellent wine, at very reasonable prices, and accommodation as good in all respects as in any part of South Britain. If I was confined to Scotland for life, I would chuse Dumfries as the place of my residence. Here we made enquiries about Captain Lismahago; of whom hearing no tidings, we proceeded, by the Solway Frith, to Carlisle. You must know, that the Solway sands, upon which travellers pass at low-water, are exceedingly dangerous, because, as the tide makes, they become quick in different places, and the floods rush in so impetuously, that passengers are often overtaken by the sea, and perish.

In crossing these treacherous Syrtes with a guide, we perceived a drowned horse; which Humphry Clinker, after due inspection, declared to be the very identical beast which Mr. Lismahago rode when he parted with us at Felton-Bridge in Northumberland. This information, which seemed to intimate that our friend the lieutenant had shared the fate of his horse, affected us all; and, above all, our aunt Tabitha, who shed tears, and obliged Clinker to pull a few hairs out of the dead horse's tail, to be worn in a ring as a remembrance of his master: but her grief and ours was not of long duration; for one of the first persons we saw in Carlisle was the lieutenant in propria persona, bargaining with a horse-dealer for another steed, in the yard of the inn where we alighted. Mrs. Bramble was the first that perceived him, and screamed as if she had seen a ghost; and truly, at a proper time and place, he might very well have passed for an inhabitant of another world; for he was more meagre and grim than before. We received him the more cordially for having fupposed he had been drowned; and he was not deficient in expressions of satisfaction at this meeting. He told us, he had enquired for us at Dumfries, and been informed by a travelling merchant from Glasgow that we had resolved to return by the way of Coldstream. He said, that in passing the lands without a guide, his horse had knocked up; and he himself must have perished, if he had not been providentially relieved by a return post-chaise. He moreover gave us to understand, that his scheme of settling in his own country having miscarried, he was so far on his way to London, with a view to embark for North America, where he intended to pass the rest of his days among his old friends the Miamis, and amuse himself in finishing the education of the son he had by his beloved Squinquinaocoita.

This project was by no means agreeable to our good aunt, who expatiated upon the fatigues and dangers that would attend such a long voyage by sea, and afterwards such a tedious journey by land. She enlarged particularly on the rigour he would run, with respect to the concerns of his precious soul, among vagrages who had not yet received the glad tidings of salvation: and the hinted, that his abandoning Great Britain might, perhaps, prove fatal to the inclinations of some deserving person, whom he was qualified to make happy for life. My uncle, who is really a Don Quixote in generofity, understanding that Lismahago's real reason for leaving Scotland was the impossibility of subsisting in it with any decency upon the wretched provision of a fullarter's half-pay, began to be warmly interested on the side of compassion. He thought it very hard, that a gentleman who had served his country with honour, should be driven by necessity to spend his old age, among the refuse of mankind, in such a remote part of the world. He discoursed with me upon the subject; observing, that he would willingly offer the lieutenant an asylum at Brambleton Hall, if he did not foresee that his singularities and humour of contradiction would render him an intolerable house-mate, though his conversation, at some times, might be both instructive and entertaining: but, as there seemed
seemed to be something particular in his attention to Mrs. Tabitha, he and I agreed in opinion that this intercourse should be encouraged, and improved, if possible, into a matrimonial union; in which case there would be a comfortable provision for both; and they might be settled in a house of their own, so that Mr. Bramble should have no more of their company than he desired.

In pursuance of this design, Lifmahago has been invited to pass the winter at Brambleton Hall, as it will be time enough to execute his American project in the spring. He has taken time to consider of this proposal: meanwhile, he will keep us company as far as we travel in the road to Bristol, where he has hopes of getting a passage for America. I make no doubt but that he will postpone his voyage, and prosecute his address to a happy consummation; and, sure, if it produces any fruit, it must be of a very peculiar flavour. As the weather continues favourable, I believe we shall take the Peak of Derbyshire and Buxton Wells in our way. At any rate, from the first place where we make any stay, you shall hear again from yours always,

J. MELFORD.

CARLISLE, SEPT. 12.

TO DR. LEWIS.

DEAR DOCTOR,

The peasantry of Scotland are certainly on a poor footing all over the kingdom; and yet they look better, and are better clothed, than those of the same rank in Burgundy, and many other places of France and Italy: nay, I will venture to say they are better fed, notwithstanding the borested wine of these foreign countries. The country people of North Britain live chiefly on oatmeal, and milk, cheese, butter, and some garden-stuff, with now and then a pickled-herring, by way of delicacy: but flesh-meat they seldom or never taste, nor any kind of strong liquor, except two-penny, at times of uncommon festivity. Their breakfast is a kind of hasty-pudding; of oat-meal, or pea-meal, eaten with milk. They have commonly pottage to dinner, composed of cale or cole, leeks, barley, or big, and butter; and this is reinforced with bread and cheese, made of skimmed-milk. At night, they sup on fowens or plummy of oat-meal. In a scarcity of oats, they use the meal of barley and pease, which is both nourishing and palatable. Some of them have potatoes; and you find parfaits in every peasant's garden. They are clothed with a coarse kind of suit of their own making, which is both decent and warm. They dwell in poor huts, built of loose stones and turfs, without any mortar, having a fire-place or hearth in the middle, generally made of an old mill-stone, and a hole at top to let out the smoke.

These people, however, are content, and wonderfully sagacious. All of them read the Bible, and are even qualified to dispute upon the articles of their faith; which, in those parts I have seen, is entirely Presbyterian. I am told that the inhabitants of Aberdeenshire are still more acute. I once knew a Scotch gentleman at London, who had declared war against this part of his countrymen; and swore that the impudence and kuavry of the Scots, in that quarter, had brought a reproach upon the whole nation.

The River Clyde, above Glasgow, is quite pastoral; and the banks of it are everywhere adorned with fine villas. From the sea to its source, we may reckon the seats of many families of the first rank; such as the Duke of Argyle, at Renfleath; the Earl of Bute, in the Isle of that name; the Earl of Glencairn, at Finlayston; Lord Blantyre; at Arekine; the Duchesses of Douglas, at Bothwell; Duke Hamilton, at Hamilton; the Duke of Douglas, at Douglas; and the Earl of Hyndford, at Carmichael. Hamilton is a noble palace, magnificently furnished; and hard by is the village of that name, one of the nearest little towns I have seen in any country. The old castle of Douglas being burned to the ground by accident, the late duke resolved, as head of the first family in Scotland, to have the largest house in the kingdom, and ordered a plan for this purpose; but there was only one wing of it finished when he died. It is to be hoped that his nephew, who is now in possession of his great fortune, will compleat the design of his predecessor.

Clydesdale is in general populous and rich, containing a great number of gentlemen, who are independent in their fortune; but it produces more cattle than corn. This is also the case with Tweeddale, through part of which we passed, and Nidddale, which is generally rough, wild, and mountainous. These hills are covered
covered with sheep; and this is the small
delicious mutton, so much preferable to
that of the London market. As their
feeding coals so little, the sheep are not
killed till five years old, when their flesh,
juices, and flavour, are in perfection:
but their fleeces are much damaged by
the tar, with which they are smeared, to
preserve them from the rot in winter,
during which they run wild night and
day, and thousands are lost under huge
wreaths of snow. It is pity the farmers
cannot contrive some means to shelter
this useful animal from the inclemencies
of a rigorous climate, especially from the
perpetual rains, which are more prejudi-
cial than the greatest extremity of cold
weather.

On the little River Nid is situated the
castle of Drumlanrig, one of the noblest
seats in Great Britain, belonging to the
Duke of Queensbury; one of those few
noblemen who whole goodnens of heart does
honour to human nature. I shall not pre-
tend to enter into a description of this
palace, which is really an instance of the
sublime in magnificence, as well as in
situation, and puts one in mind of the
beautiful city of Palmyra, rising like a
vision in the midst of the wilderness.
His grace keeps open house, and lives
with great splendor. He did us the ho-
nour to receive us with great courtesy,
and detain us all night, together with
above twenty other guests, with all their
servants and horses, to a very considera-
ble number. The butchers was equally
gracious, and took our ladies under her
immediate protection. The longer I live,
I see more reason to believe that preju-
dices of education are never wholly era-
dicated, even when they are discovered
to be erroneous and absurd. Such ha-
bits of thinking as interest the grand pas-
fions, cleave to the human heart in such
a manner, that though an effort of rea-
son may force them from their hold for a
moment, this violence no sooner ceases,
than they resume their grasp with an in-
creased elasticity and adhesion.

I am led into this reflection, by what
passed at the duke’s table after supper.
The conversation turned upon the vulgar
notions of spirits and omens, that prevail
among the commonality of North Britain,
and all the company agreed that nothing
could be more ridiculous. One gentle-
man, however, told a remarkable story
of himself, by way of speculation. ‘Be-
ing on a party of hunting in the North,’
said he, ‘I resolved to visit an old friend,
whom I had not seen for twenty years.
So long he had been retired and fe-
quettered from all his acquaintance,
and lived in a moping melancholy
way, much afflicted with lowness of
spirits, occasioned by the death of his
wife, whom he had loved with un-
common affection. As he resided in a
remote part of the country, and we
were five gentlemen with as many ser-
vants, we carried some provision with
us from the next market-town, lest we
should find him unprepared for our
reception. The roads being bad, we
did not arrive at the house till two
o’clock in the afternoon; and were
agreeably surprized to find a very good
dinner ready in the kitchen, and the
cloth laid with fix covers. My friend
himself appeared in his best apparel at
the gate, and received us with open
arms, telling me he had been expect-
ing us these two hours. Astonished at
this declaration, I asked who had given
him intelligence of our coming; and
he smiled, without making any other
reply. However, presuming upon our
former intimacy, I afterwards infilled
upon knowing; and he told me, very
gravely, he had seen me in a vision of
the second sight. Nay, he called in the
evidence of his steward, who solemnly
declared, that his matter had the day
before apprized him of my coming,
with four other strangers, and ordered
him to provide accordingly; in conse-
quence of which intimation, he had
prepared the dinner which we were now
eating, and laid the covers according
to the number foretold.’ The incident
we all owned to be remarkable, and I en-
deavoured to account for it by natural
means. I observed, that as the gentle-
man was of a visionary turn, the casual
idea, or remembrance, of his old friend,
might suggest those circumstances, which
accident had for once realized; but that
in all probability he had seen many vi-
nions of the same kind, which were never
verified. None of the company directly
dissent from my opinion; but, from the
objections that were hinted, I could
plainly perceive that the majority were
perplexed there was something more ex-
traordinary in the case.

Another gentleman of the company,
addressing himself to me—‘Without all
doubt’,
From Drumlanrig we pursued the course of the Nid to Dumfries, which stands several miles above the place where the river falls into the sea; and is, after Glasgow, the handomest town I have seen in Scotland. The inhabitants, indeed, seem to have proposed that city as their model, not only in beautifying their town and regulating its police, but also in prosecuting their schemes of commerce and manufacture, by which they are grown rich and opulent.

We re-entered England by the way of Carlisle, where we accidentally met with our friend Lifinahago, whom we had in vain enquired after at Dumfries and other places. It would seem that the captain, like the prophets of old, is but little honoured in his own country, which he has now renounced for ever. He gave me the following particulars of his visit to his native soil. In his way to the place of his nativity, he learned that his nephew had married the daughter of a bourgeois, who directed a weaving manufacture, and had gone into partnership with his father-in-law. Chagrined with this information, he had arrived at the gate in the twilight, where he heard the sound of tredtles in the great hall, which had exasperated him to such a degree, that he had like to have lost his senses. While he was thus transported with indignation, his nephew chanced to come forth; when, being no longer master of his passion, he cried—'Degenerate raff! call you, for the manner of the house a den of thieves!' and at the same time chastised him with his horse-whip; then, riding round the adjoining village, he had visited the burying-ground of his ancestors by moon-light, and, having paid his respects to their mans, travelled all night to another part of the country. Finding the head of his family in such a disgraceful situation, all his own friends dead or removed from the places of their former residence, and the expense of living increased to double of what it had been when he first left his native country, he had bid it an eternal adieu, and was determined to seek for repose among the forests of America.

I was no longer at a loss to account for the apparition which had been described at Drumlanrig; and when I repeated the story to the lieutenant, he was much pleased to think his resentment had been so much more effectual than he intended; and he owned, he might at such an hour,
and in such an equipage, very well pass for the ghost of his father, whom he was said greatly to resemble. Between friends, I fancy Lifmahago will find a retreat without going so far as the wigwams of the Miami. My sister Tabby is making continual advances to him in the way of affection; and, if I may trust to appearances, the captain is disposed to take opportunity by the forelock. For my part, I intend to encourage this correspondence, and shall be glad to see them united. In that case, we shall find a way to settle them comfortably in our own neighbourhood. I and my servants will get rid of a very troublesome and tyrannick governante; and I shall have the benefit of Lifmahago's conversation, without being obliged to take more of his company than I desire; for though an olla is an high-flavoured dish, I could not bear to dine upon it every day of my life.

I am much pleased with Manchester, which is one of the most agreeable and flourishing towns in Great Britain; and I perceive that this is the place which hath animated the spirit, and suggested the chief manufactures of Glasgow. We propose to visit Chatworth, the Peak, and Buxton; from which last place we shall proceed directly homewards, though by easy journeys. If the feaston has been as favourable in Wales as in the North, your harvest is happily finished; and we have nothing left to think of but our October, of which let Barns be properly reminded. You will find me much better in fleith than I was at our parting; and this short separation has given a new edge to those sentiments of friendship with which I always have been, and ever shall be, yours,

Manchester, Sept. 15.

To Mrs. Gwyllim, Housekeeper at Brambleton-Hall.

Mrs. Gwyllim,

It has pleased Providence to bring us safe back to England, and partake us in many pearls by land and water, in particular the Devil's Harfe a-fiske, and Haydon's Hole, which hath got no bottom; and, as we are drawing homewards, it may be proper to uprise you, that Brambleton Hall may be in a condition to receive us, after this long journey to the islands of Scotland. By the first of next month you may begin to make constant fires in my brother's chamber and mine; and burn a faggret every day in the yellow damask room: have the tefter and curtains draped, and the fatherbed and matroffes well haired, because, perhaps, with the bliving of Haven, they may be yossed on some occasion. Let the ould hogheads be well skewered and fàttoned for bear, as Mat is resolved to have his feller chock fool.

If the house was mine, I would turn over a new leaf. I don't see why the wants of Wales shouldn't drink fair water, and eat hot cakes and barley cake, as they do in Scotland, without troubling the botcher above once a quarter. I hope you keep account of Roger's purfeeding in reverence to the butter-milk. I expect my dew when I come hoom, without baiting an afs, I'll affure you. As you must have layed a great many more eggs than would be eaten, I do suppoze there is a power of turks, chickings, and guzzling, about the house; and a brave kergo of cheese ready for market; and that the owl has been lent to Crickhowell, faving what the maidens spin in the family.

Pray let the whole house and furniture have a thorough cleaning from top to bottom, for the honour of Wales; and let Roger search into, and make a general clearance of the slit-holes which the maids have in secret; for I know they are much given to sloth and uncleanness. I hope you have worked a reformation among them, as I exhorted you in my leaf, and set their hearts upon better things than they can find in junkitting and caterwauling with the fellows of the country.

As for Win Jenkins, she has undergone a perfect metamorphisis, and is become a new creature from the ammunition of Humphrey Clinker, our new footman, a pious young man, who has laboured exceedingly, that she may bring forth fruits of repentance. I make no doubt but he will take the fame pains with that pert huffey Mary Jones, and all of you; and that he may have power given to penetrate and infli his goodnews, even into your most inward parts, is the fervent prayer of your friend in the spirit,

Tab. Bramble.
Sept. 18.
TO DR. LEWIS.

DEAR LEWIS,

ISMAHAGO is more paradoxical than ever. The late gulp he had of his native air, seems to have blown fresh spirit into all his polemical faculties. I congratulated him the other day on the present flourishing state of his country, observing that the Scots were now in a fair way to wipe off the national reproach of poverty, and expressing my satisfaction at the happy effects of the Union, so conspicuous in the improvement of their agriculture, commerce, manufactures, and manners. The lieutenant, screwing up his features into a look of disfaint and disgust, commented on my remarks to this effect: 'Thou who reproach a nation for its poverty, when it is not owing to the profligacy or vice of the people, deserve no answer. The Lacedæmonians were poorer than the Scots, when they took the lead among all the free states of Greece, and were esteemed above them all for their valour and their virtue. The most respectable heroes of ancient Rome, such as Fabricius, Cincinnatus, and Regulus, were poorer than the poorest freeholder in Scotland; and there are at this day individuals in North Britain, one of whom can produce more gold and silver than the whole Republick of Rome could raise at those times when her publick virtue shone with univalled lustre; and poverty was so far from being a reproach, that it added fresh laurels to her fame, because it indicated a noble contempt of wealth, which was proof against all the arts of corruption. If poverty be a subject for reproach, it follows that wealth is the object of esteem and veneration. In that case, there are Jews and others in Amsterdam and London, enriched by usury, speculation, and different species of fraud and extortion, who are more estimable than the most virtuous and illustrious members of the community. An abstinence which no man in his senses will offer to maintain. Riches are certainly no proof of merit; nay, they are often (if not most commonly) acquired by persons of sordid minds and mean talents: nor do they give any intrinsic worth to the possessor; but, on the contrary, tend to pervert his understanding, and render his morals more depraved. But, granting that poverty were really matter of reproach, it cannot be justly imputed to Scotland. No country is poor that can supply it's inhabitants with the necessities of life, and even afford articles for exportation. Scotland is rich in natural advantages: it produces every species of provision in abundance; vast herds of cattle and flocks of sheep, with a great number of horses; prodigious quantities of wool and flax, with plenty of coppice-wood, and in some parts large forests of timber. The earth is still more rich below than above the surface. It yields inexhaustible stores of coal, free-stone, marble, lead, iron, copper, and silver, with some gold. The sea abounds with excellent fish, and felt to cure them for exportation; and there are creeks and harbours round the whole kingdom, for the convenience and security of navigation. The face of the country displays a surprising number of cities, towns, villas, and villages, swarming with people; and there seems to be no want of art, industruity, government, and police: such a kingdom can never be called poor, in any sense of the word, though there may be many others more powerful and opulent. But the proper use of these advantages, and the present prosperity of the Scots, you seem to derive from the union of the two kingdoms!'

I said, I supposed he would not deny that the appearance of the country was much mended; that the people lived better, had more trade, and a greater quantity of money circulating, since the Union than before. 'I may safely admit these premises,' answered the lieutenant, without subscribing to your inference. 'The difference you mention, I should take to be the natural progress of improvement. Since that period, other nations, such as the Swedes, the Danes, and in particular the French, have greatly increased in commerce, without any such cause assigned. Before the Union, there was a remarkable spirit of trade among the Scots, as appeared in the case of their Darien Company, in which they had embarked no less than four hundred thousand pounds sterling; and in the flourishing state of the maritime towns in Fife, and on the eastern-coast, enriched by their trade with France, which failed in consequence of the Union.' The only solid commercial advantage reaped from
HUMPHRY CLINKER.

that measure, was the privilege of trading to the English plantations; yet, excepting Glasgow and Dumfries, I do not know any other Scotch towns concerned in that traffic. In other respects, I conceive the Scots were losers by the Union. They lost the independence of their state, the greatest prop of national spirit; they lost their parliament, and their courts of justice, were subjected to the revision and supremacy of an English tribunal.

'Softly, captain,' cried I, 'you cannot be said to have lost your own parliament, while you are represented in that of Great Britain.'—'True,' said he, with a farcical grin, 'in debates of national competition, the sixteen peers and forty-five commoners of Scotland must make a formidable figure in the scale against the whole English legislature. — Be that as it may,' I observed, 'while I had the honour to sit in the lower house, the Scotch members had always the majority on their side.'

'I lament you, Sir,' said he, 'they generally side with the majority; so much the worse for their constituents. But even this evil is not the worst they have sustained by the union. Their trade has been saddled with grievous impositions, and every article of living severely taxed, to pay the interest of enormous debts, contracted by the English in support of measures and connections in which the Scots had no interest nor concern.' I begged he would at least allow, that by the union the Scots were admitted to all the privileges and immunities of English subjects; by which means multitudes of them were provided for in the army and navy, and got fortunes in different parts of England and it's dominions. 'All these,' said he, 'become English subjects to all intents and purposes, and are in a great measure left to their mother-country. The spirit of rambling and adventure has been always peculiar to the natives of Scotland. If they had not met with encouragement in England, they would have ferved and settled, as formerly, in other countries; such as Muscovy, Sweden, Denmark, Poland, Germany, France, Piedmont, and Italy; in all which nations their descendants continue to flourish even at this day.'

By this time my patience began to fail, and I exclaimed — For God's sake, what has England got by this union, which you say has been so productive of misfortune to the Scots? — 'Great and manifold are the advantages which England derives from the union,' said Lismahago, in a solemn tone. 'First and foremost, the settlement of the protestant succession; a point which the English ministry drove with such eagerness, that no stone was left unturned to cajele and bribe a few leading men to cram the union down the throats of the Scotch nation, who were forziingly averse to the expedient. They gained by it a considerable addition of territory, extending their dominion to the sea on all sides of the island, thereby shutting up all back-doors against the enterprizes of their enemies. They got an accession of above a million of useful subjects, constituting a never-failing nursery of seamen, soldiers, labourers, and mechanics; a most valuable acquisition to a trading country, exposed to foreign wars, and obliged to maintain a number of settlements in all the four quarters of the globe. In the course of seven years, during the last war, Scotland furnished the English army and navy with seventy thousand men, over and above those who migrated to their colonies, or mingled with them at home in their civil departments of life. This was a very considerable and seasonable supply to a nation whose people had been for many years decreasing in number, and whose lands and manufactures were actually suffering for want of hands. I need not remind you of the hackneyed maxim, that, to a nation in such circumstances, a supply of industrious people is a supply of wealth; nor repeat an observation which is now received as an eternal truth, even among the English themselves, that the Scots, who settle in South Britain are remarkably sober, orderly, and industrious.'

I allowed the truth of this remark, adding, that, by their industry, economy, and circumspection, many of them in England, as well as in her colonies, amassed large fortunes, with which they returned to their own country, and this was so much lost to South Britain. 'Give me leave, Sir,' said he, 'to assure you that in your fact you are mistaken, and in your deduction erroneous. Not one in two hundred that leave Scotland, ever returns to settle in his own country; and the few that do return, carry thither nothing that can possibly diminish;
diminish the flock of South Britain. For none of their treasure stagnates in Scotland; there is a continual circulation, like that of the blood in the human body, and England is the heart to which all the streams which it distributes are refunded and returned: nay, in consequence of that luxury which our connection with England hath greatly encouraged, if not introduced, all the produce of our lands, and all the profits of our trade, are engrossed by the natives of South Britain; for you will find that the exchange between the two kingdoms is always against Scotland, and that the retains neither gold nor silver sufficient for her own circulation. The Scots, not content with their own manufactures and produce, which would very well answer all necessary occasions, seem to vie with each other in purchasing superfluities from England; such as broad-cloth, velvets, stuffs, silks, lace, furs, jewels, furniture of all sorts, ginger, rum, tea, chocolate, and coffee; in a word, not only every mode of the most extravagant luxury, but even many articles of convenience, which they might find as good, and much cheaper, in their own country. For all these particulars, I conceive England may touch about one million sterlings a year. I do not pretend to make an exact calculation; perhaps it may be something less, and perhaps a great deal more. The annual revenue arising from all the private estates of Scotland cannot fall short of a million sterling; and, I should imagine, their trade will amount to as much more. I know the linen manufacture alone returns near half a million, exclusive of the home-consumption of that article. If, therefore, North Britain pays a balance of a million annually to England, I insist upon it, that country is more valuable to her, in the way of commerce, than any colony in her possession, over and above the other advantages which I have specified; therefore they are no friends, either to England or to truth, who affect to depreciate the northern part of the united kingdom.

I must own I was at first a little nettled to find myself schooled in so many particulars. Though I did not receive all his assertions as gospel, I was not prepared to refute them; and I cannot help now acquiescing in his remarks, so far as to think, that the contempt for Scotland, which prevails too much on this side the Tweed, is founded on prejudice and error. After some recollection—"Well, captain," said I, "you have argued stoutly for the importance of your own country: for my part, I have such a regard for our fellow-subjects of North Britain, that I shall be glad to see the day when your peafants can afford to give all their oats to their cattle, hogs, and poultry, and indulge themselves with good wheaten loaves, instead of such poor, unpalatable, and inflammatory diet." Here again I brought myself into a premunire with the disputaceous Caledonian. He said he hoped he should never see the common people lifted out of that sphere for which they were intended by nature and the course of things; that they might have some reason to complain of their bread, if it were mixed, like that of Norway, with sawdust and fish-bones; but that oatmeal was, he apprehended, as nourishing and salutary as wheat-flour, and the Scots in general thought it at least as favour. He affirmed, that a mouse, which, in the article of self-preservation, might be supposed to act from inoffinable instinct, would always prefer oats to wheat, as appeared from experience; for, in a place where there was a parcel of each, that animal had never begun to feed upon the latter till all the oats were consumed. For their nutritive quality, he appealed to the hale robust constitutions of the people who lived chiefly upon oatmeal; and, instead of being inflammatory, he asserted, that it was cooling, free from acid, balsamick and mucilaginous; inofmuch that, in all inflammatory distempers, recourse was had to water-gruel, and hummery made of oatmeal.

"At least," said I, "give me leave to wish them such a degree of commerce as may enable them to follow their own inclinations."—"Heaven forbid!" cried this philosopher, "Woe be to that nation where the multitude is at liberty to follow their own inclinations! Commerce is undoubtedly a blessing, while restrained within it's proper channels; but a glut of wealth brings along with it a glut of evils: it brings false taste, false appetite, false wants, profusion, venality, contempt of order, egotis-
roar must ensue. Will any sensible man affirm that the national advantages of opulence are to be fought on these terms?—"No, sire; but I am one of those who think, that, by proper regulations, commerce may produce every national benefit without the allay of such concomitant evils."

So much for the dogmata of my friend Lifmahago; whom I describe the more circumstantially, as I firmly believe he will set up his seat in Monmouthshire. Yesterday, while I was alone with him, he asked, in some confusion, if I should have any objection to the success of a gentleman and a soldier, provided he should be so fortunate as to engage my sister's affection. I answered, without hesitation, that my sister was old enough to judge for herself; and that I should be very far from disapproving any resolution she might take in his favour. His eyes sparkled at this declaration: He declared he should think himself the happiest man on earth to be connected with my family; and that he should never be weary of giving me proofs of his gratitude and attachment. I suppose Tabby and he are already agreed; in which case we shall have a wedding at Brambleton Hall, and you shall give away the bride: it is the least thing you can do, by way of atonement for your former cruelty to that poor love-sick maiden, who has been so long a thorn in the side of yours.

MATT. BRAMBLE.

SEPT. 20.

We have been at Buxton; but, as I did not much relish either the company or the accommodations, and had no occasion for the water, we stayed but two nights in the place.

TO SIR WATKIN PHILLIPS, BART. AT OXON.

DEAR SIR,

ADVENTURES begin to thicken as we advance to the southward. Lifmahago has now professed himself the admirer of our aunt, and carries on his addresses under the sanction of her brother's approbation; so that we shall certainly have a wedding by Christmas. I should be glad you were present at the nuptials, to help me to throw the flocking, and perform other ceremonies peculiar to that occasion. I am sure it will be productive of some diversion; and, truly, it would be worth your while to come across the country to see two such original figures in bed together, with their laced night-caps; he the emblem of good cheer, and she the picture of good-nature. All this agreeable prospect was clouded, and had well nigh vanished entirely, in consequence of a late misunderstanding between the future brothers-in-law, which, however, is now happily removed.

A few days ago, my uncle and I, going to visit a relation, met with Lord Ox- mington at his house, who asked us to dine with him next day; and we accepted the invitation. Accordingly, leaving our women under the care of Captain Lifmahago, at the inn where we had lodged the preceding night, in a little town, about a mile from his lordship's dwelling, we went at the hour appointed, and had a fashionable meal served up with much ostentation to a company of about a dozen persons, none of whom we had ever seen before. His lordship is much more remarkable for his pride and caprice, than for his hospitality and understanding; and, indeed, it appeared that he considered his guests merely as objects to shine upon, so as to reflect the lustre of his own magnificence. There was much flate, but no courtesy; and a great deal of compliment, without any conversation. Before the defierto was removed, our noble entertainer proposed three general toasts; then calling for a glass of wine, and bowing all round, wished us a good afternoon. This was the signal for the company to break up, and they obeyed it immediately, all except our squire, who was greatly shocked at the manner of this diffusion. He changed countenance, bit his lips in silence, but still kept his feet; so that his lordship found himself obliged to give us another hint, by saying, he should be glad to see us another time. "There is no time like the time present," cried Mr. Bramble; "your lordship has not yet drank a bumper to the best in Chris- ten dom."—"I'll drink no more bumpers to-day," answered our landlord; and I am sorry to see you have drank too many.—Order the gentleman's car- riage to the gate." So saying, he rose, and retired abruptly; our squire starting up at the same time, laying his hand upon his sword, and eyeing him with a most ferocious aspect. The matter having vanished in this manner, our uncle bade one
one of the servants to see what was to do; and the fellow answering—"This is no inn:"—"I cry you mercy," cried the other; "I perceive it is not; if it were, the landlord would be, more civil. There is a guinea, however; take it; and tell your lord, that I shall not leave the country till I have had an opportunity to thank him in person for his politeness and hospitality."

We then walked down stairs through a double range of lacqueys, and getting into the chaise, proceeded homewards. Perceiving the squire much ruffled, I ventured to disapprove of his remonstrance, observing that, as Lord Oxmington was well known to have his brain very ill timbered, a sensible man should rather laugh, than be angry, at his ridiculous want of breeding. Mr. Bramble took umbrage at my presuming to be wiser than he upon this occasion; and he told me, that as he had always thought for himself in every occurrence in life, he would still use the same privilege, with my good leave.

When we returned to our inn, he closeted Lifmahago; and having explained his grievance, desired that gentleman to go and demand satisfaction of Lord Oxmington in his name. The lieutenant charged himself with this commission, and immediately set out on horseback for his lordship's house, attended, at his own request, by my man Archy Macalpine, who had been used to military service; and truly, if Macalpine had been mounted upon an ass, this couple might have passed for the Knight of LaMancha and his squire Panza. It was not till after some demur, that Lifmahago obtained a private audience, at which he formally defied his lordship to single combat, in the name of Mr. Bramble, and desired him to appoint the time and place. Lord Oxmington was so confounded at this unexpected message, that he could not, for some time, make any articulate reply, but stood staring at the lieutenant with manifest marks of perturbation. At length, ringing a bell with great vehemence, he exclaimed—"What a commoner fends a challenge to a peer of the realm! Privilege! privilege! Here is a person brings me a challenge from the Welshman that dined at my table. An impudent fellow! My wine is not yet out of his head."

The whole house was immediately in commotion. Macalpine made a soldierly retreat with the two horses; but the captain was suddenly surrounded and disarmed by the footmen, whom a French valet de chambre headed in this exploit; his sword was passed through a close stool, and his person through the horsepond. In this plight he returned to the inn, half mad with his disgrace. So violent was the rage of his indignation, that he mistook it's object. He wanted to quarrel with Mr. Bramble; he said, he had been dishonoured on this account, and he looked for repARATION at his hands. My uncle's back was up in a moment; and he desired him to explain his pretenions.

"Either compel Lord Oxmington to give me satisfaction," cried he, "or give it me in your own person."—"The latter part of the alternative is the most easy and expeditious," replied the squire, starting up: "if you are disposed for a walk, I will attend you this moment."

Here they were interrupted by Mrs. Tabby, who had overheard all that passed. She now hurst into the room, and running betwixt them, in great agitation—"Is this your regard for me," said she to the lieutenant, "to seek the life of my brother?" Lifmahago, who seemed to grow cool as my uncle grew hot, assured her he had a very great respect for Mr. Bramble, but he had still more for his own honour, which had suffered pollution; but if that could be once purified, he should have no further cause of dissatisfaction. The squire said he should have thought it incumbent upon him to vindicate the lieutenant's honour; but, as he had now carved for himself, he might swallow and digest it as well as he could. In a word, what betwixt the mediation of Mrs. Tabitha, the recollection of the captain, who perceived he had gone too far, and the remonstrances of your humble servant, who joined them at this juncture, those two originals were perfectly reconciled: and then we proceeded to deliberate upon the means of taking vengeance for the insults they had received from the petulant peer; for, until that aim should be accomplished, Mr. Bramble swore, with great emphasis, that he would not leave the inn where we now lodged, even if he should pass his Christmas on the spot.

In consequence of our deliberations, we next day, in the forenoon, proceeded in a body to his lordship's house, all of us, with our servants, including the coachman, mounted a-horseback, with our pistols..."
pistols loaded and ready primed. Thus
prepared for action, we paraded solemnly
and slowly before his lordship's gate,
which we passed three times in such a
manner, that he could not but see us, and
suspect the cause of our appearance. After
dinner we returned, and performed the
same cavalcade, which was again repeated
the morning following; but we had no
casion to persist in these manoeuvres.
About noon we were visited by the gen-
tleman, at whose house we had first seen
Lord Oxmington. He now came to make
apologies in the name of his lordship, who
declared he had no intention to give en-
doence to my uncle, in practicing what had
been always the custom of his house; and
that as for the indignities which had been
put upon the officer, they were offered
without his lordship's knowledge, at the
instigation of his valet de chambre. 'If
that be the case,' said my uncle, in a
peremptory tone, 'I shall be contented
with Lord Oxmington's personal ex-
cuses; and I hope my friend will be fa-
tisfied with his lordship's turning that
infident rascal out of his service.'—
Sir,' cried Lifmahago, 'I must insist
upon taking personal vengeance for the
personal injuries I have sustained.'
After some debate, the affair was ad-
dusted in this manner. His lordship, meet-
ing as at our friend's house, declared he
was sorry for what had happened; and
that he had no intention to give umbrage.
The valet de chambre asked pardon of
the lieutenant upon his knees, when Lif-
mahago, to the astonishment of all pre-
sent, gave him a violent kick on the face,
which laid him on his back, exclaiming
in a furious tone—'Ou je te pardonne;
gens feure.'
Such was the fortunate issue of this
perilous adventure, which threatened
abundance of vexation to our family; for
the figure is one of those who will sacri-
fice both life and fortune, rather than
leave what they conceived to be the least
spick or blemish upon their honour or
reputation. His lordship had no sooner
pronounced his apology, with a very had
grace, than he went away in some dif-
order; and, I dare say, he will never in-
vite another Welshman to his table.

We forthwith quitted the field of this
achievement, in order to prosecute our
journey; but we follow no determinate
course. We make final deviations, to see
the remarkable towns, villas, and curio-
sities on each side of our route; so that we
advance by slow steps towards the borders
of Monmouthshire; but in the midst of
these irregular motions, there is no ab-
erration nor eccentricity in that affection
with which I am, dear Wat, yours al-
ways,

J. MELFORD.

SEPT. 28.

TO DR. LEWIS.

DEAR DICK,

At what time of life may a man think
himself exempted from the necessity
of sacrificing his repose to the punctilios
of a contemptible world? I have been
engaged in a ridiculous adventure, which
I shall recount at meeting; and this, I
hope, will not be much longer delayed, as
we have now performed almost all our
visits, and seen every thing that I think
has any right to retard us in our journey
homewards. A few days ago, understanding
by accident, that my old friend Bay-
nard was in the country, I would not pass
so near his habitation without paying
him a visit, though our correspondence
had been interrupted for a long course of
years.

I felt myself very sensibly, affected by
the ideas of our past intimacy, as we ap-
proached the place where we had spent so
many happy days together; but when we
arrived at the house, I could not recog-
nize any one of those objects which had been
so deeply impressed upon my remem-
brance. The tall oaks that shaded the
avenue had been cut down, and the iron
gates at the end of it removed, together
with the high wall that surrounded the
courtyard. The house itself, which was
formerly a convent of Cistercian monks,
had a venerable appearance; and along
the front that looked into the garden, was
a stone gallery, which afforded me many
an agreeable walk, when I was disposed
to be contemplative. Now the old front
is covered with a screen of modern archi-
tecture; so that all without is Grecian,
and all within Gothick. As for the gar-
den, which was well flocked with the best
fruit which England could produce, there
is not now the least vestige remaining of
trees, walls, or hedges. Nothing ap-
pears but a naked circus of loose sand, with
a dry bason, and a leaden triton in the
middle.

You must know, that Baynard, at his
father's death, had a clear estate of fifteen
hundred
One hundred pounds a year, and was in other respects extremely well qualified to make respectable figure in the commonwealth: but what with some excesses of youth, and the expense of a censured election, he in a few years found himself encumbered with a debt of ten thousand pounds, which he resolved to discharge by means of a prudent marriage. He accordingly married a Miss Thomson, whose fortune amounted to double the sum that he owed. She was the daughter of a citizen, who had failed in trade; but her fortune came by an uncle who died in the East Indies. Her own parents being dead, she lived with a maiden aunt, who had superintended her education; and, in all appearance, was well enough qualified for the usual purposes of the married state. Her Virtues, however, stood rather upon a negative, than a positive foundation. She was neither proud, inolent, nor capricious, nor given to scandal, nor addicted to gaming, nor inclined to gallantry. She could read, and write, and dance, and sing, and play upon the harpsichord, and matters French, and take a hand at whist and ombre; but even these accomplishments pleased by halves. She excelled in nothing. Her conversation was flat, her figure mean, and her expression embarrassed. In a word, her character was totally insipid. Her person was not disagreeable; but there was nothing graceful in her address, nor engaging in her manners; and she was so ill qualified to do the honours of the house, that when she sat at the head of the table, one was always looking for the mistress of the family in some other place.

Baynard had flattered himself, that it would be no difficult matter to mould such a subject after his own fashion, and that she would cheerfully enter into his views, which were wholly turned to domestic happiness. He proposed to reside always in the country, of which he was fond to a degree of enthusiasm, to cultivate his estate, which was very improvable; to enjoy the exercises of rural diversions: to maintain an intimacy of correspondence with some friends that were settled in his neighbourhood; to keep a comfortable house, without suffering his expenses to exceed the limits of his income; and to find pleasure and employment for his wife in the management and avocations of her own family. This, however, was a visionary scheme, which he never was able to realize. His wife was as ignorant as a new-born babe of everything that related to the conduct of a family; and she had no idea of a country life. Her understanding did not reach so far as to comprehend the first principles of discretion; and, indeed, if her capacity had been better than it was, her natural indolence would not have permitted her to abandon a certain routine, to which she had been accustomed. She had not taste enough to relish any rational enjoyment; but her ruling passion was vanity, not that species which arises from self-conceit of superior accomplishments, but that which is of a bastard and idiot nature, excited by show and ostentation, which implies not even the least consciousness of any personal merit.

The nuptial peal of noise and nonence being rung out in all the usual changes, Mr. Baynard thought it high time to make her acquainted with the particulars of the plan which he had projected. He told her that his fortune, though sufficient to afford all the comforts of life, was not ample enough to command all the superfluities of pomp and pageantry, which, indeed, were equally absurd and intolerable. He therefore hoped she would have no objection to their leaving London in the spring, when he would take the opportunity to dismiss some unnecessary domesticks, whom he had hired for the occasion of their marriage. She heard him in silence, and after some pause—"Sir, said she, 'I am to be buried in the country!' He was so confounded at this reply, that he could not speak for some minutes: at length he told her, he was much mortified to find he had proposed any thing that was disagreeable to her ideas: 'I am sure,' added he, 'I meant nothing more than to lay down a comfortable plan of living within the bounds of our fortune, which is but moderate.'—"Sir, said she, 'you are the best judge of your own affairs. My fortune, I know, does not exceed twenty thousand pounds.'—"Yet, even with that pittance, I might have had a husband who would not have begrudged me a house in London.'—"Good God! my dear,' cried poor Baynard, in the utmost agitation, 'you do not think me so forlorn. I only hinted what I thought—But, I do not pretend to impose—"Yes, Sir, resumed the lady, 'it is your prerogative to command, and my duty to obey.'

So saying, they burst into tears, and retired to their chamber, where she was joined by X 2.
by her aunt. He endeavoured to recol-
left himself, and act with vigour of mind
on this occasion; but was betrayed by the
tendencies of his nature, which was the
greatest defect of his constitution.
He found the aunt in tears, and the niece in
a fit, which held her the best part of eight
hours; at the expiration of which she be-
gan to talk incoherently about death and
her dear husband, who had left by her all
this time, and now pressed her hand to
his lips, in a transport of grief and peni-
tence for the offence he had given. From
thenceforward, he carefully avoided men-
tioning the country; and they continued to
be sucked deeper and deeper into the
vortex of extravagance and dissipation,
leading what is called a fashionable life
in town. About the latter end of July,
however, Mrs. Baynard, in order to ex-
hibit a proof of conjugal obedience, de-
sired of her own accord, that they might
pay a visit to his country-house, as there
was no company left in London. He
would have excused himself from this ex-
cursion, which was no part of the eco-
nomical plan he had proposed; but she
insisted upon making this sacrifice to his
taste and prejudices, and away they went
with such an equipage as astonished the
whole country. All that remained of
the season was engrossed by receiving and
returning visits in the neighbourhood;
and, in this intercourse, it was discovered
that Sir John Chickwill had a house-
 steward and one footman in livery more
than the complement of Mr. Baynard's
household. This remark was made by
the aunt at table, and alluded to by the
husband, who observed that Sir John
Chickwill might very well afford to keep
more servants than were found in the fa-
mily of a man who had not half his for-
tune. Mrs. Baynard ate no supper that
evening; but was feized with a violent
fit, which completed her triumph over
the spirit of her comfort. The two super-
numerary servants were added. The fa-
mily plate was sold for old silver, and a
new service procured; fashionable furni-
ture was provided, and the whole house
turned topy turvy.

At their return to London, in the be-
ginning of winter, he, with a heavy heart,
communicated these particulars to me in
confidence. Before his marriage, he had
introduced me to the lady as his particu-
lar friend; and I now offered, in that cha-
acter, to lay before her the necessity of
reforming her economy, if she had any
regard to the interest of her own family,
or complaisance for the inclinations of her
husband. But Baynard declined my offer,
on the supposition that his wife's nerves
were too delicate to bear exploitation;
and that it would only serve to overwhelm
her with such difficulties as would make
himself miserable.

Baynard is a man of spirit, and had sha-
proved a termagant, he would have known
how to deal with her; but, either by ac-
cident or instinct, she fastened upon the
weak side of his soul, and held it so fast,
that he has been in subjection ever since.
I afterwards advised him to carry her
abroad to France or Italy, where he might
gratify her vanity for half the expense it
cost him in England; and this advice he
followed accordingly. She was agreeably
flattered with the idea of seeing and know-
ing foreign parts, and foreign fashions;
of being presented to sovereigns, and liv-
ing familiarly with princes. She forth-
with seizes the hint which I had thrown
out on purpose, and even pressed Mr.
Baynard to hasten his departure; so that
in a few weeks they crossed the sea to
France, with a moderate train, still includ-
ing the aunt, who was her bosom coun-
sellor, and abetted her in all her oppo-
tion to her husband's will. Since that
period, I have had little or no opportunity
to renew our former correspondence. All
that I knew of his transactions, amounted
to no more than that after an absence of
two years, they returned so little improved
in economy, that they launched out into
new oceans of extravagance, which, at
length, obliged him to mortgage his
estate. By this time she had bore him
three children, of which the last only sur-
vives, a puny boy of twelve or thirteen,
who will be ruined in his education by
the indulgence of his mother.

As for Baynard, neither his own good
fence, nor the dread of indigence, nor the
consideration of his children, has been of
force sufficient to stimulate him into the
resolution of breaking at once the flavo-
eful spell by which he seems enchanted.
With a taste capable of the most refined
enjoyment, a heart glowing with all the
warmth of friendship and humanity; and
a disposition strongly turned to the more
rational pleasures of a retired and country
life, he is buried about in a perpetual
stirrit; amidst a mob of beings pleased
with rattle, bobbies, and gew-gaws, so
void
void of sense and distinclion, that even the most acute philosopher would find it a very hard task to discover for what wife purpose of Providence they were created. Friendship is not to be found; nor can the amusements for which he ligths be enjoyed within the rotation of absurdity, to which he is doomed for life. He has long resigned all views of improving his fortune by management and attention to the exercisE of husbandry, in which he delighted; and, as to domestic happiness, not the least glimpse of hope remains to amuse his imagination. Thus blighted in all his prospects, he could not fail to be overwhelmed with melancholy and chagrin, which have preyed upon his health and spirits in such a manner, that he is now threatened with a consumption.

I have given you a sketch of the man, whom the other day I went to visit. At the gate we found a great number of powdered lacquies, but no civility. After we had sat a considerable time in the coach, we were told, that Mr. Baynard had rode out, and that his lady was dressing; but we were introduced to a parlour so very fine and delicate, that in all appearance it was designed to be seen only, not inhabited. The chairs and couches were carved, gilded, and covered with rich damask, so smooth and sleek, that they looked as if they had never been sat upon. There was no carpet on the floor, but the boards were rubbed and waxed in such a manner that we could not walk, but were obliged to slide along them; and as for the stove, it was too bright and polished to be polished with sea-coal, or stained by the smoke of any gross material fire. When we had remained above half an hour sacrificing to the inhospitable power of this temple of cold reception, my friend Baynard arrived; and understanding we were in the house, made his appearance, so meagre, yellow, and dejected, that I really should not have known him, had I met with him in any other place. Running up to me, with great eagerness, he strained me in his embrace, and his heart was so full, that for some minutes he could not speak. Having faluted us all round, he perceived our uncomfortable situation, and condueting us into another apartment, which had fire in the chimney, called for chocolate. Then withdrawing, he returned with a compliment from his wife, and, in the mean time, presented his son Harry, a shambling, bare-eyed boy, in the habit of a hussar; very rude, for-ward, and impertinent. His father would have sent him to a boarding-school, but his mamma and aunt would not hear of his lying out of the house, so that there was a clergyman engaged as his tutor in the family.

As it was but just turned of twelve, and the whole house was in commotion to prepare a formal entertainment, I forewet it would be late before we dined, and proposed a walk to Mr. Baynard, that we might converse together freely. In the course of this perambulation, when I expressed some surpise that he had returned so soon from Italy, he gave me to understand that his going abroad had not at all answered the purpose for which he left England; that although the expense of living was not so great in Italy as at home, respect being had to the fame rank of life in both countries, it had been found necessary for him to lift himself above his usual style, that he might be on some footing with the counts, marquisses, and cavaliers, with whom he kept company. He was obliged to hire a great number of servants, to take off a great variety of rich clothes, and to keep a sumptuous table for the fashionable scorocomi of the country; who, without a consideration of this kind, would not have paid any attention to an untitled foreigner, let his family or fortune be ever so respectable. Besides, Mrs. Baynard was continually surrounded by a train of expensive loungers, under the denominations of language-masters, musicians, painters, and ciceroni; and had actually fallen into the dinner of buying pictures and antiques upon her own judgment, which was far from being infallible. At length she met with an affront, which gave her a disgust to Italy, and drove her back to England with some precipitation. By means of frequenting the Dutchess of B—'s conversation, while her grace was at Rome, Mrs. Baynard became acquainted with all the fashionable people of that city, and was admitted to their assemblies without fettrule. Thus favoured, she conceived too great an idea of her own importance, and when the dutches left Rome, resolved to have a conversation that should leave the Romans no room to regret her grace's departure. She provided hands for a musical entertainment, and sent bighetti of invitation to every person of distinction; but not one Roman of the female sex appeared at her assembly. She was that night feized with a violent fit, and kept her bed three
three days, at the expiration of which she declared that the air of Italy would be the ruin of her constitution. In order to prevent this catastrophe, she was speedily removed to Geneva, from whence they returned to England by the way of Lyons and Paris. By the time they arrived at Calais, she had purchased such a quantity of fliks, stuffs, and faces, that it was necessary to hire a vessel to smuggle them over, and this vessel was taken by a customs-house cutter; so that they lost the whole cargo, which had cost them above eight hundred pounds.

It now appeared, that her travels had produced no effect upon her, but that of making her more expensive and fantastick than ever. She affected to lead the fashion, not only in point of female dresses, but in every article of taste and connoisseurship. She made a drawing of the new facade to the house in the country; she pulled up the trees, and pulled down the walls of the garden, so as to let in the easterly wind, which Mr. Baynard's ancestors had been at great pains to exclude. To shew her taste in laying out ground, she seized into her own hand a farm of two hundred acres, about a mile from the house, which she parcelled out into walks and shrubberies, having a great bason in the middle, into which she poured a whole stream that turned two mills, and afforded the best trout in the country. The bottom of the bason, however, was so ill secured, that it would not hold the water which strained through the earth, and made a bog of the whole plantation: in a word, the ground which formerly paid him one hundred and fifty pounds a year, now cost him two hundred pounds a year to keep it in tolerable order, over and above the first expanse of trees, shrubs, flowers, turf, and gravel. There was not an inch of garden-ground left about the house, nor a tree that produced fruit of any kind; nor did she raise a truss of hay, or a bushel of oats for his horses, nor had be a single cow to afford milk for his tea: far less did ever he dream of feeding his own mutton, pigs, and poultry; every article of house-keeping, even the most inconsiderable, was brought from the next market-town at the distance of five miles, and thither they sent a courier every morning to fetch hot rolls for breakfast. In short, Baynard fairly owned that he spent double his income, and that in a few years he should be obliged to sell his estate for the pay-
I was shocked at his fatuation, and changed the subject, after we had agreed to maintain a close correspondence for the future. He then gave me to understand, that he had two neighbours, who, like himself, were driven by their wives at full speed, in the high road to bankruptcy and ruin. All the three husbands were of dispositions very different from each other, and, according to this variation, their comforts were admirably suited to the purpose of keeping them all three in subjection. The views of the ladies were exactly the same. They vied in grandeur; that is, in ostentation, with the wife of Sir Charles Chickwell, who had four times their fortune; and she again piqued herself upon making an equal figure with a neighbouring peeress, whose revenue trebled her own. Here then was the fable of the frog and the ox realized in four different instances within the same county: one large fortune, and three moderate estates, in a fair way of being burst by the inflation of female vanity; and in three of these instances, three different forms of female tyranny were exercised. Mr. Baynard was subjugated by practicing upon the tenderness of his nature. Mr. Milks, being of a timorous disposition, truckled to the insolence of a tyrant. Mr. Sowerby, who was of a temper neither to be moved by fits, nor driven by menaces, had the fortune to be fitted with a helpmate, who affiled him with the weapons of irony and satire; sometimes sneering in the way of compliment; sometimes throwing out farcical companions, implying reproaches upon his want of taste, spirit, and generosily; by which means he stimulated his passions from one act of extravagance to another, just as the circumstances of her vanity required.

All these three ladies have at this time the fame number of horses, carriages, and servants in and out of livery; the same variety of dresses; the same quantity of plate and china; the like ornaments in furniture; and in their entertainments they endeavour to exceed one another in the variety, delicacy, and expense, of their diversions. I believe it will be found, upon enquiry, that nineteen out of twenty who are ruined by extravagance, fall a sacrifice to the ridiculous pride and vanity of silly women, whose parts are held in contempt by the very men whom they pillage and enslave. Thank Hea-
gentlemen. We dined in a large old Gothic parlour, which was formerly the hall. It was now paved with marble; and, notwithstanding the fire, which had been kindled about an hour, struck me with such a chill sensation, that, when I entered it, the teeth chattered in my jaws. In short, everything was cold, comfortless, and disgusting, except the looks of my friend Baynard, which declared the warmth of his affection and humanity.

After dinner we withdrew into another apartment, where the boy began to be impertinently troublesome to my niece Liddy. He wanted a play-fellow, forthwith; and would have romped with her, had she encouraged his advances. He was even so impudent as to snatch a kiss, at which she changed countenance, and seemed uneasy; and though his father checked him for the rudeness of his behaviour, he became so outrageous as to thrust his hand in her bosom, an insult to which she did not tamely submit, though one of the mildest creatures upon earth. Her eyes sparkling with resentment, she started up, and lent him such a box in the ear, as sent him staggering to the other side of the room.

'Miss Melford,' cried his father, 'you have treated him with the utmost propriety. I am only sorry that the impertinence of any child of mine should have occasioned this exertion of your spirit, which I cannot but applaud and admire.' His wife was so far from afflicting to the candour of his apology, that she rose from the table, and, taking her son by the hand—'Come, child,' said she, 'your father cannot abide you.' So saying, she retired with this hopeful youth, and was followed by her governante; but neither the one nor the other designed to take the least notice of the company.

Baynard was exceedingly disconcerted; but I perceived his unsatisfactory was选购 with resentment, and derived a good omen from this discovery. I ordered the horses to be put to the carriage; and, though he made some efforts to detain us all night, I insisted upon leaving the house immediately; but, before I went away, I took an opportunity of speaking to him again in private. I said every thing I could recollect to animate his endeavours in shaking off those shameful trammels.

I made no scruple to declare, that his wife was unworthy of that tender com-
mirth, by exhibiting his guests in ludicrous attitudes. I know not how far we may furnish him with entertainment of this kind; but I am resolved to beat up his quarters, partly with a view to laugh with the knight himself, and partly to pay my respects to his lady, a good-natured sensible woman, with whom he lives upon very easy terms, although she has not had the good fortune to bring him an heir to his estate.

And now, dear Dick, I must tell you for your comfort, that you are the only man upon earth to whom I would presume to send such a long-winded epistle, which I could not find in my heart to curtail, because the subject interested the warmest passions of my heart; neither will I make any other apology to a correspondent who has been so long accused to the impertinence of


Sept. 30.

TO SIR Watkins Phillips, Bart. At Oxon.

Dear Knight,

Believe there is something mischievous in my disposition, for nothing diverts me so much as tosee certain characters tormented with false terrors. We last night lodged at the house of Sir Thomas Bullford, an old friend of my uncle, a jolly fellow of moderate intellects, who, in spite of the gent, which hath lamed him, is resolved to be merry to the last; and mirth he has a particular knack in extracting from his guests, let their humour be never so cautious or refractory. Besides our company, there was in the house a fat-headed justice of the peace, called Frogmore; and a country practitioner in surgery, who seemed to be our landlord's chief companion and confidant. We found the knight sitting on a couch, with his crutches by his side, and his feet supported on cushions; but he received us with a hearty welcome, and seemed greatly rejoiced at our arrival. After tea we were entertained with a sonata on the harpsichord by Lady Bullford, who sung and played to admiration; but Sir Thomas seemed to be a little affy in the article of ears, though he affected to be in raptures, and begged his wife to favour us with an arietta of her own composing. This arietta, however, she the no sooner began to perform, than he and the justice fell asleep; but the moment he ceased playing, the knight waked, snoring, and exclaimed—O tarat what d'ye think, gentlemen? Will you talk any more of your Purge and you Corelli? At the same time, he thrust his tongue in one cheek, and leered with one eye at the doctor and me, who sat on his left-hand. He concluded the pantomime with a loud laugh, which he could command at all times extempore. Notwithstanding his disorder, he did not do penance at supper, nor did he ever refuse his glasses when the toast went round, but rather encouraged a quick circulation, both by precept and example.

I soon perceived the doctor had made himself very necessary to the baronet. He was the whetstone of his wit, the butt of his satire, and his operator in certain experiments of humour, which were occasionally tried upon strangers. Justice Frogmore was an excellent subject for this species of philosophy; fleck and corrupt, solemn and shallow, he had studied Burn with uncommon application, but he studied nothing so much as the art of living (that is, eating) well. This fat buck had often afforded good sport to our landlord, and he was frequently started with tolerable success in the course of this evening; but the baronet's appetite for ridicule seemed to be chiefly excited by the appearance, address, and conversation of Lina Mahago, whom he attempted in all the different modes of exposition; but he put me in mind of a contest that I once saw between a young hound and an old hedge-hog. The dog turned him over and over, and bounded, and barked, and mumbled; but as often as he attempted to bite, he felt a prickle in his jaws, and recoiled in manifest confusion. The captain, when left to himself, will not fail to turn his ludicrous side to the company; but if any man attempts to force him into that attitude, he becomes stubborn as a mule, and unmanageable as an elephant unbridled.

Divers tolerable jokes were cracked upon the justice, who ate a most unconscionable dinner, and, among other things, a large plate of broiled mushrooms, which he had no sooner swallowed, than the doctor observed, with great gravity, that they were of the kind called champignons, which in some confitutions had a poisonous effect. Mr. Frogmore, startled
at this remark, asked, in some confusion, why he had not been so kind as to give him that notice sooner. He answered, that he took it for granted, by his eating them so heartily, that he was used to the dish; but, as he seemed to be under some apprehension, he preferred a bumper of plague-water, which the justice drank off immediately, and retired to rest, without marks of terror and difquiet.

At midnight we were shown to our different chambers, and in half an hour I was fast asleep in bed; but about three o'clock in the morning I was waked with a dismal cry of Fire! and, starting up, ran to the window in my shirt. The night was dark and stormy; and a number of people, half dressed, ran backwards and forwards through the courtyard, with links and lanterns, seemingly in the utmost hurry and trepidation. Slipping on my clothes in a twinkling, I ran down stairs, and, upon enquiry, found the fire was confined to a back-flair, which led to a detached apartment where Lifmahago lay. By this time, the lieutenant was alarmed by bawling at his window, which was in the second story; but he could not find his clothes in the dark, and his room-door was locked on the outside. The servants called to him that the house had been robbed; that, without all doubt, the villains had taken away his clothes, fastened the door, and set the house on fire, for the back-flair was in flames. In this dilemma the poor lieutenant ran about the room naked, like a squirrel in a cage, popping out his head at the window between whiles, and imploring assistance.

At length, the knight in person was brought out in his chair, attended by my uncle and all the family, including our aunt Tabitha, who screamed, and cried, and tore her hair, as if she had been distracted. Sir Thomas had already ordered his people to bring a long ladder, which was applied to the captain's window, and now he exhorited him earnestly to descend. There was no need of much rhetoric to persuade Lifmahago, who forthwith made his exit by the window, roaring all the time to the people below, to hold fast the ladder.

Notwithstanding the gravity of the occasion, it was impossible to behold this scene without being seized with an inclination to laugh. The rueful aspect of the lieutenant in his shirt, with a quilted night-cap fastened under his chin, and his long lank limbs and posteriors exposed to the wind, made a very picturesque appearance, when illuminated by the links and torches which the servants held up to light him in his descent. All the company stood round the ladder, except the knight, who sat in his chair, explaining from time to time—"Lord have mercy upon us!—Save the gentleman's life!—Mind your footing, dear captain!—Softly!—Stand fast!—Clasp the ladder with both hands!—There!—Well done, my dear boy!—O bravO!—An old soldier for ever!—Bring a blanket—bring a warm blanket to comfort his poor carcass!—Warm the bed in the green-room!—Give me your hand, dear captain!—I am rejoiced to see thee safe and sound with all my heart!" Lifmahago was received at the foot of the ladder by his immorata, who snatch ing a blanket from one of the maids, wrapped it about his body: two men-servants took him under the arms, and a female conducted him to the green-room, still accompanied by Mrs. Tabitha, who faw him fairly put to bed. During this whole transaction, he spoke not a syllable, but looked exceeding grim, sometimes at one, sometimes at another, of the spectators, who now adjourned in a body to the parlour where we had supped, every one surveying another with marks of astonishment and curiosity.

The knight being seated in an easy-chair, feized my uncle by the hand, and bursting into a long and a loud laugh—"Matt," cried he, "crown me with oak, or ivy, or laurel, or parley, or what you will, and acknowledge this to be a coup de maître in the way of wagery—Ha, ha, ha! Such a camisole, segliaia, baffata!—O che roba!—O what a subjeet!—O what a caricature!—O for a Rosia, a Rembrandt, a Schalken!—Zooks! I'll give a hundred guineas to have it painted!—What a fine descent from the crofs; or acent to the gallows!—What lights and shadows!—What a groupe below!—What expression above!—What an aspect!—Did you mind the aspect?—Ha, ha, ha!—And the limbs, and the muscles—every toe denoted terror!—Ha, ha, ha!—Then the blanket!:—O what costume!—St. Andrew! St. Lazarus! St. Barrabas!—Ha, ha, ha!—"After all, then," cried Mr. Bramble, very gravely, "this was no more than a fall."
falfe alarm! We have been frightened out of our beds, and almost out of our senses, for the joke's sake! — 'Aye, and such a joke!' cried our landlord; 'such a farce! such a demnemnt! such a catastrophe!'— 'Have a little patience,' replied our squire; 'we are not yet come to the catastrophe; and pray God it may not turn out a tragedy instead of a farce! The captain is one of those faturnine subjects who have no idea of humour. He never laughs in his own person; nor can he bear that other people should laugh at his expense: besides, if the subject had been properly chosen, the joke was too severe in all conscience.' — 'Sdeath!' cried the knight, 'I could not have bated him an ace had he been my own father; and as for the subject, such another does not present itself once in half a century.' Here Mrs. Tabitha interposing, and bridling up, declared she did not see that Mr. Liffmahago was a fitter subject for ridicule than the knight himself; and that she was very much afraid he would very soon find he had mistaken his man. The baronet was a good deal disinconcerted by this intimation, saying, that he must be a Goth and a barbarian, if he did not enter into the spirit of such a happy and humorous contrivance. He begged, however, that Mr. Bramble and his sister would bring him to reason; and this request was reinforced by Lady Bullford, who did not fail to read the baronet a lecture upon his indiscretion; which lecture he received with filimnition on one side of his face, and a leer upon the other.

We now went to bed for the second time; and, before I got up, my uncle had visited Liffmahago in the green-room, and used such arguments with him, that, when we met in the parlour, he seemed to be quite appeased. He received the knight's apology with a good grace, and even professed himself pleased at finding he had contributed to the diversion of the company. Sir Thomas shook him by the hand, laughing heartily; and then defined a pinch of snuff, in token of a perfect reconciliation. The lieutenant, putting his hand in his waistcoat-pocket, pulled out, instead of his own Scotch mull, a very fine gold snuff-box, which he no sooner perceived, than he said — 'Here is a small mistake! 'No mistake at all,' cried the baronet: 'a fair exchange is no robbery. Oblige me to far, captain, as to let me keep your mull as a memorial.' — 'Sir,' said the lieutenant, 'the mull is much at your service, but this machine I can by no means retain. It looks like compounding a sort of fecondary in the code of honour. Besides, I do not know but there may be another joke in this conveyance; and I do not find myself disposed to be brought upon the stage again. I will not presume to make free with your pockets, but I beg you will put it up again with your own hand.' So saying, with a certain austerity of aspect, he presented the snuff-box to the knight, who received it in some confusion, and restored the mull, which he would by no means keep, except on the terms of exchange.

This transaction was like to give a grave cast to the conversation; when my uncle took notice that Mr. Justice Froghmore had not made his appearance either at the night-alarm, or now at the general rendezvous. The baronet hearing Froghmore mentioned — 'Odo!' cried he, 'I had forgot the justice! — Pr'ythee, doctor, go and bring him out of his kennel.' Then laughing till his sides were well shaken, he said he would shew the captain that he was not the only person of the drama exhibited for the entertainment of the company. As to the night-scene, it could not affect the justice, who had been purposely lodged in the farther end of the house, remote from the noise, and lulled with a dose of opium into the bargain. In a few minutes, Mr. Justice was led into the parlour in his night-cap and loose morning-gown, rolling his head from side to side, and groaning piteously all the way. — 'Jest! neighbour Froghmore,' exclaimed the baronet, 'what is the matter? You look as if you was not a man for this world! — Set him down softly on the couch! — Poor gentleman! — Lord have mercy upon us! — What makes him so pale, and yellow, and bloated?' — 'Oh, Sir Thomas!' cried the justice, 'I doubt it is all over with me! Those mushrooms I eat at your table have done my business! — Ah! oh! hey! — Now the Lord forbid!' said the other. — 'What, man! have a good heart! How does thy food lack feel — hah?'

To this interrogation he made no reply; but throwing aside his night-gown, discovered that his waistcoat would not meet upon his belly by five good inches at least. — 'Heaven protect us all!' cried
Sir Thomas: ' what a melancholy spectacle! Never did I see a man so dazedly studded, but when he was either just dead, or just dying! — Doctor, canst thou do nothing for this poor object? — I do not think the case is quite desperate,' said the surgeon; ' but I would advise Mr. Frogmore to settle his affairs with all expedition; the parson may come and pray by him, while I prepare a graver and an emetic draught. The justice, rolling his languid eyes, ejaculated with great fervency— ' Lord, have mercy upon us! Christ, have mercy upon us!' Then he begged the surgeon, in the name of God, to dispatch. ' As for my worldly affairs,' said he, ' they are all settled but one mortgage, which must be left to my heirs. But my poor soul! — my poor soul!—what will become of my poor soul! — miserable sinner that I am!— Nay, pr'ythee, my dear boy, compose thyself,' resumed the knight; consider the mercy of Heaven is infinite: thou canst not have any sins of a very deep dye on thy conscience, or the devil's in't!— Name not the devil! exclaimed the terror'd Frogmore; I have more sins to answer for than the world dreams of! Ah, friend! I have been fly—fly—damn'd fly!—Send for the parson without loss of time, and put me to bed, for I am poising to eternity!' He was accordingly raised from the couch, and supported by two servants, who led him back to his room; but, before he quitted the parlour, he entreated the good company to affit him with their prayers. ' He added— Take warning by me, who am suddenly cut off in my prime, like a flower of the field; and God forgive you, Sir Thomas, for suffering such poisonous trash to be eaten at your table!' He was no sooner removed out of hearing, than the baronet abandoned himself to a violent fit of laughing, in which he was joined by the greatest part of the company; but we could hardly prevent the good lady from going to undeceive the patient, by discovering, that while he slept his waistcoat had been straitened by the contrivance of the surgeon; and that the disorder in his stomach and bowels was occasioned by some antimonial wine, which he had taken over-night, under the denomination of plague-water. She seemed to think that his apprehension might put an end to his life: the knight swore he was no such chicken, but a rough old rogue, that would live long enough to plague all his neighbours.

Upon enquiry, we found his character did not entitle him to much compassion or respect; and therefore we let our landlord's humour take its course. A graver was actually administered by an old woman of the family, who had been Sir Thomas's nurse; and the patient took a draught made with oxymel of squills to forward the operation of the antimonial wine, which had been retarded by the opiate of the preceding night. He was visited by the vicar, who rend prayers, and began to take an account of the state of his soul, when those medicines produced their effect; so that the parson was obliged to hold his nose while he poured forth spiritual consolation from his mouth. The same expeditent was used by the knight and me, who with the doctor entered the chamber at this juncture, and found Frogmore enthroned on an easy-chair, under the pressure of a double evacuation. The short intervals betwixt every heave he employed in crying for mercy, confessing his sins, or asking the vicar's opinion of his case; and the vicar answered in a solemn sniffing tone, that heightened the ridicule of the scene. The emetic having done its office, the doctor interfered, and ordered the patient to be put in bed again. When he examined the egita, and felt his pulse, he declared that much of the virus was discharged; and, giving him a composing draught, allured him he had good hopes of his recovery. This welcome hint he received with the tears of joy in his eyes, protesting, that if he should recover, he would always think himself indebted for his life to the great skill and tendereness of his doctor, whose hand he squeezed with great fervor; and thus he was left to his repose.

We were pressed to stay dinner, that we might be witnesses of its refutation; but my uncle insisted upon our departing before noon, that we might reach this town before it should be dark. In the mean time, Lady Bullford conducted us into the garden to see a fishpond just finished, which Mr. Bramble champion as being too near the parlour, where the knight now sat by himself, dozing in an elbow-chair after the fatigues of his morning achievement. In this situation he reclined, with his feet wrap'd in flannel, and supported in a line with his body; when the door flying open
open with a violent shock, Lieutenant Lifmahago rushed into the room with horror in his looks, exclaiming—'A mad dog! A mad dog!' and throwing up the window-faith, leaped into the garden. Sir Thomas, waked by this tremendous explanation, started up, and, forgetting his gout, followed the lieutenant's example by a kind of instinctive impulse! He not only bolted through the window like an arrow from a bow, but ran up to his middle in the pond, before he gave the least sign of recollection. Then the captain began to bawl—'Lord, have mercy upon us!—Pray, take care of the gentleman!—For God's sake, mind your footing, my dear boy!—Get warm blankets!—Comfort his poor carcass!—Warm the bed in the green-room!'

Lady Bullford was thunder-struck at this phenomenon, and the rest of the company gazed in silent astonishment; while the servants hastened to affist their matter, who suffered himself to be carried back into the parlour without speaking a word. Being instantly accommodated with dry cloaths and flanquets, comforted with a cordial, and replaced in situ quo, one of the maids was ordered to chase his lower extremities, an operation in consequence of which his fences seemed to return, and his good humour to revive. As we had followed him into the room, he looked at every individual in his turn, with a certain ludicrous expression in his countenance; but fixed his eye in particular upon Lifmahago, who presented him with a pinch of snuff; and when he took it in silence—'Sir Thomas Bullford,' said he, 'I am much obliged to you for all your favours, and some of them I have endeavoured to repay in your own coin.'—'Give me thy hand,' cried the baronet; 'thou hast, indeed, paid me Scot and lot; and even left a balance in my hands, for which, in preference of this company, I promise to be accountable.' So saying, he laughed very heartily, and even seemed to enjoy the retaliation which had been exacted at his own expense: but Lady Bullford looked very grave; and, in all probability, thought the lieutenant had carried his resentment too far, confiding that her husband was valetudinary. But, according to the proverb—He that will play at bowls must expect to meet with rubbers.

I have seen a tame bear, very diverting when properly managed, become a very dangerous wild-beast when teased for the entertainment of the spectators. As for Lifmahago, he seemed to think the fright and the cold-bath would have a good effect upon his patient's constitution: but the doctor hinted some apprehension that the gouty matter might, by such a sudden shock, be expelled from the extremities, and thrown upon some of the more vital parts of the machine. I should be very sorry to see this prognostic verified upon our facetious landlord, who told Mrs. Tabitha at parting, that he hoped she would remember him in the distribution of the bride's-favours, as he had taken so much pains to put the captain's parts and mettle to the proof. After all, I am afraid our squire will appear to be the greatest sufferer by the baronet's wit; for his constitution is by no means calculated for night-alarmas. He has yawned and snivered all day, and gone to bed without supper; so that, as we have got into good quarters, I imagine we shall make a halt to-morrow; in which case, you will have at least one day's respite from the perfections of

J. MELFORD.

OCT. 3.

TO MRS. MARY JONES, AT BRAMBLETON HALL.

DEAR MARY JONES,

MISS Liddy is so good as to unclose me in a letter as far as Glegg, and the carrier will bring it to hand. God send us all safe to Monmouthshire, for I'm quite jaded with rambling. 'Tis a true saying—Live and learn. O woman what chuckling and changing have I seen! Well, there's nothing certain in this world! Who would have thought that misfits, after all the pains taken for the good of her pious folc, would go far to throw away her poor body? that she would cast the keys of infection upon such a carrying-crow as Lifmahago! as old as Matthew fullin, as dry as a red-herring, and as pore as a starved veezle! O Molly! hadst thou seen him come down the ladder, in a flurt so scanty, that it could not kiver his nakedness! The young squire called him Dunquicklet; but he looked for all the world like Cockney Morgan, the ould tinker, that suffered at Abegany for reckling of kettle. Then he's a profane fcuflle; and as Mr.
Mr. Clinker says, no better than an imp-
fiddle, continually playing upon the py-
bill and the new birth. I doubt he has
as little manners as money; for he can't
fay a civil word, much more make me a
present of a pair of gloves for good-will;
but he looks as if he wanted to be very
forewood and familiar. O! that ever a
gentlewoman of years and discretion
should tare her air, and cry and dispor-
ridge herself for such a nubjack! as the
fong goes—

'Trvsw the woud flain wove a bawd
That bids such a price for an owl.'

But, for far tin, he must have dealt with
some Scotch musician to bring her to this
pafs. As for me, I put my truft in the
Lord; and I have got a side of witch-
elm love the in the gatherings of my uner-
petticoat; and Mr. Clinker affures me,
that by the new light of great, I may
defy the devil and all his works. But I
note what I note. If misttris should take
up with Laflmyhago, this is no service
for me. Thank God, there's no want of
places; and if it won't for wan thing, I
would— But no matter: Madam Bay-
nar's woman has twenty good pounds a
year and parquisites; and dresses like a
parson of digni-ken. I dined with her
and the valley de shamblles, with bags
and golden jackets; but there was no-
thing kimitable to eat, being as how
they live upon board, and having no-
thing but a piff of cood cuddling tart
and some blamugey, I was tuck with
the cullick, and a maury it was that mis-
tris had her viol of aflings in the cox.

But, as I was faying, I think for far-
tain this match will go forewood; for
things are come to a creenus; and I have
seen with my own hays—such snugging—
But I scorn for to exclole the
secrets of the family; and if it wance
comes to marrying, who nofe but the
frolick may go round? I believes as how
Mifs Liddy would have no reversion if
her fwan would appear; and you would
be surprifed, Molly, to receive a bride's-
fiver from your humble sylvant. But
this is all suppoftory, dear girl; and I
have fullyly promised to Mr. Clinker,
that neither man, woman, nor child, shall
no that arrow paid a civil thing to me in
the way of infection. I hopes to drink
your health at Brambleton Hall, in a
hern of October, before the month be
out. Pray let my bed be turned once a
day, and the windore opened, while the
weather is dry; and burn a few billers
with some brush in the footman's garret,
and lee their matrath be dry as a bone;
for both our gentlemen have got a sad
could by lying in damp shift at Sir Tho-
mas Ballifart's. No more at present; but
my service to Saul, and the rest of our
fellow-servants, being, dear Mary Jones,
always yours,

WIN. JENKINS.

TO MISS LETTITIA WILLIS, AT GLOU-
CESTER.

MY DEAR LETTY,

THIS method of writing to you from
time to time, without any hopes of
an answer, affords me, I own, some eafe
and satisfaction in the midst of my dif-
quiet, as it in some degree lightens the
burden of affliction; but it is at best a
very imperfect enjoyment of friendship,
because it admits of no return of con-
dence and good counsel. I would give
the whole world to have your company
for a fingle day. I am heartily tired of
this itinera-ian way of life: I am quite
dizzy with a perpetual succession of ob-
jects. Besides, it is impoffible to travel
such a length of way, without being ex-
posed to inconveniences, dangers, and
difagreeable accidents, which prove very
grievous to a poor creature of weak
nerves like me, and make me pay very
dear for the gratification of my cu-
rioiity.

Nature never intended me for the bullv
world. I long for repofe and solitude,
where I can enjoy that difinterested friend-
ship which is not to be found among
crowds, and indulge thofe pleafing reve-
ries that flun the hurry and tumult of
fashionable society. Unexperienced as
I am in the commerce of life, I have been
enough to give me a difficult to the gene-
rality of thofe who carry it on. There is
fuch malice, treachery, and difsimulation,
even among profefled friends and inti-
mate companions, as cannot fail to strike
a virtuous mind with horror; and when
Vice quits the ilage for a moment, her
place is immediately occupied by Polly,
which is often too fervous to excite any
thing but compaffion. Perhaps I ought
to be filent on the foibles of my poor
aunt; but with you, my dear Willis, I
have no secrets; and, truly, her weak-
neces are fuch as cannot be concealed.

Since
Since the first moment we arrived at Bath, she has been employed constantly in spreading nets for the other sex; and, at length, she has caught a superannuated lieutenant, who is in a fair way to make her change her name. My uncle and my brother seem to have no objection to this extraordinary match, which, I make no doubt, will afford abundance of matter of conversation and mirth; for my part, I am too sensible of my own weakness, to be diverted with those of other people. At present, I have something at heart that employs my whole attention, and keeps my mind in the utmost terror and suspense.

Yesterday in the forenoon, as I stood with my brother at the parlour-window of an inn, where we had lodged, a person passed on horseback, whom (gracious Heaven!) I instantly discovered to be Wilfon! He wore a white riding-coat, with the cape buttoned up to his chin; looked remarkably pale, and passed at a round trot, without seeming to observe us. Indeed, he could not see us; for there was a blind that concealed us from the view. You may guess how I was affected at this apparition: the light forsook my eyes; and I was seized with such a palpitation and trembling, that I could not stand. I sat down upon a couch, and strove to compose myself, that my brother might not perceive my agitation; but it was impossible to escape his prying eyes. He had observed the object that alarmed me; and doubtless knew him at the first glance. He now looked at me with a stern countenance; then he ran out into the street, to see what road the unfortunate horsemam had taken. He afterwards dispatched his man for further intelligence, and seemed to meditate some violent design. My uncle being out of order, we remained another night at the inn; and all day long Jerry acted the part of an indefatigable spy upon my conduct. He watched my very looks with such eagerness of attention, as if he would have penetrated into the utmost recesses of my heart. This may be owing to his regard for my honour, if it is not the effect of his own pride; but he is so hot, and violent, and unrelenting, that the sight of him alone throws me into a flutter; and really it will not be in my power to afford him any share of my affection, if he persists in persecuting me at this rate. I am afraid he has formed some scheme of vengeance, which will make me completely wretched! I am afraid he suspects some collusion from this appearance of Wilfon. Good God! did he really appear? or was it only a phantom, a pale spectre, to apprise me of his death?

O Letty! what shall I do?—Where shall I turn for advice and consolation?—I shall implore the protection of my uncle, who has been always kind and compassionate. This must be my last resource. I dread the thoughts of making him uneasy; and would rather suffer a thousand deaths than live the cause of difference in the family. I cannot perceive the meaning of Wilfon’s coming hither; perhaps he was in quest of us, in order to disclose his real name and situation: but wherefore palls without staying to make the least enquiry? My dear Willis, I am left in conjecture. I have not closed an eye since I saw him. All night long I have been toiled about from one imagination to another. The reflection finds no resting-place. I have prayed, and sighed, and wept plentifully. If this terrible suspense continues much longer, I shall have another fit of illness, and then the whole family will be in confusion. If it was consistent with the wifh purposes of Providence, would I were in my grave! But it is my duty to be resigned. My dearest Letty, excuse my weakness—excuse these blots—my tears fall so fast that I cannot keep the paper dry: yet I ought to consider that I have as yet no cause to despair. But I am such a faint-hearted, timorous creature!

Thank God, my uncle is much better than he was yesterday. He is resolved to pursue our journey straight to Wales. I hope we shall take Gloucester in our way; that hope cheers my poor heart. I shall once more embrace my beloved Willis, and pour all my griefs into her friendly bosom. O Heaven! is it possible that such happiness is reserved for the deserted and forsaken?

**Lydia Melford!**

**Oct. 4.**

**TO SIR WATKIN PHILLIPS, BART. OF JESUS COLLEGE, OXON.**

**DEAR WATKIN.**

I yesterday met with an incident, which, I believe, will own to be very surprising. As I rode with Liddy at the window of the inn where we had lodged,
who should pass by but Wilfon on horse-
back! I could not be mistaken in the
person, for I had a full view of him as he
advanced. I plainly perceived, by my
sister’s confusion, that the recognized
him at the same time. I was equally
astonished and incensed at his appear-
ance, which I could not but interpret in-
to an insult, or something worse. I ran
out at the gate, and seeing him turn the
corner of the street, I dispatched my ser-
vant to observe his motions; but the fel-
low was too late to bring me that satis-
faction. He told me, however, that there
was an inn, called the Red Lion, at that
end of the town, where he supposed the
horsemans alighted, but that he would
not inquire without further orders. I
sent him back immediately to know what
strangers were in the house, and he re-
turned with a report that there was one
Mr. Wilfon lately arrived. In conse-
quence of this information, I charged
him with a note directed to that gentle-
man, desiring him to meet me in half an
hour in a certain field at the town’s end,
with a case of pistols, in order to decide
the difference which could not be deter-
mined at our last encounter; but I did
not think proper to subscribe the billet.
My man assured me he had delivered it
into his own hand; and that, having
read it, he declared he would wait upon
the gentleman at the place and time ap-
pointed.

McAlpine being an old soldier, and
luckily sober at the time, I entrusted
him with my secret. I ordered him to be
within call, and, having given him a letter
to be delivered to my uncle in case of ac-
cident, I repaired to the rendezvous, which
was an inclosed field at a little distance
from the highway. I found my anta-
gonist had already taken his ground,
wrapped in a dark horsemans coat, with
a laced hat flapped over his eyes; but
what was my astonishment, when, throw-
ing off this wrapper, he appeared to be a
perfon whom I had never seen before!
He had one pistol fluck in a leather belt,
and another in his hand, ready for action;
and, advancing a few steps, called to
know if I was ready, I answered—‘No,’
and desired a parley; upon which he
turned the muzzle of his piece towards
the earth, then replaced it in his belt, and
met me half way. When I assured him
he was not the man I expected to meet,
he said, it might be so; that he had re-
ceived a slip of paper directed to Mr.

Wilfon, requesting him to come hither;
and that as there was no other in the place
of that name, he naturally concluded
the note was intended for him, and him
only. I then gave him to understand,
that I had been injured by a person who
alluded that name, which I did not
actually see within the hour, passing
through the street on horseback; that
hearing there was a Mr. Wilfon at the
Red Lion, I took it for granted he was
the man, and in that belief had writ the
billet; and I expressed my surprize, that
he, who was a stranger to me and my con-
cerns, should give me such a rendezvous,
without taking the trouble to demand a
previous explanation. He replied that
there was no other of his name in the
whole county; that no such horsemans
had alighted at the Red Lion since nine
o’clock, when he arrived; that having
had the honour to serve his majesty,
he thought he could not decently decline
any invitation of this kind, from what
quarter ever it might come; and that
if any explanation was necessary, it did
not belong to him to demand it, but to
the gentleman who summoned him into
the field. Vexed as I was at this ad-
venture, I could not help admiring the
coldness of this officer, whose open coun-
tenance prepossessed me in his favour.
He seemed to be turned of forty, wore
his own short black hair, which curled
naturally about his ears, and was very
plain in his apparel. When I begged
pardon for the trouble, I had given him,
he received my apology with great good-
humour. He told me that he lived about
ten miles off, at a small farm-house,
which would afford me tolerable lodging,
if I would come and take the diversion
of hunting with him for a few weeks; in
which case we might, perhaps, find out
the man who had given me offence. I
thanked him very sincerely for his very
courteous offer, which, I told him, I was
not at liberty to accept at present, on ac-
count of my being engaged in a family
party; and so we parted, with mutual
professions of good-will and esteem.

Now tell me, dear knight, what am I
to make of this singular adventure? Am
I to suppose that the horsemans I saw
was really a thing of flesh and blood, or
a bubble that vanished into air? Or must
I imagine Liddy knows more of the mat-
ter than the chuses to disclose? If I
thought her capable of carrying on any
clandestine correspondence with such a
fellow,
HUMPHRY CLINKER.

TO SIR WATKIN PHILLIPS, BART.
AT OXON.

DEAR PHILLIPS,

WHEN I wrote you by last post, I did not imagine I should be tempted to trouble you again so soon; but I now sit down with a heart so full, that it cannot contain itself; though I am under such agitation of spirits, that you are to expect neither method or connection in this address. We have been this day within a hair’s breadth of losing our dear Matthew Bramble, in consequence of a cursed accident, which I will endeavour to explain. In crossing the country to get into the post-road, it was necessary to ford a river, and we were on horseback passed without any danger or difficulty; but a great quantity of rain having fallen last night and this morning, there was such an accumulation of water, that a mill-head gave way just as the coach was passing under it, and the flood rushed down with such impetuosity, as first floated, and then fairly overturned, the carriage, in the middle of the stream. Lismahago and I, and the two servants, alighting instantaneously, ran into the river, to give all the assistance in our power. Our aunt, Mrs. Tabitha, who had the good fortune to be uppermost, was already half way out of the coach-window, when her lover approaching, disengaged her entirely; but whether his foot slipped, or the burden was too great, they fell over head and ears in each other’s arms. He endeavoured more than once to get up, and even to disentangle himself from her embrace, but she hung about his neck like a milestone, (no bad emblem of matrimony,) and if my man had not proved a staunch auxiliary, those two lovers would in all probability have gone hand in hand to the shades below. For my part, I was too much engaged to take any cognizance of their diffcres. I snatched out my sister by the hair of the head, and dragging her to the bank, recollected that my uncle had not yet appeased Ruthing again into the stream, I met Clinker hauling ahoire Mrs. Jenkins, who looked like a mermaid, with her hair dishevelled about her ears; but, when I asked if his matter was safe, he forthwith shook her from him, and she must have gone to pot, if a miller had not feamably come to her relief. As for Humphry, he flew like lightning to the coach, that was by this time filled with water, and, diving into it, brought up the poor squire, to all appearance deprived of life. It is not in my power to describe what I felt at this melancholy spectacle; it was such an agony as baffles all description! The faithful Clinker, taking him up in his arms, as if he had been an infant of six months, carried him ahoire, howling most piteously all the way, and I followed him in a transport of grief and consolation. When he was laid upon the grass, and turned from side to side, a great quantity of water ran out at his mouth, then he opened his eyes, and fetched a deep sigh. Clinker perceiving these signs of life, immediately tied up his arm with a garter, and pulling out a horse-sheam, by him blood in the farrier file. At first a few drops only issued from the orifice; but the limb being chased, in a little time the blood began to flow in a continued stream, and he uttered some incoherent words, which were the most welcome sounds that ever faluted my ear. There was a country inn hard by, the landlord of which had by this time come with his people to give their assistance.

J. MELFORD.

Oct. 4.
Thither my uncle being carried, was undressed and put to bed, wrapped in warm blankets; but having been moved too soon, he fainted away, and once more lay without sense or motion, notwithstanding all the efforts of Clinker and the landlord, who bathed his temples with Hungary-water, and held a finneling-bottle to his nose. As I had heard of the efficacy of salt in such cases, I ordered all that was in the house to be laid under his head and body; and whether this application had the desired effect, or nature of herself prevailed, he, in less than a quarter of an hour, began to breathe regularly, and soon retrieved his recollection, to the unspeakable joy of all the bye-binders. As for Clinker, his brain seemed to be affected; he laughed, and wept, and danced about in such a distracted manner, that the landlord very judiciously conveyed him out of the room. My uncle, seeing me drooping wet, comprehended the whole of what had happened, and asked if all the company was safe; being answered in the affirmative, he inquired upon my putting on dry cloaths, and, having swallowed a little warm wine, desired he might be left to his repose. Before I went to shift myself, I enquired about the rest of the family. I found Mrs. Tabitha still delirious from her fright, discharging very copiously the water she had swallowed. She was supported by the captain, discharging drops from his uncurled periwig, so lank and so dank, that he looked like father Thame without his fedges, embracing Iris, while she cascaded in his arms. Mrs. Jenkins was present also, in a loose bed-gown, without either cap or handkerchief; but she seemed to be as little compos mentis as her mistress, and added so many crofs purpofes in the course of her attendance, that, between the two, Lifmahago had occasion for all his philofohy. As for Liddy, I thought the poor girl would have actually loft her fentiments. The good woman of the house had lift her linen, and put her into bed; but she was feized with the idea that her uncle had perifhed, and in this perfuasion made a difmal outcry; nor did she pay the leaft regard to what I faid, when I solemnly affured her he was safe. Mr. Bramble hearing the noise, defired the might be brought into his chamber; and she, no sooner received this intimation, than the ran thither half naked, with the wildeft eXpression of eagerness in her countenance. Seeing the squire sitting up in the bed, she fprung forwards, and, throwing her arms about his neck, exclaimed in a moft pathetick tone—* Are you—are you indeed my uncle—my dear uncle!—My best friend—My father!—Are you really living, or is it an illusion of my poor brain?* Honest Matthew was so much affected, that he could not help shedding tears, while he kissed her forehead, faying—* My dear Liddy, I hope I shall live long enough to shew how fensible I am of your affection. But your spirits are fluttered, child; you want rep. Go to bed and compose yourself.—* Well, I will,* she replied. * But till methinks this cannot be real. The coach was full of water; my uncle was under us all! Gracious God! you was under water.—* How did you get out?—* Tell me that, or I shall think this is all a deception.—* In what manner I was brought out, I know as little as you do, my dear;* said the squire; * and, truly, that is a circumstance of which I want to be informed.* I would have given him a detail of the whole adventure, but he would not hear me until I should change my clothes; fo that I had only time to tell him, that he owed his life to the courage and fidelity of Clinker; and having given him this hint, I conducted my sister to her own chamber. This accident happened about three o'clock in the afternoon, and in little more than an hour the hurricane was all over; but as the carriage was found to be so much damaged, that it could not proceed without considerable repairs, a blacksmith and wheelwright were immediately sent for to the next market-town, and we congratulated ourselves upon being housed at an inn, which, though remote from the post-road, afforded exceeding good lodging. The women being pretty well composed, and the men all a-fob, my uncle sent for his servant, and in the presence of Lifmahago and me, accosted him in these words—* So, Clinker, I find you are resolved I than’t die by water. As you have fished me up from the bottom at your own risk, you are at leaft entitled to all the money that was in my pocket, and there it is.* So saying, he presented him with a purse containing thirty guineas, and a ring nearly of the fame value. * God forbid!* cried Clinker; * your honour shall excuse me. I am a poor fellow; but I have a heart—O! if your honour did
did but know how I rejoice to see—
Blesst be his holy name that made me
the humble instrument— But as for the
lure of gain, I renounce it. I have
done no more than my duty—No more
than I would have done for the most
worthless of my fellow creatures—No
more than I would have done for Cap-
tain Lismahago, or Archy Macalpine,
or any famine upon earth. But for your
worth, I would go through fire, as
well as water.'—'I do believe it, Hum-
phry,' said the sire; 'but, as you
think it was your duty to save my life
at the hazard of your own, I think it
is mine to express the sense I have of
your extraordinary fidelity and attach-
ment. I insist upon your receiving this
small token of my gratitude; but don't
imagine that I look upon this as an
adequate recompence for the service
you have done me. I have determined
to settle thirty pounds a year upon you
for life; and I desire these gentlemen
will bear witness to this my intention,
of which I have a memorandum in
my po'ket-book.'—'Lord make me
thankful for all these mercies,' cried
Clinker, sobbing, 'I have been a poor
bankrupt from the beginning. Your
honour's goodness found me, when I
was—naked—when I was—sick and
forlorn— I understand your honour's
looks.—I would not give offence; but
my heart is very full; and if your wor-
ship won't give me leave to speak, I
must vent it in prayers to Heaven for
my benefactor.' When he quitted the
room, Lismahago said he should have a
much better opinion of his honesty, if he
did not whine and cant so abominably;
but that he had always observed these
weeping and praying fellows were hypocrisies at bottom. Mr. Bramble made no
reply to this farcical remark, proceed-
ing from the lieutenant's resentment of
Clinker's having, in pure simplicity of
heart, ranked him with Macalpine and
the finners of the earth. The landlord
being called to receive some orders about
the beds, told the squire that his house
was very much at his service, but he was
sure he should not have the honour to
lodge him and his company. He gave
us to understand, that his master, who
lived hard by, would not suffer us to be
at a publick-house, when there was ac-
modation for us at his own; and
that, if he had not dined abroad in the
neighbourhood he would have undoubt-
edly come to offer his services at our first
arrival. He then launched out in praise
of that gentleman, whom he had served
as butler, representing him as a perfect
miracle of goodness and generosity. He
said he was a person of great learning, and
allowed to be the best farmer in the coun-
ty; that he had a lady who was as much
beloved as himself, and an only son, a very
hopeful young gentleman, just recovered
from a dangerous fever, which had like
to have proved fatal to the whole family;
for, if the son had died, he was sure the
parents would not have survived their
loss. He had not yet finished the enco-
mium of Mr. Dennison, when this gen-
tleman arrived in a post-chaise, and his
appearance seemed to justify all that had
been said in his favour. He is pretty well
advanced in years, but hale, robust, and
florid, with an ingenious countenance,
expressive of good sense and humanity.
Having consoled us on the acci-
dent which had happened, he said he was
come to conduct us to his habitation,
where we should be less incommoded than
at such a publick inn, and expressed his
hope that the ladies would not be the worse
for going thither in his carriage, as the
distance was not above a quarter of a mile.
My uncle having made a proper return to
this courteous exhibition, eyed him at-
tentively, and then asked if he had not
been at Oxford, a commoner of Queen's
College. When Mr. Dennison an-
swered—'Yes,' with some marks of surpri-
se—'Look at me, then,' said our sire, 'and
let us see if you can recollect the fea-
tures of an old friend, whom you have
not seen these forty years.' The gentle-
man, taking him by the hand, and gazing
at him earnestly—'I protest,' cried he,
'I do think I recall the idea of Matthew
Loyd of Glamorganshire, who was
student of Jesus.'—'Well remember-
ed, my dear friend, Charles Dennison,'
exclaimed my uncle, prefixing him to his
breast, 'I am that very identical Matthew
Loyd of Glamorgan.' Clinker, who had
just entered the room with some coals
for the fire, no sooner heard these words,
than, throwing down the scuttle on the
toes of Lismahago, he began to caper as
if he was mad, crying—'Matthew Loyd
of Glamorgan.—O Providence!—
Matthew Loyd of Glamorgan!' Then
crapping my uncles knees, he went on in
this manner—'Your worship must for-
give me—Matthew Loyd of Glamorgan!—O Lord, Sir! I can't contain myself!—I shall lose my senses.—

Nay, thou hast lost them already, I believe, said the squire peevishly; and then Clinker be quiet—What is the matter?—Humphry, tumbling in his bofon, pulled out an old wooden stuff-box, which he presented in great trepidation to his master; who, opening it immediately, perceived a small cornelian seal, and two scraps of paper. At sight of these articles, he started, and changed colour, and cutting his eye upon the inscriptions—' Ha! how! what!—Where,' cried he, 'is the person here named?—Clinker, knocking his own breast, could hardly pronounce these words—' Here—here—here is Matthew Loyd, as the certificate he weth. Humphry Clinker was the name of the former that took me 'prentice. —And who gave you these tokens? said my uncle hastily. 'My poor mother on her death-bed,' replied the other. 'And who was your mother?—Dorothy Twyford, an amiable person, heretofore bar-keeper at the Angel at Chippenham.' —And why were not these tokens produced before?—My mother told me the had wrote to Glamorganshire, at the time of my birth, but had no answer; and that afterwards, when the made inquiry, there was no such person in that county.'—And so in consequence of my changing my name and going abroad at that very time, thy poor mother and thou have been left to want and misery. I am really shocked at the consequence of my own folly.' Then laying his hand on Clinker's head, he added—Stand forth, Matthew Loyd. —You see, gentlemen, how the fims of my youth rise up in judgment against me. Here is my direction written with my own hand, and a seal which I left at the woman's request; and this is a certificate of the child's baptism, signed by the curate of the parish. The company were not a little surprized at this discovery, upon which Mr. Dennison facetiously congratulated both the father and the son, for my part, I shook my new-found cousin heartily by the hand, and Lifmahago complimented him with the tears in his eyes, for he had been hopping about the room, swearing in broad Scotch, and bellowing with the pain occasioned by the fall of the coal-cuttle upon his foot. He had even vowed to drive the faul out of the body of that mad rascal: but, perceiving the unexpected turn which things had taken, he with'd him joy of his good fortune, observing that it went very near his heart, as he was like to be a great toe out of pocket by the discovery. Mr. Dennison now desired to know for what reason my uncle had changed the name by which he knew him at Oxford, and our squire satisfied him, by answering to this effect—' I took my mother's name, which was Loyd, as heir to her hands in Glamorganshire; but, when I came of age, I sold that property, in order to clear my paternal estate, and refurned my real name; so that I am now Matthew Bramble, of Brambleton Hall in Monmouthshire, at your service; and this is my nephew, Jeremy Melford of Belfield, in the county of Glamorgan.' At that instant the ladies entering the room, he presented Mrs. Tabitha as his sister, and Liddy as his niece. The old gentleman saluted them very cordially, and seemed struck with the appearance of my sister, whom he could not help surveying with a mixture of complacency and surprize. ' Sister,' said my uncle, 'there is a poor relation that recommends himself to your good graces. The quondam Humphry Clinker is metamorphosed into Matthew Loyd; and claims the honour of being your carnal kinman. In short, the rogue proves to be a crab of my own planting in the days of hot blood and unrestrained libertinism.' Clinker had by this time dropped upon one knee, by the side of Mrs. Tabitha, who, eyeing him affiance, and flirting her fan with marks of agitation, thought proper, after some conflict, to hold out her hand for him to kiss, saying, with a demure aspect—' Brother, you have been very wicked: but I hope you will live to see the folly of your ways. I am very sorry to say the young man whom you have this day acknowledged, has more grace and religion, by the gift of God, than you with all your prophane learning, and repeated opportunity. I do think he has got the trick of the eye, and the tip of the nose of my uncle Loyd of Fflydwellyn; and as for the long chin, it is the very moral of the governor.'—Brother, as you have changed his name, pray change his dress also; that lively doth not become any person that hath got our blood in his veins.' Liddy seemed much pleased with this acquisition to the family. She took him
by the hand, declaring she should al-
ways be proud to own her connexions with a
virtuous young man, who had given so
many proofs of his gratitude and affec-
tion to her uncle. Mrs. Winifred Jen-
kins, extremely fluttered between her sur-
prise at this discovery, and the apprehen-
sion of losing her sweetheart, exclaimed
in a giggling tone—' I wish you joy;
Mr. Clinker—Floyd—I would say—'
h, hi, hi, hi— you’ll be so proud you won’t
look at your poor fellow-servants, oh,
oh, oh!' Honof Clinker owned he was
overjoyed at his good fortune, which was
greater than he desired: ' But where-
fore should I be proud?' said he, ' a poor
object conceived in sin, and brought
forth in iniquity, nursed in a parish
work-house, and bred in a smithy.
Whenever I remi proud, Mrs. Jenkins,
I beg of you to put me in mind of
the condition I was in, when I first saw
you between Chippenden and Marlo-
rough.'

When this momentous affair was dis-
cussed to the satisfaction of all parties con-
cerned, the weather being dry, the ladies
denied the carriage; so that we walked
all together to Mr. Dennison’s house,
where we found the tea ready prepared by
his lady, an amiable matron, who received
us with all the benevolence of hospi-
tality. The house is old fashioned and ir-
regular, but lodgeable and commodious.
To the south it has the river in front at
the distance of a hundred paces; and on
the north there is a rising ground, cover-
ed with an agreeable plantation; the
green and walks are kept in the nicest
order, and all is rural and romantick. I
have not yet seen the young gentleman,
who is on a visit to a friend in the neigh-
bourhood, from whose house he is not
expected till to-morrow.

In the mean time, as there is a man go-
ing to the next market-town with letters
for the poft, I take this opportunity to
send you the history of the day, which
has been remarkably full of adventures;
and you will own I give you them like a
beef-steak at Dolly’s, hot and hot, without
ceremony and parade, just as they come
from the recollection of yours,

J. MELFORD.

TO DR. LEWIS.

DEAR DICK,

SINCE the last trouble I gave you, I
have met with a variety of incidents,
some of them of a singular nature, which
I reserve as a fund for conversation; but
there are others so interesting, that they
will not keep in petto till meeting.

Know then, it was a thousand pounds to
a suspense, that you should now be ex-
cuting my will, instead of perusing my
letter! Two days ago, our coach was
overturned in the midst of a rapid river,
where my life was saved with the utmost
difficulty, by the courage, activity, and
preference of mind of my servant Humphry
Clinker. But this is not the most sur-
prizing circumjance of the adventure.
The said Humphry-Clinker proves to be
Matthew Loyd, natural son of one Mat-
thew Loyd of Glamorga, if you know
any such person. You see, doctor, that
notwithstanding all your philofohy, it is
not without some reason that we Welsh-
men ascribe such energy to the force of
blood. But we shall discuss this point on
some future occasion.

This is not the only discovery which I
made in consequence of our disaster. We
happened to be wrecked upon a friendly
shore. The lord of the manor is no other
than Charles Dennison, our fellow-rake
at Oxford. We are now happily houled
with that gentleman, who has really at-
tained to that pitch of rural felicity, at
which I have been aspiring these twenty
years in vain. He is bleffed with a con-
fort, whose disposition is suited to his own
in all respects; tender, generous, and be-
nevolent. She, moreover, possesses an
uncommon share of understanding, forti-
itude, and discretion; and is admirably
qualified to be his companion, confidant,
companion, and confidant. Their ex-
cellent persons have an only son, about
nineteen years of age, just such a youth as
they could have wished that heaven would
befall to fill up the measure of their en-
joyment. In a word, they know no other
allay to their happiness, but their appre-
hension and anxiety about the life and
concerns of this beloved object.

Our good friend, who had the misfortune
to be a second brother, was bred to the
law, and even called to the bar; but he
did not find himself qualified to shine in
that province, and had very little inclina-
tion for his profession. He disgraced his
father, by marrying for love, without any
consideration of fortune; so that he had
little or nothing to depend upon for some
years but his practice, which afforded him
a bare subsistence; and the prospect of an
increasing family began to give him dis-
turbance and difquiet. In the mean time,
his father dying, was succeeded by his
erder
elder brother, a fox-hunter and a sot, who neglected his affairs, infulted and opprobred his servants, and in a few years had well nigh ruined the estate, when he was happily carried off by a fever, the immediate consequence of a debauch. Charles, with the approbation of his wife, immediately determined to quit business, and retire into the country, although this resolution was strenuously and zealously opposed by every individual whom he consulted on the subject. Those who had tried the experiment, assured him that he could not pretend to breathe in the country for less than the double of what his estate produced; that, in order to be upon the footing of a gentleman, he would be obliged to keep horses, hounds, carriages, with a suitable number of servants, and maintain an elegant table for the entertainment of his neighbours; that farming was a mystery, known only to those who had been bred up to it from the cradle, the success of it depending not only upon skill and industry, but also upon such attention and econony as no gentleman could be supposed to give or practice; accordingly, every attempt made by gentlemen miscarried, and not a few had been ruined by their prosecution of agriculture. Nay, they affirmed, that he would find it cheaper to buy hay and oats for his cattle, and to go to market for poultry, eggs, kitchen herbs, and roots, and every the most inconsiderable article of house-keeping, than to have those articles produced on his own ground.

These objections did not deter Mr. Denison, because they were chiefly founded on the supposition, that he would be obliged to lead a life of extravagance and dissipation, which he and his comfort equally detested, despised, and determined to avoid. The objects he had in view, were health of body, peace of mind, and the private satisfaction of domestic quiet, unalloyed by actual want, and uninterrupted by the fears of indigence. He was very moderate in his estimate of the necessaries, and even of the comforts of life. He required nothing but wholesome air, pure water, agreeable exercise, plain diet, convenient lodging, and decent apparel. He reflected, that if a peasant without education, or any great share of natural facility, could maintain a large family, and even become opulent upon a farm, for which he paid an annual rent of two or three hundred pounds to the landlord, surely he himself might hope for some success from his industry, having no rent to pay, but, on the contrary, three or four hundred pounds a year to receive. He considered, that the earth was an indulgent mother, that yielded her fruits to all her children without distinction. He had studied the theory of agriculture with a degree of eagerness and delight; and he could not conceive there was any mystery in the practice, but what he should be able to divest by dint of care and application. With respect to household expense, he entered into a minute detail and investigation, by which he perceived the amenities of his friends were altogether erroneous. He found he should have sixty pounds a year in the single article of house-rent, and as much more in pocket-money and contingencies; so that even butcher's meat was twenty per cent. cheaper in the country than in London; but that poultry, and almost every other circumstance of house-keeping, might be had for less than one half of what they cost in town; besides, a considerable saving on the side of drags, in being delivered from the oppressive impost of ridiculous modes, invented by ignorance, and adopted by folly.

As to the danger of vying with the rich in pomp and equipage, it never gave him the least disturbance. He was now turned of forty; and, having lived half that time in the busy scenes of life, was well skilled in the science of mankind. There cannot be in nature a more contemptible figure than that of a man who, with five hundred a year, presumes to rival in expense a neighbour who poissesses five times that income. His orientation, far from concealing, serves only to discover his indigence, and render his vanity the more shocking; for it attracts the eyes of censure, and excites the spirit of enquiry. There is not a family in the county, nor a servant in his own house, nor a farmer in the parish, but what knows the utmost thing that his lands produce, and all these behold him with scorn or compasion. I am surprized that these reflections do not occur to persons in this unhappy dilemma, and produce a salutary effect; but the truth is, of all the passions incident to human nature, vanity is that which most effectually prevents the faculties of the understanding; nay, it sometimes becomes so incredibly depraved, as to aspire at infamy, and find pleasure in bearing the stigmas of reproach.

I have now given you a sketch of the character
character and situation of Mr. Dennison, when he came down to take possis sion of this estate; but as the messenger, who carries the letters to the next town, is just setting off, I shall reserve what further I have to say on this subject till the next post, when you shall certainly hear from yours always,


Oct. 3.

To Dr. Lewis.

Once more, dear Doctor, I resume the pen for your amusement. It was on the morning after our arrival that, walking out with my friend Mr. Dennison, I could not help breaking forth into the warmest expressions of applause at the beauty of the scene, which is really enchanting; and I signified, in particular, how much I was pleased with the disposition of some detached groves, that afforded at once shelter and ornament to his habitation.

When I took possession of these lands, about two and twenty years ago," said he, there was not a tree standing within a mile of the house, except those of an old neglected orchard, which produced nothing but leaves and moths. It was in the gloomy month of November when I arrived, and found the house in such a condition, that it might have been justly styled the tower of desolation. The court-yard was covered with nettles and docks, and the garden exhibited such a rank plantation of weeds as I had never seen before; the window-flutters were falling in pieces; the fashes broken; and the owls and jackdaws had taken possession of the chimneys. The prospect within was still more dreary. All was dark and damp, and dirty beyond description; the min penetrated in several parts of the roof; in some apartments the very floors had given way; the hangings were parted from the walls, and hanging in mouldy remnants; the glaffes were dropping out of their frames; the family-pictures were covered with dust; and all the chairs and tables worm-eaten and crazy. There was not a bed in the house that could be used, except one old-fashioned machine, with a high gilt tester, and fringed curtains of yellow mohair, which had been, for aught I know, two centuries in the family. In short, there was no furniture but the utensils of the kitchen; and the cellar afforded nothing but a few empty butts and barrels, that, thank God, abominably, that I would not Riffer any body to enter it until I had flashed a considerable quantity of gunpowder to qualify the foul air within.

An old cotter and his wife, who were hired to lie in the house, had left it with precipitation, alleging, among other causes of retreat, that they could not sleep for frightful noises, and that my poor brother certainly walked after his death. In a word, the house appeared uninhabitable; the barn, stable, and out-houses, were in ruins; all the fences broken down, and the fields lying waste.

The farmer who kept the key never dreamed I had any intention to live upon the spot. He rented a farm of sixty pounds, and his lease was just expiring. He had formed a scheme of being appointed bailiff to the estate, and of converting the house and adjacent grounds to his own use. A hint of his intention I received from the curate at my first arrival; I therefore did not pay much regard to what he said by way of discouraging me from coming to settle in the country; but I was a little startled when he gave me warning that he should quit the farm at the expiration of his lease, unless I would abate considerably in the rent.

At this period I accidentally became acquainted with a person whose friendship had the foundation of all my prosperity. In the next market-town, I chanced to dine at an inn with a Mr. Wilson, who was lately come to settle in the neighbourhood. He had been lieutenant of a man of war; but quitted the sea in some disgust, and married the only daughter of Farmer Bland, who lives in this parish, and has acquired a good fortune in the way of husbandry. Wilson is one of the best-natured men I ever knew; brave, frank, obliging, and ingenious. He liked my conversation, I was charmed with his liberal manner; an acquaintance immediately commenced, and this was soon improved into a friendship without reserve. There are characters which, like similar particles of matter, strongly attract each other. He forti-
transient from a town-life to such a melancholy state of ruination: but I was agreeably disappointed; she found the reality left's uncomfortable than the picture I had drawn. By this time, indeed, things were mended in appearance; the out-houses had risen out of their ruins; the pigeon-house was rebuilt and replenished by Wilfon, who also put my garden in decent order, and provided a good stock of poultry, which made an agreeable figure in my yard; and the house, on the whole, looked like the habitation of human creatures. Farmer Bland spared me a milch-cow for my family, and an ordinary saddle-horse for my servant to go to market at the next town. I hired a country-lad for a footman, the hind's daughter was my housemaid, and my wife had brought a cookmaid from London.

Such was my family when I began house-keeping in this place, with three hundred pounds in my pocket, raised from the sale of my superfluous furniture. I knew we should find occupation enough through the day to employ our time, but I dreaded the long winter evenings; yet for these, too, we found a remedy. The curate, who was a single man, soon became so naturalized to the family, that he generally lay in the house; and his company was equally agreeable and useful. He was a modest man, a good scholar, and perfectly well qualified to instruct me in such country matters as I wanted to know. Mr. Wilfon brought his wife to see us; and she became to fond of Mrs. Dennison, that she said she was never so happy as when she enjoyed the benefit of her conversation. She was then a fine buxom country lass, exceedingly docile, and as good-natured as her husband Jack Wilfon; so that a friendship ensued among the women, which hath continued to this day.

As for Jack, he hath been my constant companion, counsellor, and confidential; I would not for a hundred pounds you should leave my house without seeing him. Jack is an universal genius; his talents are really astonishing: he is an excellent carpenter, joiner, and turner, and a cunning artist in iron and brass. He not only superintended my economy, but also presided over my pastimes. He taught me
me to brew beer, to make cyder, per-
y, mead, uquebaugh, and plague-
water; to cook several outlandish de-
liciencies, such as olives, pepper-pots, pil-
laus, corvs, chabobs, and flavatas.
He understands all manner of games,
from chefs down to chuck-farting;
flings a good song, plays upon the vi-
olin, and dances a hornpipe with fur-
prizing agility. He and I walked,
and rode, and hunted, and fished toge-
ther, without minding the vicissitudes
of the weather; and I am persuaded,
that in a raw, moist climate, like this
of England, continual exercize is as
necessary as food to the preservation
of the individual. In the course of two
and twenty years, there has not been
one hour’s interruption or abatement in
the friendship subsisting between Wil-
on’s family and mine; and, what is a
rare instance of good fortune, that
friendship is continued to our children.
His son and mine are nearly of the
fame age and the same disposition; they
have been bred up together at the fame
school and college, and love each other
with the warmest affection.
By Willon’s means I likewise form-
ed an acquaintance with a sensible
physician, who lives in the next mar-
ket town; and his sister, an agreeable
old maiden, passed the Christmas ho-
lidays at our house. Mean while I be-
gan my farming with great eager-
ness, and that very winter planted these
groves that please you so much. As
for the neighbouring gentry, I had no
trouble from that quarter during my
first campaign; they were all gone to
town before I settled in the country,
and by the summer I had taken mea-
ures to defend myself from their at-
tacks. When a gay equipage came
to my gates, I was never at home;
those who visited me in a modest way,
I received; and according to the re-
marks I made on their characters and
conversation, either rejected their ad-
vances, or returned their civility.
I was in general despised among the
fashionable company, as a low fellow,
both in breeding and circumstances;
nevertheless, I found a few individuals
of moderate fortune who gladly adopted
my title of living; and many others
would have acceded to our society, had
they not been prevented by the pride,
envy, and ambition, of their wives and
daughters. Those, in times of lux-
ury and dissipation, are the rocks upon
which all the small estates in the coun-
try are wrecked.
I revered in my own hands some
acres of ground adjacent to the house,
for making experiments in agriculture,
according to the directions of Lyloe,
Tull, Hart, Duhamel, and others who
have written on this subject; and qua-
ified their theory with the practical ob-
servations of Farmer Bland, who was
my great matter in the art of husband-
ry. In short, I became enamoured of
a country life; and my success greatly
exceeded my expectations. I drained
bogs, burned heath, grubbed up furze
and fern; I planted copses and willows
where nothing else would grow; I gra-
dually included all my farms, and made
such improvements, that my estate
now yields me clear twelve hundred
pounds a year. All this time my wife
and I have enjoyed uninterrupted
health, and a regular flow of spirits,
except on a very few occasions, when
our cheerfulness was invaded by such
accidents as are inseparable from the
condition of life. I lost two children
in their infancy, by the small-pox; so
that I have one son only, in whom all
our hopes are centered. He went
yesterday to visit a friend, with whom
he has stayed all night, but he will be
here to dinner. I shall this day have
the pleasure of presenting him to you
and your family; and I flatter myself
you will find him not altogether un-
worthy of our affection.
The truth is, either I am blinded by
the partiality of a parent, or he is a boy
of a very amiable character; and yet
his conduct has given us unspeakable
disquiet. You must know we had
projected a match between him and a
gentleman’s daughter in the next coun-
ty, who will in all probability be heir-
efs of a considerable fortune; but it
seems he had a personal disquiet to the
alliance. He was then at Cambridge,
and tried to gain time on various pre-
tences; but being pressed in letters by
his mother and me to give a definitive
answer, he fairly gave his tutor the
flip, and disappeared about eight months
ago. Before he took this rash step, he
wrote me a letter, explaining his ob-
jeotions to the match, and declaring,
that he would keep himself concealed
until he should understand that his
parents would interfere with his con-
A
tracting an engagement that must make me miserable for life; and he prescribed the form of advertising in a certain newspaper, by which he might be apprized of our sentiments on this subject.

You may easily conceive how much we were alarmed and afflicted by this elopement, which he had made without dropping the least hint to his companion Charles Wilson, who belonged to the same college. We resolved to punish him with the appearance of neglect, in hopes that he would return of his own accord; but he maintained his purpose till the young lady chose a partner for herself; then he produced himself, and made his peace by the mediation of Wilson. Suppose we should unite our families by joining him with your niece, who is one of the most lovely creatures I ever beheld. My wife is already as fond of her as if she were her own child, and I have a pre-sentiment that my son will be captivated by her at first sight. — Nothing could be more agreeable to all our family, said I, than such an alliance; but, my dear friend, candour obliges me to tell you, that I am afraid Liddy's heart is not wholly disengaged; there is a curbed obstinate—

You mean the young stroller at Gloucester, said he. You are surprised that I should know this circumstance; but you will be more surprised when I tell you that stroller is no other than my son George Dennison: that was the character he assumed in his eclipse. — I am, indeed, astonished and over-joyed, cried I; and shall be happy beyond expression to see your propos-red take effect.

He then gave me to understand, that the young gentleman, at his emerging from concealment, had disclosed his passion for Miss Melford, the niece of Mr. Bramble of Monmouthshire. Though Mr. Dennison little dreamed that this was his old friend Matthew Lloyd, he nevertheless furnished his son with proper credentials; and he had been at Bath, London, and many other places, in quest of us, to make himself and his pretensions known. The bad success of his enquiry had such an effect upon his spirits, that immediately at his return he was seized with a dangerous fever, which overwhelmed his parents with terror and affliction; but he was now happily recovered though still weak and disconsolate.

My nephew joining us in our walk, I informed him of these circumstances, with which he was wonderfully pleased. He declared he would promote the match to the utmost of his power, and that he longed to embrace young Mr. Dennison as his friend and brother. Mean while the father went to desire his wife to communicate this discovery gradually to Liddy, that her delicate nerves might not suffer too sudden a shock; and I imparted the particulars to my sister Tabby, who expressed some surprize, not altogether unmixed, I believe, with an emotion of envy; for, though she could have no objection to an alliance at once so honourable and advantageous, she hesitated in giving her consent, on pretence of the youth and inexperience of the parties: at length, however, she acquiesced, in consequence of having consulted with Captain Lifmahgo.

Mr. Dennison took care to be in the way when his son arrived at the gate; and, without giving him time or opportunity to make any enquiry about the strangers, brought him up stairs to be presented to Mr. Lloyd and his family. The first person he saw when he entered the room was Liddy; who, notwithstanding all her preparation, stood trembling in the utmost confusion. At sight of this object he was fixed motionless to the floor; and gazing at her with the utmost eagerness of astonishment, exclaimed — Sacred Heaven! what is this? — Ha! wherefore — Here his speech failing, he stood training his eyes, in the most emphatic silence. George, said his father, this is my friend Mr. Lloyd. Roused at this intimation, he turned and received my salutation, when I said — Young gentleman, if you had trusted me with your secret at our last meeting, we should have parted upon better terms. Before he could make any answer, Jerry came round, and stood before him with open arms. At first, he started and changed colour; but, after a short pause, he rushed into his embrace, and they hugged one another as if they had been intimate friends from their infancy; then he paid his respects to Mrs. Tabitha; and advancing to Liddy — Is it possible, cried he, that my senses do not play me false; that I see Miffs Melford under my father's roof; that
I am permitted to speak to her without giving offence; and that her relations have honoured me with their countenance and protection.' Liddy blushed, and trembled, and faltered. 'To be sure, Sir,' said she, 'it is a very favor-prizing circumstance; a great—a providential—I really know not what I say, but I beg you will think I have said what is agreeable.'

Mrs. Dennison interpolating, said—

'Compose yourselves, my dear children; your mutual happiness shall be our peculiar care.' The son, going up to his mother, kissed one hand; his niece bathed the other with her tears; and the good old lady pressed them both in their turns to her breast. The lovers were too much affected to get rid of their embarrassment for one day; but the scene was much enlivened by the arrival of Jack Willon, who brought, as usual, some game of his own killing. His honest countenance was a good letter of recommendation. I received him like a dear friend after a long separation; and I could not help wondering to see him shake Jerry by the hand as an old acquaintance. They had, indeed, been acquainted some days, in consequence of a diverting incident, which I shall explain at meeting. That same night, a consultation was held upon the concerns of the lovers, when the match was formally agreed to, and all the marriage-arrangements were settled without the least dispute. My nephew and I promised to make Liddy's fortune five thousand pounds. Mr. Dennison declared he would make over one half of his estate immediately to his son, and that his daughter-in-law should be secured in a jointure of four hundred. Tabby proposed that, considering their youth, they should undergo one year at least of probation before the indissoluble knot should be tied; but the young gentleman being very impatient and importunate, and the scheme implying that the young couple should live in the house, under the wings of his parents, we resolved to make them happy without further delay.

As the law requires that the parties should be some weeks resident in the parish, we shall stay here till the ceremony is performed. Mr. Lifmahago requests that he may take the benefit of the same occasion; so that next Sunday they beams will be published for all four together.

I doubt I shall not be able to pass my Christmas with you at Brambleton Hall; indeed, I am so agreeably situated in this place, that I have no desire to shift my quarters; and I foresee, that when the day of separation comes, there will be abundance of sorrow on all sides. In the mean time, we must make the most of those blessings which Heaven bestows. Considering how you are tethered by your profession, I cannot hope to see you so far from home; yet the distance does not exceed a summer-day's journey; and Charles Dennison, who desires to be remembered to you, would be rejoiced to see his old companion; but, as I am now stationary, I expect regular answers to the epistles of yours invariably,

Oct. 11.


To Sir Watkin Phillips, Bart.

At Oxon.

Dear Wat, 

Every day is now big with incident and discovery. Young Mr. Dennison proves to be no other than that identical person whom I have execrated so long under the name of Wilson. He had elapsed from college at Cambridge, to avoid a match that he detested, and acted in different parts of the country as a stroller, until the lady in question made choice of a husband for herself; then he returned to his father, and disclosed his passion for Liddy, which met with the approbation of his parents, though the father little imagined that Mr. Bramble was his old companion Matthew Loyd. The young gentleman, being empowered to make honourable proposals to my uncle and me, had been in search of us all over England without effect; and he it was whom I had seen pass on horseback by the window of the inn, where I stood with my sister; but he little dreamed that we were in the house. As for the real Mr. Wilson, whom I called forth to combat by mistake, he is the neighbour and intimate friend of old Mr. Dennison, and this connexion had suggested to the son the idea of taking that name while he remained in obscurity.

You may easily conceive what pleasure I must have felt on discovering that the honour of our family was in no danger.
ger from the conduct of a sister whom I love with uncommon affection; that, instead of debasing her sentiments and views to a wretched strioler, she had really cultivated the heart of a gentleman, her equal in rank, and superior in fortune; and that, as his parents approved of his attachment, I was on the eve of acquiring a brother-in-law so worthy of my friendship and esteem. George Dennison is, without all question, one of the most accomplished young fellows in England. His person is at once elegant and manly, and his understanding highly cultivated. Though his spirit is lofty, his heart is kind; and his manner so engaging, as to command veneration and love, even from malice and indifference. When I weigh my own character with his, I am ashamed to find myself so light in the balance: but the comparison excites no envy; I propose him as a model for imitation. I have endeavoured to recommend myself to his friendship, and hope I have already found a place in his affection. I am, however, mortified to reflect what flagrant injustice we every day commit, and what absurd judgment we form, in viewing objects through the falsifying medium of prejudice and passion. Had you asked me, a few days ago, the picture of Wilton the player, I should have drawn a portrait very unlike the real person and character of George Dennison. Without all doubt, the greatest advantage acquired in travelling and perusing mankind in the original, is that of dispelling those shameful clouds that darken the faculties of the mind, preventing it from judging with candour and precision.

The real Wilton is a great original, and the best-tempered companionable man I ever knew. I question if ever he was angry or low-spirited in his life. He makes no pretensions to letters; but he is an adept in every thing else that can be either useful or entertaining. Among other qualifications, he is a compleat sportman, and counted the best shot in the county. He and Dennison, and Lifmahago and I, attended by Clinker, went a shooting yesternight, and made great havoc among the partridges. Tomorrow we shall take the field against the wood-cocks and snipes. In the evening we dance and sing, or play at commerce, loo, and quadrille.

Mr. Dennison is an elegant poet, and has written some detached pieces on the subject of his passion for Liddy, which must be very flattering to the vanity of a young woman. Perhaps he is one of the greatest theatrical geniuses that ever appeared. He sometimes entertains us with reciting favourite speeches from our best plays. We are resolved to convert the great hall into a theatre, and get up the Beaux Stratagem without delay. I think I shall make no contemptible figure in the character of Scrub; and Lifmahago will be very great in Captain Gibbet. Wilton undertakes to entertain the country people with Harlequin Skeleton, for which he has got a jacket really painted with his own hand.

Our society is really enchanting. Even the severity of Lifmahago relaxes; and the vinegar of Mrs. Tabby is remarkably dulcified, ever since it was agreed that she should take precedence of her niece in being first nosed: for, you must know, the day is fixed for Liddy's marriage; and the banns for both couples have been already once published in the parish-church. The captain earnestly begg'd that one trouble might serve for all, and Tabitha assented with a vile affection of reluctance. Her inamorato, who came hither very slenderly equipped, has sent for his baggage to London; which, in all probability, will not arrive in time for the wedding; but it is of no great consequence, as every thing is to be transacted with the utmost privacy. Meanwhile, directions are given for making out the contracts of marriage, which are very favourable for both females: Liddy will be secured in a good jointure; and her aunt will remain mistress of her own fortune, except one half of the interest, which her husband shall have a right to enjoy for his natural life. I think this is as little in confidence as can be done for a man who yokes with such a partner for life.

These expectants seem to be so happy, that if Mr. Dennison had an agreeable daughter, I believe I should be for making the third couple in this country-dance. The humour seems to be infectious; for Clinker, alias Lloyd, has a month's mind to play the fool, in the same fashion, with Mrs. Winifred Jenkins. He has even founded me on the subject; but I have given him no encouragement to prosecute this scheme. I told him I thought he might do better,
as there was no engagement nor promise 
subserving; that I did not know what de-
figs my uncle might have formed for, 
his advantage; but I was of opinion, 
that he should not, at present, run the 
risque of disobligeing him by any prema-
ture application of this nature. Hence 
Humphry protested he would suffer death 
sooner than do or say any thing that 
should give offence to the squire: but he 
owned he had a kindness for the young 
woman, and had reason to think she 
looked upon him with a favourable eye; 
that he considered this mutual manifesta-
tion of good-will as an engagement un-
derstood, which ought to be binding to 
the confidence of an honest man; and 
he hoped the squire and I would be of 
the same opinion, when we should be at 
leisure to beshow any thought about the 
matter. I believe he is in the right; and 
we shall find time to take his cafe into 
consideration. You see we are fixed for 
some weeks at least; and as you have had 
a long respite, I hope you will begin im-
mediately to discharge the arrears due to 
your affectionate 

J. MELFORD.


TO MISS LETITIA WILLIS, AT GLOU-
CESTER.

MY DEAR, DEAR LETTY!

NEVER did I sit down to write in 
such agitation as I now feel! In 
the course of a few days, we have met 
with a number of incidents so wonderful 
and interesting, that all my ideas are 
thrown into confusion and perplexity. 
You must not expect either method or 
coherence in what I am going to relate, 
my dearest Willis. Since my last, the 
aspect of affairs is totally changed!—and 
so changed!—But I would fain give you 
a regular detail. In paffing a river, about 
eight days ago, our coach was over-
turned, and some of us narrowly escaped 
with life. My uncle had well nigh per-
rified. O Heaven! I cannot reflect upon 
that circumstance without horror! I 
should have left my best friend, my fa-
thor and protector, but for the resolution 
and activity of his servant, Humphry 
Clinker, whom Providence really seems 
to have placed near him for the necessity 
of this occasion. I would not be thought 
superstitious; but surely he acted from a 
stronger impulse than common fidelity! 
Was it not the voice of Nature that 
lonely called upon him to save the life of 
his own father? For, O Letty! it was 
discovered that Humphry Clinker was 
my uncle’s natural son!

Almost at the same instant, a gentle-
man, who came to offer us his assistance, 
and invite us to his house, turned out to 
be a very old friend of Mr. Bramble: 
his name is Mr. Dennison, one of the 
worthiest men living; and his lady is a 
perfect saint upon earth. They have an 
only son. Who do you think is this only 
son? O Letty!—O gracious Heaven!— 
how my heart palpitates, when I tell you 
that this only son of Mr. Dennison is that 
very identical youth who, under the name 
of Wilton, has made such ravage in my 
heart! Yes, my dear friend! Wilton and 
I are now lodged in the same house, and 
converse together freely. His father ap-
proves of his sentiments in my favour; 
his mother loves me with all the tender-
ness of a parent; my unclie, my aunt, and 
my brother, no longer oppose my incli-
nations: on the contrary, they have a-
greed to make us happy without delay; 
and in three weeks or a month, if non-
foreseen accident intervenes, your friend 
Lydia Melford will have changed her 
name and condition. Nay, if no accident 
intervenes, because such a torrent of suc-
cess makes me tremble! I wish there 
may not be something treacherous in this 
shuddered reconciliation of fortune. I have 
no merit, I have no title, to such felicity! 
Far from enjoying the prospect that lies 
before me, my mind is harassed with a 
continued tumult, made up of hopes and 
whishes, doubts and apprehensions. I can 
 neither eat nor sleep, and my spirits are 
in perpetual flutter. I more than ever 
feel that vacancy in my heart which your 
preference alone can fill. The mind, in 
every disquiet, seeks to repose itself on 
the bosom of a friend; and this is such a 
trial as I really know not how to support 
without your company and counsel. I 
must therefore, dear Letty, put your 
friendship to the test: I must beg you 
will come and do the last offices of 
maidhood to your companion Lydia 
Melford.

This letter goes inclosed in one to our 
worthy governness, from Mrs. Dennison, 
entertaining her to interpose with your 
mamma, that you may be allowed to fa-
vour us with your company on this oc-
casion;
caision; and I flatter myself that no material objection can be made to our request. The distance from hence to Gloucester does not exceed one hundred miles, and the roads are good. Mr. Clinker, alias Lloyd, shall be sent over to attend your motions. If you step into the post-chaise, with your maid Betty Barker, at seven in the morning, you will arrive by four in the afternoon at the half-way-house, where there is good accommodation. There you shall be met by my brother and myself, who will next day conduct you to this place; where, I am sure, you will find yourself perfectly at your ease in the midst of an agreeable society. Dear Letty, I will take no refusal: if you have any friendship—any humanity—you will come. I defire that immediate application may be made to your mamma; and that, the moment her permission is obtained, you will apprise your ever-faithful

**Lydia Melford.**

**Oct. 14.**

**TO MRS. JERMYN, AT HER HOUSE IN GLOUCESTER.**

**DEAR MADAM,**

THOUGH I was not so fortunate as to be favoured with an answer to the letter with which I troubled you in the spring, I still flatter myself that you retain some regard for me and my concerns. I am sure the care and tenderness with which I was treated under your roof and tuition, demand the warmest returns of gratitude and affection on my part; and these sentiments, I hope, I shall cherish to my dying day. At present, I think it my duty to make you acquainted with the happy issue of that indirection by which I incurred your displeasure. Ah, Madam! the slighted Wilson is metamorphosed into George Dennison, only son and heir of a gentleman, whose character is second to none in England, as you may understand upon inquiry. My guardians, my brother, and I, are now in his house; and an immediate union of the two families is to take place in the persons of the young gentleman and your poor Lydia Melford. You will easily conceive how embarrassing this situation must be to a young unexperienced creature like me, of weak nerves and strong apprehensions; and how much the presence of a friend and confidante would encourage and support me on this occasion. You know that, of all the young ladies, Miss Willis was the that possessed the greatest share of my confidence and affection; and, therefore, I fervently wish to have the happiness of your company at this interesting crisis.

Mrs. Dennison, who is the object of universal love and esteem, has, at my request, written to you on this subject; and I now beg leave to reinforce her solicitation. My dear Mrs. Jermyn!—my ever-honoured governness!—let me conjure you by that fondness which once distinguished your favourite Liddy—by that benevolence of heart which dispenses you to promote the happiness of your fellow-creatures in general—lend a favourable ear to my petition, and use your influence with Letty's mamma, that my most earnest desire may be gratified. Should I be indulged in this particular, I will engage to return her safe, and even to accompany her to Gloucester; where, if you will give me leave, I will present to you, under another name, dear Madam, your most affectionate humble servant, and penitent,

**Lydia Melford.**

**Oct. 14.**

**TO MRS. MARY JONES, AT BRAMBLETON HALL.**

**O MARY JONES! MARY JONES!**

I have met with so many adventures, suprisals, and terrifications, that I am in a perfect fantastico, and believe I shall never be my own self again! Last week I was dragged out of a river like a drowned rat, and loft a bran-new night-cap, with a fullfur stay-hook, that cost me a good half-a-crown, and an odd shoe of green gallow-monkey; besides wetting my cloaths and taring my smock, and an ugly gash made in the back-part of my thy, by the thump of a tree. To be sure, Mr. Clinker stuck me out of the cox; but he left me on my back in the water, to go to the fquire; and I sought have had a watry grave, if a miliar had not brought me to the dry land. But, O! what choppings and changes, girl! The playerman that came after Miss Liddy, and frightened me with a beard at Bishol-Well, is now matthewinmurphy'd into a fine young gentleman, fon and hare of...
Squire Dollifon. We are all together in the same house, and all parties have agreed to the match, and in a fortnight the furymony will be performed.

But this is not the only wedding we are to have. Mistris is resolved to have the same frolick, in the name of God! Last Sunday in the parish-crutch, if my own ears may be trusted, the clerk called the banns of marriage betwixt Opaniah Lafimeygo, and Tapitha Brample, spinster: he mought as well have called her inkle-weaver, for the never spun and hank of yarn in her life. Young Squire Dollifon and Miss Liddy make the second kipple; and there might have been a turd, but times are changed with Mr. Clinker. O Molly! what do't think? Mr. Clinker is found to be a pye-blow of our own squire, and his rite name is Mr. Matthew Loyd, (thof God he nofe how that can he!) and he is now out of livery, and wares ruffles: but I new him when he was out at elbows, and had not a rag to kiver his pitferoers; so he need not hold his head so high. He is for fartin very unble and complefant, and purfuits as how he has the fame regard as before; but that he is no longer his own master, and cannot portend to marry without the squire’s content. He mays we munt wait with patience, and truft to Providence, and fitch nonfence. But if fo be as how his regard be the fame, why f tand fiilly-fally? Why not fitke while the iron is hot, and speak to the qiffer without loss of time? What fubjeftion can the qiffer make to our coming together? Thof my father wan’t a gentleman, my mother was an honelf woman. I didn’t come on the wrong fide of the blanket, girl: my parents were married according to the rights of holy mother-crutch, in the face of men and angles. Mark that, Mary Jones!

Mr. Clinker (Loyd I would fa) had belt look to his tackle: there be other chaps in the market, as the saying is, What would he fa? if I shoud except the foot and farviece of the young qiffer’s valley? Mr. Machappy is a gentleman born, and has been abroad in the wars. He has a world of buck learning, and speaks French, and Ditch, and Scotch, and all manner of outlandifh lingos: to be fure he’s a little the worfe for the ware, and is much given to drink; but then he’s good-tempered in his liquor, and a prudent woman mought wind him about her finger. But I have no thoughts of him, I’ll affure you. I forry for to do, or to fay, or to think, any thing that mought give unbreech to Mr. Loyd, without furder ocation. But then I have fuch vapours, Molly! I fit and cry by myself, and take afs of etida, and fmiil to burnt fathers, and kindal-fuffs; and I pray constantly for greafe, that I may have a gympfe of the new light, to fhow me the way through this wretched veil of tares; and yet I want for nothing in this family of love, where every foil is fo kind and fo courteous, that wan would think they are fo many fants in haven. Dear, Molly, I recommended myself to your prayers, being, with my farvice to Saul, your ever-loving and disconfounded friend,

WIN. JENKINS.

OCT. 14.

TO DR. LEWIS.

DEAR DICK,

YOU cannot imagine what pleafure I have in feeing your hand-writting, after fuch a long feflation, on your fide, of our correpondence: yet, Heaven knows, I have often seen your hand-writting with difguf; I mean, when it appeared in abbreviations of apotheccary’s Latin. I like your hint of making in- teref for the revefion of the collector’s place for Mr. Lifimahago, who is much pleafed with the scheme, and preffents you with his compliments and beft thanks for thinking fo kind of his concerns. The man feems to mend, upon farther acquaintance. That harf revere which formed a disagreeable hum about his character, begins to peel off in the course of our communication. I have great hopes that he and Tabby will be as hap- pily paired as any two draught animals in the kingdom; and I make no doubt but that he will prove a valuable acquisi- fion to our little fociety, in the article of converfation, by the fire-side in winter.

Your objeftion to my paffing this fea- fon of the year at fuch a distance from home, would have more weight if I did not find myself perfectly at my cafe where I am; and my health so much improved, that I am disposed to bid defiance to gout and rheumatism. I begin to think I have put myself on the superannuated lift too soon, and absurdly fought for health in the
the retreats of laziness. I am persuaded that all valetudinarians are too sedentary, too regular, and too cautious: we should sometimes increase the motion of the machine, to unstop the wheels of life; and now and then take a plunge amidst the waves of excess, in order to case-harden the constitution. I have even found a change of company as necessary as a change of air, to promote a vigorous circulation of the spirits, which is the very essence and criterion of good health.

Since my last, I have been performing the duties of friendship, that required a great deal of exercise, from which I hope to derive some benefit. Understanding, by the greatest accident in the world, that Mr. Baynard's wife was dangerously ill of a pleurisick fever, I borrowed Dennison's post-chaise, and went across the country to his habitation, attended only by Lloyd (quandam Clinker) on horseback. As the distance is not above thirty miles, I arrived about four in the afternoon; and meeting the physician at the door, was informed that his patient had just expired. I was instantly seized with a violent emotion; but it was not grief. The family being in confusion, I ran up stairs into the chamber; where, indeed, they were all assembled. The aunt stood wringing her hands in a kind of stupefaction of sorrow; but my friend acted all the extravagancies of affection: he held the body in his arms, and poured forth such a lamentation, that one would have thought he had lost the most amiable comfort and valuable companion upon earth.

Affection may certainly exist independent of efteeem; nay, the same object may be lovely in one respect, and detestable in another. The mind has a surprizing faculty of accommodating, and even attaching itself, in such a manner, by dint of use, to things that are in their own nature disengaged, and even pernicious, that it cannot bear to be delivered from them without reluctence and regret. Baynard was so absorbed in his delirium, that he did not perceive me when I entered, and desired one of the women to conduct the aunt into her own chamber. At the same time, I begged the tutor to withdraw the boy, who stood gaping in a corner, very little affected with the distress of the scene. These steps being taken, I waited till the first violence of my friend's transport was abated; then disengaged him gently from the melancholy object, and led him by the hand into another apartment; though he struggled so hard, that I was obliged to have recourse to the assistance of his valet de chambre. In a few minutes, however, he recollected himself, and, folding me in his arms—'This,' cried he, 'is a friendly office indeed! I know not how you came hither; but, I think, Heaven sent you to prevent my going distracted! O Matthew! I have lost my dear Harriet!—my poor gentle, tender creature, that loved me with such warmth and purity of affection—my constant companion of twenty years! She's gone!—she's gone for ever!—Heaven and earth! where is she?—Death shall not part us'

So saying, he started up, and could hardly be withheld from returning to the scene we had quitted. You will perceive it would have been very absurd for me to argue with a man that talked so madly. On all such occasions, the first torrent of passion must be allowed to subside gradually. I endeavoured to beguile his attention by starting little hints, and infinuating other objects of distemper imperceptibly; and being exceedingly pleased in my own mind at this event, I exerted myself with such an extraordinary flow of spirits as was attended with success. In a few hours, he was calm enough to hear reason, and even to own that Heaven could not have interposed more effectually to rescue him from disgrace and ruin. That he might not, however, relapse into weakness for want of company, I passed the night in his chamber, in a little tent-bed brought thither on purpose; and well it was I took this precaution, for he started up in bed several times, and would have played the fool, if I had not been present.

Next day he was in a condition to talk of business, and visited me with full authority over his household, which I began to exercise without loss of time, though not before he knew and approved of the scheme I had projected for his advantage. He would have quitted the house immediately; but this retreat I opposed. Far from encouraging a temporary difficulty, which might degenerate into an habitual aversion, I resolved, if possible, to attach him more than ever to his household gods. I gave directions for the funeral to be as private as was consistent
confident with decency: I wrote to Lon-
don, that an inventory and estimate might
be made of the furniture and effects in
his town-house, and gave notice to the
landlord, that Mr. Baynard should quit
the premises at Lady-day; I set a perfon
at work to take account of every thing
in the country-house, including horses,
carriages, and harness; I settled the
young gentlewn at a boarding-school,
kept by a clergyman in the neighbourhood,
and thither he went without reluctance,
as soon as he knew that he was to be
troubled no more with his tutor, whom
we dismission. The aunt continued very
full, and never appeared at table, though
Mr. Baynard paid his respects to her
every day in her own chamber; there
also he held conferences with the waiting-
women and other servants of the fa-
mily: but, the moment her niece was
interred, he went away in a post-chaise
prepared for that purpose. She did not
leave the house, however, without giving
Mr. Baynard to understand, that the
wardrobe of her niece was the perquisite
of her woman: accordingly, that worth-
less drab received all the clothes, laces,
and linen, of her deceased mistress, to
the value of five hundred pounds, at a
moderate computation.

The next step I took was to disband
that legion of supernumerary doveshies,
who had prayed so long upon the vitals
of my friend; a parcel of idle drones, so
intolerably insolent, that they even treated
their own master with the most con-
temptuous neglect. They had been ge-
neral hired by his wife, according to
the recommendation of her woman, and
there were the only patrons to whom they
paid the least deference. I had therefore
uncommon satisfaction in clearing the
house of those vermin. The woman of
the deceased, and a chamber-maid, a valet
de chambre, a butler, a French cook, a
mater gardener, two footmen, and a
coachman, I paid off, and turned out of
the house immediately, paying each a
month's wages in lieu of warning. Those
whom I retained, consisted of a female
cook, who had been a servant in the French-
man, a house-maid, an old lacquy, a
position, and under-gardener. Thus I
removed at once a huge mountain of ex-
pense and care from the shoulders of my
friend, who could hardly believe the evi-
dence of his own senses, when he found
himself so suddenly and so effectually re-
lied. His heart, however, was still sub-
ject to vibrations of tenderness, which
returned at certain intervals, extorting
fights, and tears, and exclamations of
grief and impatience: but these fits grew
every day less violent and less frequent,
till at length his reason obtained a com-
plete victory over the infirmities of his
nature.

Upon an accurate enquiry into the state
of his affairs, I find his debts amount to
twenty thousand pounds, for eighteen
thousand pounds of which sum his estate
is mortgaged; and as he pays five per
cent. interest, and some of his farms are
unoccupied, he does not receive above two
hundred pounds a year clear from his
lands, over and above the interest of his
wife's fortune, which produced eight hun-
dred pounds annually. For lightening
this heavy burden, I devised the follow-
ing expedient. His wife's jewels, toge-
ther with his superfluous plate and furni-
ture in both houses, his horses and car-
rriages, which are already advertised to be
sold by auction, will, according to the
estimate, produce two thousand five hun-
dred pounds in ready-money, with which
the debt will be immediately reduced to
eighteen thousand pounds. I have under-
taken to find him ten thousand pounds at
four per cent, by which means he will
save one hundred a year in the article of
interest, and perhaps we shall be able to
borrow the other eight thousand on the
same terms. According to his own scheme
of a country life, he says he can live com-
fortably for three hundred pounds a year;
but, as he has a son to educate, we will
allow him five hundred; then there will
be an accumulating fund of seven hun-
dred a year, principal and interest, to pay
off the incumbrance; and, I think we
may modestly add three hundred, on the
presumption of new-leasing and improv-
ing the vacant farms: so that, in a couple
of years, I suppose there will be above a
thousand a year appropriated to liquidate
a debt of sixteen thousand.

We forthwith began to class and set
apart the articles designed for sale, under
the direction of an upholsterer from London;
and that nobody in the house might be
idle, commenced our reformation without
doors, as well as within. With Baynard's
good leave, I ordered the gardener to turn
the rivulet into it's old channel, to refresh
the fainting Naiads, who had so long lan-
guished among mouldering roots, wither-
ed leaves, and dry pebbles. The shrubbery is condemned to extirpation; and the pleasure-ground will be restored to its original use of corn-field and pasture. Orders are given for rebuilding the walls of the garden at the back of the house, and for planting clumps of trees, intermingled with beech and chestnut, at the east end, which is now quite exposed to the furious blasts that come from that quarter. All these works being actually begun, and the house and garden left to the care and management of a reputable attorney, I brought Baynard along with me in the chaise, and made him acquainted with Dennison, whose goodness of heart would not fail to engage his esteem and affection. He is indeed charmed with our society in general, and declares that he never saw the theory of true pleasure reduced to practice before. I really believe it would not be an easy task to find such a number of individuals assembled under one roof, more happy than we are at present.

I must tell you, however, in confidence, I suspect Tabby of tergiveration. I have been so long accusæted to that original, that I know all the caprices of her heart, and can often perceive her designs while they are yet in embryo. She attached herself to Lifmahago for no other reason but that she despairs of making a more agreeable conquest. At present, if I am not much mistaken in my observation, she would gladly convert the widowhood of Baynard to her own advantage. Since he arrived, she has behaved very coldly to the captain, and strove to fall on the other's heart, with the hooks of overstrained civility. These must be the instinctive efforts of her constitution, rather than the effects of any deliberate design; for matters are carried to such a length with the lieutenant, that she could not retract with any regard to conscience or reputation. Besides, she will meet with nothing but indifference or averion on the side of Baynard, who has too much sensé to think of such a partner at any time, and too much delicacy to admit a thought of any such connexion at the present juncture. Meanwhile, I have prevailed upon her to let him have four thousand pounds at four per cent. towards paying off his mortgage. Young Dennison has agreed that Liddy's fortune shall be appropriated to the same purpose, on the same terms. His father will sell out three thousand pounds stock for his accommodation. Farmer Bland has, at the desire of Wilton, undertaken for two thousand; and I must make an effort to advance what further will be required to take my friend out of the hands of the Philistines. He is so pleased with the improvements made on his estate, which is all cultivated like a garden, that he has entered himself as a pupil in farming to Mr. Dennison, and resolved to attach himself wholly to the practice of husbandry.

Every thing is now prepared for our double wedding. The marriage articles for both couples are drawn and executed; and the ceremony only waits until the parties shall have been resident in the parish the term prescribed by law. Young Dennison betrays some symptoms of impatience; but Lifmahago bears this necessary delay with the temper of a philosopher. You must know, the captain does not stand altogether on the foundation of personal merit. Besides his half-pay, amounting to two and forty pounds a year, this indefatigable economist has amassed eight hundred pounds, which he has secured in the funds. This sum arises partly from his pay's running up while he remained among the Indians; partly from what he received as a consideration for the difference between his full appointment and the half-pay, to which he is now restricted; and partly from the profits of a little traffic he drove in peltry, during his fachanship among the Miamis.

Liddy's fear and perplexities have been much allayed by the company of one Miss Willis, who had been her intimate companion at the boarding-school. Her parents had been earnestly solicited to allow her making this friendly visit on such an extraordinary occasion; and two days ago the arrived with her mother, who did not chuse that she should come without a proper gouvernante. The young lady is very sprightly, handsome, and agreeable, and the mother a mighty good sort of a woman; so that their coming adds considerably to our enjoyment. But we shall have a third couple yoked in the matrimonial chain. Mr. Clinker Loyd has made humble remonstrance, through the canal of my nephew, setting forth the sincere love and affection mutually subsisting between him and Mrs. Winifred Jenkins, and praying my consent to their coming.
coming together for life. I would have wished that Mr. Clinker had kept out of this scrape, but as the nymph’s happiness is at stake, and she had already some fits in the way of despondence, I, in order to prevent any tragical catastrophe, have given him leave to play the fool, in imitation of his betters; and I suppose we shall in time have a whole litter of his progeny at Brambleton Hall. The fellow is stout and lusty, very sober and conscientious; and the wench seems to be as great an enthusiast in love as in religion.

I wish you would think of employing him some other way, that the parish may not be overstocked. You know he has been bred a farrier, consequently belongs to the faculty; and as he is very docile, I make no doubt but, with your good instruction, he may be, in a little time, qualified to act as a Welsh apothecary. Tabby, who never did a favour with a good grace, has confented, with great reluctance, to this match. Perhaps it hurts her pride, as she now confiders Clinker in the light of a relation; but, I believe, her objections are of a more selfish nature. She declares she cannot think of retaining the wife of Matthew Loyd in the character of a servant; and the foresight, that on such an occasion, the woman will expect some gratification for her past services. As for Clinker, exclusive of other considerations, he is so trulily, brave, affectionate, and alert, and I owe him fuch personal obligations, that he merits more than all the indulgence that can possibly be showered on him, by yours,


TO SIR WATKIN PHILLIPS, BART.
AT OXON.

Dear Knight,

The fatal knots are now tied. The comedy is near a close, and the curtain is ready to drop: but the latter scenes of this act I shall recapitulate in order. About a fortnight ago, my uncle made an excursion across the country, and brought hither a particular friend, one Mr. Baynard, who has just left his wife, and was for some time disconsolate, though by all accounts he had much more cause for joy than for sorrow at this event. His countenance, however, clears up space; and he appears to be a person of rare accomplishments. But we have received another still more agreeable reinforcement to our company, by the arrival of Miss Willis from Gloucester. She was Liddy’s bosom friend at boarding-school, and being earnestly solicited to assist at the nuptials, her mother was so obliging as to grant my sister’s request, and even to come with her in person. Liddy, accompanied by George Dennison and one, gave them the meeting half-way, and next day conducted them hither in safety. Miss Willis is a charming girl, and, in point of disposition, an agreeable contrast to my sister, who is rather too grave and sentimental for my turn of mind. The other is gay, frank, a little giddy, and always good-humoured. She has, moreover, a genteel fortune, is well-born, and remarkably handlime. Ah, Phillips! if these qualities were permanent—if her humour would never change, nor her beauties decay, what efforts would I not make! But these are idle reflections. My destiny must one day be fulfilled.

At present we pass the time as agreeably as we can. We have got up several farces, which afforded unspeakable entertainment by the effects they produced among the country people, who are admitted to all our exhibitions. Two nights ago, Jack Wilton acquired great applause in Harlequin Skeleton, and Lifemahago furprized us all in the character of Piorot. His long lank sides, and strong marked features, were all peculiarly adapted to his part. He appeared with a ludicrous air, from which he had discharged all meaning: he adopted the impressions of fear and amazement so naturally, that many of the audience were infected by his looks; but when the skeleton held him in chace, his horror became most divertingly picturesque, and seemed to endow him with such preternatural agility as confounded all the spectators. It was a live representation of Death in pursuit of Consumption, and had such an effect upon the commonality, that some of them shrieked aloud, and others ran out of the hall in the utmost consternation.

This is not the only instance in which the lieutenant has lately excited our wonder. His temper, which had been soured and shrivelled by disappointment and chagrin, is now swelled out, and smoothed like a raisin in plum-porridge. From being referred and punctilious, he is be-
come easy and obliging. He cracks jokes, laughs and banter, with the most facetious familiarity; and, in a word, enters into all our schemes of merriment and pastime. The other day his baggage arrived in the waggon from London, contained in two large trunks and a long deal-box not unlike a coffin. The trunks were filled with his wardrobe, which he displayed for the entertainment of the company; and he freely owned, that it consisted chiefly of the opima florea taken in battle. What he selected for his wedding-suit, was a tarnished white cloth, faced with blue velvet, embroidered with silver: but he valued himself most upon a tye-periwig, in which he had made his first appearance as a lawyer above thirty years ago. This machine had been in buckle ever since; and now all the servants in the family were employed to frizz it out for the occasion, which was yesterday celebrated at the parish church. George Dennison and his bride were distinguished by nothing extraordinary in their apparel. His eyes lightened with eagerness and joy, and she trembled with coyness and confusion. 'My uncle gave her away, and her friend Willis supported her during the ceremony.

But my aunt and her paramour took the pas, and formed, indeed, such a pair of originals, as, I believe, all England could not parallel. She was dressed in the style of 1739; and the day being cold, put on a mantle of green velvet faced with gold; but this was taken off by the bridegroom, who threw it over her shoulders a fur cloak of American fables, valued at fourscore guineas, a present equally agreeable and unexpected. Thus accoutred, she was led up to the altar by Mr. Dennison, who did the office of her father: Lifmahago advanced in the military step with his French coat reaching no farther than the middle of his thigh, his campaign wig that surpasses all description, and a languishing leer upon his countenance, in which there seemed to be some thing arch and ironical. The ring, which he put upon her finger, he had concealed till the moment it was used. He now produced it with an air of self-complacency. It was a curious antique, set with rote diamonds: he told us afterwards, it had been in his family two hundred years, and was a present from his grandmother. These circumstances agreeably flattered the pride of our aunt Tabitha, which had already found uncommon gratification in the captain's generosity; for he had, in the morning, presented my uncle with a fine bear's skin, and Spanish fowling-piece, and me with a cafe of pistols curiously mounted with silver. At the same time he gave Mrs. Jenkins an Indian purse, made of silk grafts, containing twenty crown pieces. You must know, this young lady, with the assiduity of Mr. Loyd, formed the third couple who yesterday sacrificed to Hymen. I wrote to you in my last, that he had recourse to my mediation, which I employed successfully with my uncle; but Mrs. Tabitha held out till the love-sick Jenkins had two fits of the mother; then he relented, and those two coining turtles were caged for life. Our aunt made an effort of generosity in furnishing the bride with her superfluities of cloaths and linen, and her example was followed by my sister; nor did Mr. Bramble and I neglect her on this occasion. It was, indeed, a day of peace-offering. Mr. Dennison insisted upon Liddy's accepting two bank-notes of one hundred pounds each, as pocket-money; and his lady gave her a diamond necklace of double that value. There was, besides, a mutual exchange of tokens among the individuals of the two families thus happily united.

As George Dennison and his partner were judged improper objects of mirth, Jack Wilton had resolved to execute some jokes on Lifmahago, and after supper began to ply him with bumpers, when the ladies had retired; but the captain perceived his drift, begged for quarter, al ledging that the adventure in which he had engaged was a very serious matter; and that it would be more the part of a good Christian to pray that he might be strengthened, than to impede his endeavors to finish the adventure. He was spared accordingly, and permitted to alced the nuptial couch with all his fences about him. There he and his comfort sat in state, like Saturn and Cybele, while the benediction posset was drank; and a cake being broken over the head of Mrs. Tabitha Lifmahago, the fragments were distributed among the bystanders, according to the custom of the ancient Britons, on the supposition that every person who ate of this hallowed cake, should that night have a vifion of the man or woman whom Heaven designed should be his or her wedded mate.
The weight of Wilfon's wagery fell
upon honest Humphry and his fpoefe,
who were bedded in an upper room,
with the usual ceremony of throwing the
focking. This being performed, and the
company withdrawn, a fort of catter-
wauling ensued, when Jack found means
to introduce a real cat ffood with walnut-
shells, which galloping along the boards,
made such a dreadful noise as effectually
distempered our lovers. Winifred screamed
aloud, and shrunk under the bed-
cloaths. Mr. Loyd, believing that Satan
was come to buffet him in propria per-
iona, laid aside all carnal thoughts, and
began to pray aloud with great fervency.
At length, the poor animal, being more
afraid than either, leaped into the bed,
and meauled with the most piteous ex-
clamation. Loyd, thus informed of
the nature of the annoyance, rose and set
the door wide open, so that this troubleome
wagrant retreated with great expedition;
then furcuring himfelf by means of a dou-
ble bolt, from a second intrusion, he was
left to enjoy his good fortune without
further disturbance.

If one may judge from the looks of the
parties, they were all very well fatisfied
with what has passed. George Dennifon
and his wife are too delicate to exhibit
any strong-marked figns of their mutual
fatisfaction, but their eyes are sufficiently
expressive. Mrs. Tabitha Lifmahago is
rather fulome in signifying her approba-
tion of the captain's love; while his
deportment is the very pink of gallantry.
He fighes, and ogles, and languifhes at
this amiable object; he fighes her hand,
mutters ejculations of rapture, and fighes
tender airs; and no doubt laughs inter-
ally at her folly in believing him sincere.
In order to fhow how little his vigour was
impaired by the fatigue of the preceding
day, he this morning danced a Highland
farbrand over a naked back-fword, and
leaped fo high, that I believe he would
make no contemptible figure as a vaulter
at Sadler's Wells. Mr. Matthew Loyd,
when asked how he refiftes his bargain,
throws up his eyes, crying—' For what
we have received, Lord make us thank-
ful: amen.' His helpmate giggles, and
holds her hand before her eyes, af-
fecting to be afhamed of having been in
bed with a man. Thus all these widgeons
enjoy the novelty of their fituation; but
perhaps their note will be changed, when
they are better acquainted with the nature
of the decoy.

As Mrs. Willis cannot be persuaded
to stay, and Liddy is engaged by promise
to accompany her daughter back to Glou-
celfer, I fancy there will be a general mi-
gration from hence, and that most of us
will spend the Chriftmas holidays at Bath;
in which cafe, I fhall certainly have an op-
portunity to beat up your quarters. By
this time, I fuppofe, you are sick of alma
mater, and even ready to execute that
scheme of peregrination, which was last
year concerted between you and your af-
fectionate

Nov. 8.

To Dr. Lewis.

Dear Doctor,

My niece Liddy is now happily set-
tled for life; and Captain Lifmah-
ago has taken Tabby off my hands; fo
that I have nothing further to do, but to
comfort my friend Baynard, and provide
for my fon Loyd, who is alfo fairly
joined to Mrs. Winifred Jenkens. You
are an excellent genius at hints. Dr.
Arbuthnot was but a type of Dr. Lewis
in that refpect. What you obferve of the
vfefty-clerk deferves conflagration. I
make no doubt but Matthew Loyd is
well enough qualified for the office; but,
at prefent, you must find room for him in
the house. His incorruptible honesty and
indefatigable care will be serviceable in
superintending the economy of my farm;
though I do not mean that he fhall inter-
fere with Barns, of whom I have no caufc
to complain. I am just returned with
Baynard, from a second trip to his house,
where every thing is regulated to his fa-
tisfaction. He could not, however, re-
view the apartments without tears and
lamentations fo that he is not yet in a
condition to be left alone; therefore I will
not part with him till the fpring, when he
intends to plunge into the avocations of
husbandry, which will at once employ
and amufe his attention.' Charles Den-
nifon has promifeed to fay with him a
fortnight, to fet him fairly afloat in his
improvements; and Jack Wilfon will fee
him from time to time; besides, he has a
few friends in the country, whom his new
plan of life will not exclude from his fo-
ciety. In lefs than a year, I make no
doubt, but he will find himfelf perfectly
at eafe both in his mind and body, for the
one had dangeroufly affected the other; and
and I shall enjoy the exquisite pleasure of
seeing my friend rescued from misery and
contempt.

Mrs. Willis being determined to re-
turn with her daughter, in a few days,
to Gloucester, our plan has undergone
some alteration. Jerry has persuaded his
brother-in-law to carry his wife to Bath;
and I believe his parents will accompany
him thither. For my part, I have no
intention to take that route; it must be
something very extraordinary that will
induce me to visit either Bath or Lon-
don. My sister and her husband, Bay-
nard and I, will take leave of them at
Gloucester, and make the best of our way
to Brambleton Hall, where I desire you
will prepare a good chine and turkey for
our Christmas dinner. You must also
employ your medical skill in defending
me from the attacks of the gout, that I
may be in good case to receive the rest of
our company, who promise to visit us in
their return from the Bath. As I have
laid in a considerable stock of health, it
is to be hoped you will not have much
trouble with me in the way of phytick,
but I intend to work you on the side of
exercise. I have an excellent fowling-
piece from Mr. Lismahago, who is
a keen sporting man, and we shall take
the heath in all weathers. That this scheme
of life may be prosecuted the more effec-
tually, I intend to renounce all seden-
tary amusements, particularly that of
writing long letters; a resolution which,
had I taken it sooner, might have saved
you the trouble which you have lately
taken in reading the tedious epistles of


Nov. 20:

TO MRS. GWYLLIM, AT BRAMBLE-
TOW-HALL.

Good Mrs. Gwyllim,

HEAVEN, for wife purpo\se\s, hath
ordained that I should change my
name and citation in life, so that I am
not to be considered any more as man-
ger of my brother's family; but as I
cannot surrender up my stewardship till
I have settled with you and Williams, I
defire you will get your accounts ready for
inspection, as we are coming home with-
out further delay. My spouse, the cap-
tain, being subject to rummaticks, I beg
you will take great care to have the baw
chamber, up two-pair of stairs, well
warmed for his reception. Let the fishes
be secured, the crevices stopped, the car-
pets laid, and the beds well touffled.

Mrs. Loyd, late Jenkins, being mar-
rried to a relation of the family, cannot
remain in the capacity of a farvant; there-
fore I wish you would cast about for
some creditable body to be with me in
her room. If she can spin, and is mistress
of plain-work, so much the better: but
the must not expect extravagant wages;
having a family of my own, I must be
more economical than ever. No more
at present, but rels your loving friend,

Tab. Lismahago.

Nov. 20.

TO MRS. MARY JONES, AT BRAM-
BLETON HALL.

Mrs. Jones,

Providinch hath bin pleased
to make great halteration in the paf-
ture of our affairs. We were yesterday
three kipple chined, by the grace of God,
in the holy bands of muttermoney, and
I now subcrire myself Loyd at your
fervice. All the parith allowed that
young fquire Dallifon and his bride was
a compety pear for to fee. As for Mad-
am Lalthmiheygo, you nose her pick-
elletries. Her head, to be sure, was fin-
tatical; and her spouse had rap't her with
a long marokin furze cloak from the land
of the felviges, tho' they say it is of im-
nence bally. The captain himself had
a huge haffock of air, with three tails,
and a tumbadry coat, boddered with sul-
fur. Wan faid he was a monkey-bauk;
and the ould bottler fwore he was the born
imich of Tittidall. For my part, I says
nothing, being as how the captain has
done the handfome thing by me. Mr.
Loyd was dres'd in a lite frog, and
checket with gould binding; and tho' he
don't enter in caparison with great
folks of quality, yet he has got as good
blood in his veins as arrow privet squire
in the county; and then his pursing is
far from contentible. Your humble
farvant had on a plain pea-green tabby
fack, with my Rumela cap, ruff tou-
péé, and side-curls. They faid I was
the very moral of Lady Rickmanstone,
but not fo pale; that may well be, for her
her layship is my elder by seven good years and more. Now, Mrs. Mary, our fatiety is to suppurate; Mr. Millfart goes to Bath along with the Dallisfons, and the rest of us puff home to Wales, to pafs our Chrifhmarfh at Bramleton Hall. As our apartment is to be the yellow pepper, in the third story, pray carry my things thither. I refent my compliments to Mrs. Gwyllum, and I hope the and I will live upon difbffent terms of civility. Being, by God's blessing, removed to a higher fpear, you'll excuse my being familiar with the lower fervants of the family; but, as I trust you'll behave refpeftful, and keep a pro- per dittance, you may always depend upon the good will and purtection of yours,

W. Loyd.

Nov. 20,

FINIS.
PR 3694 H8 1785
Smollett, Tobias George
The expedition of
Humphry Clinker