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The mirror: a periodical paper, published at Edinburgh in the years 1779 and ...

1. [The mirror: a periodical paper, published at Edinburgh in the years 1779 and ...](#)

The mirror: a periodical paper, published at Edinburgh in the years 1779 and ...

Henry Mackenzie

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THE

M I R R O R.

Jl PfiRiODiCAt Faper^ publiihed at XdxmbuRG^ in the years 1779
and 17804

Veluti in fpecuh.

f IN .THREE* VOLUMES.

V O L ^ ^IH.

EDINBURGHr

PriHtcd for W. CREE*t«, Edinburgh \ and W.Strahan, and T. Cadeli.,
London^

MDCCLXXXI.

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THE

M I R R O R.

N^o75. Tuesday, January 2^d. 1780.

To the AuTHQR of the Mirror.

S I R ^ \ '

1 Remark, that you meddle not with the high matters of politics. For this, you must answer to yourself, being that you are able to write printed papers. I am a member of eighty-five societies, all zealous for the liberty of the press, in conformity with, and in conformity to, our establishment. I think that you are at liberty to write of those things only whereof you have understanding; and, if to be, that, by reason of your silence, you abuse, or, as one may say, vilipend the liberty of the press, judge you yourself; as for me, I say nothing.

But, although you give us no news yourself - perhaps you have something to say with

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1 The Mirror. N^o75.

the gentlemen who make the news; and, if so, I hope that you will recommend it to them so to write, as that they may be understood of men who are not book-learned.

They, being book-learned gentlemen, write in divers tongues, whereby we poor simple men are at a loss and Europe may be overthrown by compact and associations, or ever we can understand the danger.

Not many days' ago, I read in the news, that some good men put up an advertisement on a statue, with this superscription, *pro patria mori*, and that the superscription rejoiced all honest hearts. I inquired of our dear son, who received the rudiments of his education at the grammar-school of Leimahagoe what was the meaning of the words and he made answer, that the words were Latin, and that he thought they would be found in the Latin Dictionary; the which having got, I, on searching, discovered, that *pro* signified for the sake of and that *patria* meant his native country, and that *mori* signified foolishly and silly persons.

Wherefore, by joining together the words, I conjectured, moreover, that the interpretation of *pro patria mori* was foolishly or silly persons

persons

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N^o 75- The Mistake

persons for the sake of their native country; or that, they who are for their native country are foolish and silly persons*

Now, Sir, if so be that this is so, I moreover conjecture, that the honest men who put up the advertisement and they who rejoiced thereat, were deceived through ignorance of the Latin tongue, and that to them there was no cause of rejoicing.

Of that tongue I think no good : It is reported amongst us, that the
map is written in it, the which I renounce, and also abominate, &c. I
am. Sir, your Honour's^a to serve you at command,

TIMOTHY SHUTTLEWORTH.

P. S. Weaving performed in all its branches at reasonable rates ; also,
cloth taken in for the Dalquharn bleachfield*

My worthy correspondent Mr Shuttleworth, in the after part of his
letter, intrufts me with his sentiments concerning some very
momentous subjects •, but I should not deserve the honour

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4 T H E ' M I R R O R. KPy^r*

nour of his friendship, were I to impart to the public what has been
communicated to me in confidence.

Not knowing his direction, and not having been favoured with a
cipher from him, I can only say, that " that n. p. had no more in[<]^{^^}
fluence in the matter of the r.[^]. and the [^] p, b. than the — m—n of the
— m—n 5 and ^{^^} of this Mr Shuttleworth may rest assured.*

With respect to the Latin words, which have been the innocent cause
of so much uneasiness to him, they are taken from a Roman poet, . but
no Roman Catholic ; in metre, accommodated to the course of my
friend's flu^{**} dies, they signify.

That for our fathers' land to die, it is a comely

thing. •

As, indeed, / meddU not with the high matters of politics I shall only
add, that it is to be hoped there are very few who consult Shut[^]
tsworth's dictionary.

Since I have been desired to advise the Authors of news-papers to write intelligibly, I cannot say anything on that subject, lest my silence should be construed into an acknow^{*}

ledgement.

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6 The M x r r o[^] r. H[^] jf[^]

her sensations, has much of the family-dissipation. If the wind sets in to the east-, then? we are betrayed; and abandoned, and left people 5 but, on the wind coming round to the west, what nation so glorious and wellgoverned as ours ? Our perfidious enemies[^] will know what it is to rouse the Lion, to annoy the Thistle. or to put the Harp out of tune.

Such being the disposition of readers apt to be depreiled or elevated on every occasion, or on no occasion, the writers of news papers ought to be cautious as well in slackening as in over-bracing the nerves of their customers. and the only method I can recommend forv attaining this happy medium[^] is ^{**} that they^{**} report nothing but what they believe to be ^{*} true;" or, if that be to require too much of[^] fleth and blood, ^{*} that they report, nothing^{*} ♦^{*} which they believe to be fictitious."

•* The Britannia, Captain George Manley "commander, is totally lost on the coast of^{**} Barbary ; every soul on board perished.*"

On board the Britannia, there was the only son of a widow whose single fund of subsistence depended on that pittance of his wages which her dutiful child allotted to her. In.

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N[^] 7?' The M i e i t o r. f

the fame fhlp there was a fober and indufirious young man, who had quitted his wifer a few months, after marriage, that be might provide for a young creature whom he hoped? to fee in its mother's arms at his return.

** It is confidently reported, that iixor fevcnr *^ men of the, crew of the Britannia got fafe•' ly to ihore, and that they were made flaves# « unlefs, as is to be feared, they were mur** dered by the natives." Here there is a gleam of miferable and dubious hope darting on the minds of thofe who had relations oa> board the Britannia;

^* The Britannia is fafcly arrived ^at* Port^ ** Mahon^ fo that.the report of her having" " been loft is without foundation." — The inference is moft logical I

In the very next paragraph,.it is faidj "We ** have the pleafure of informing the public,, _«* that a capital figure-dancer will foon make** his appearance on the ftage."

Are not fuch things to be founds in thenews-papers of every week ? and is it not a* cruel fporting with the fcnfibilities of human ■ nature, thus to wring the fouls of parents and wives, of the aged.and the helplefs, and that merely to fill up the columcs-of a news-paper I,

It.

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t The M I h r 0 k. N°7jr

It Is of high national importance that thfe Tery earlleft notice fhould be given of the near appearance of a figure-dancer ; but, furely there was no neceffitj of faying any thing of the Britannia, in wboie fate the fates of. fa many little families were involved, until it fhould have been certainly known whether {he was wrecked^ or had fafely arrived in port.

Of late years there has been a practice crept into of making the newspapers not only the vehicle of public intelligence, but also of the misfortunes, real or imaginary, of private families. For example, " We hear that Mrs * Gadabout was lately detected in an illicit * commerce with her husband's postilion, and " that a process of divorce will be brought, **' &c.

Invention immediately busies itself in accounting for this incident. After the first ceremonies of surprise and deep regret, the education of the lady is scrutinized; it was too* frugal, or it was too loose : The character of the husband is laid before the inquest of good* tips : He was morose and fullen, or he set an example of extravagance and libertinism which poor Mrs Gadabout inconsiderately followed.^ Then some one, more expert in tracing down

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IP 75* The Mirror. jp

to their cause^ recollecting having heard of something^ of a like nature befall the family many years ago; and that the grand aunt of Mrs Gadabout's father, if common fame lie not, fell aside with the Duke of Buckingham, when he attended Charles II. into Scotland*

In this state of uncertainty, things remain for a week or two, when fresh intelligence is communicated to the public. ^^ The report * of Mrs Gadabout's* affair is premature. — **^The former article was copied from an*. ** other paper.—We hope that all concerned « will accept of this apology." Doubtless a most satisfying apology to all concerned 1

The writers of news-papers^ are the historians of the day ; but I feel no cause why they^ should be the historians of the lie of the day«

NP7^.

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N⁷* Saturday, January i<). I'jZo.

REFINEMENT and delicacy of mind are not more obfervable in our ferious occupations, than in the ftyle of pur amufcxnents. Of thofe who poflefs them, the moft vacant hours will generally be informed by tafte, or enlivened by imagination; but, with men dcftitute of that fcntiment which they infpire, pleafure will conimonly degenerate in* to groilhefs, fociality into intemperance^ and mirth into riot.

. Mr Melfort. is one of my friend Mr Untm fbraville^s early acquaintance, who continue* to refidevin this city, and of whom he ftill re* tains fome remembrance.

That gentleman, in his youth, had applied to the iludy of the law, and was admitted to the bar; but, having foon after fucceeded to a tolerable fortuae, he derives no other benefit from his profeffion than an apology for refiding part of the year in town, and fuch a general acquaintance there, as enables him to ipend his time in that fociety which \ \$ futed

t^

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N⁷* The M x r e o r. if

to his difpofition. He is often, indeed, to be feen in court; but he comes there only as he docs to the coffee-houfe, to inquire after the news of the day, or to form a party for fome of thofe dinners which he ufually gives.

In my friend's laft vifit to town, he met with this gentleman, and came under an en* gagement to dine with him. I was afked to be of the party, and attended him according

The company was a large one. Beside Mrs Melfort and her two daughters, there were three other young ladies who appeared to be intimate in the family. The male part of the company was still more numerous. It consisted, beside our landlord, Mr Umphraville[^] and myself, of two lawyers, a physician, a jolly looking man in the uniform of a sea-officer, and a gentleman advanced in life, who had somewhat of the air and manner of a foreigner, and, I afterwards learned, had left this country at an early age, and lived chiefly abroad ever since.

Mr Umphraville[^] who was seated next Mrs Melfort[^] attended not less pleased with the conversation, than with the manners of that lady* who is indeed perfectly well bred and accomplished[^]

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La, T -H E M I t t R o l t. N^o 76.

accomplished; and the stranger, whose name was Melville appeared equally to relish the spirit which distinguished the discourse of Mr Umphraville. I had early observed him to mark my old friend, as a member of the company not the least worthy of his attention.

The dinner was succeeded by a series of toasts, during which the ladies received scarce any other mark of attention from the company, Mr Umphraville[^] Mr Melville[^] and myself, excepted, than that of Mr Melfort's calling for their toasts, which he always distinguished by desiring us to fill a bumper.

immediately after this ceremony was ended, they withdrew ; a circumstance which seemed nowise disagreeable to the company they left, the greatest part of whom had hitherto sat mute, and plainly felt the presence of the ladies a restraint on the freedom and jollity of conversation.

They had no sooner retired, than Mr Melville[^] raising himself in his chair, announced a bumper to the ladies who had left us, an order

which was readily complied with, and seemed to spread an air of satisfaction around the table. The sea-captain said, he was glad the frigates had sailed off; * and now,**

added

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N°7^ The Mirror. 13

added he, " if you please, Mr Melfort^ as the ^ signal is given, we may clear the decks^ and ** form the line of battle.**

The Captain's joke was applauded with a loud laugh; during which honest Umphraville^ whose face is so hypocrite, cast to my side of the table a look of displeasure and contempt* which I was at no loss to interpret. Meantime the servants removed one half of the table, that we might sit sociably, as Mr Melville fort termed it, round the other which was ^ immediately furnished with a set of fine glasses, and cleared of every incumbrance that might retard the^ circulation of the bottle.

Our friends who had been so silent during the presence of the ladies, now began to take their revenge, and enlarge their (share of the conversation in proportion to the number of bumpers they swallowed : they vied with each other in the number of their stories and their jokes; all of which seemed to be equally re^ lished; and not the fact so, that they now became somewhat loose and licentious.

Mr Melville had at first endeavoured, tho* in a very easy and polite manner, to give somewhat of a genteel turn to the conversation ; but he could not though supported Vol. III. B by

^ ^ Digitized by Google^^

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by a good deal of wit and vivacity, could not long withstand the general disposition of the company. He now found himself as little able

to relish their merriment as Mr Umphraville next whom he was feasted and they had begun to enter into conversation of a very different kind, when Umphraville received a flap on the shoulder from one of the company, who at the same time reminded him that he was hunted.

My friend was at first startled with a familiarity to which he was little accustomed; having recovered his composure, however, he thanked the gentleman, though with an air rather formal and reserved, for his attention, and drank off his bumper; but having, it seems, left a little more than was proper in the bottom of his glass, he was saluted with a call of "No heeltaps!" from another corner of the table. This enigmatical advice being explained to him, he complied with it also, saying, however, with his natural firmness of tone and manner, "That it was his rule to fill and drink his glass when and how he pleased; and that, as he had already gone greater lengths than usual, Mr Melfort must excuse him if he did not depart from it."

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I felt that Mr Umphraville was now heartily tired of the company, and was not far from withdrawing when, a little after this incident, both he and Mr Melville withdrew. Having remained long enough to witness some jocular remarks to which this gave occasion, I followed them to the drawing-room, where I found they were much more agreeably employed in drinking coffee with Mrs Melfort while one of her daughters obliged my old friend, by playing some Scots airs upon the harp, which the other accompanied with a voice equally sweet and impressive.

The conversation which succeeded was supported, in an easy agreeable manner, by Mr Melville and the ladies, with that mixture of serious remark which made it not unpleasant to Mr Umphraville; nor would he suffer in their opinion by the part he occasionally took in it. The

silent approbation of his countenance, during the performance of the young ladies, and the observations which it gave him an opportunity of making on the character of our native music, had already made the old gentleman a favourite; nor were the rest of the company displeased with the turn of his sentiments, when he complained, that the draw* B 2 ing

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id T H I E M I R R O K. N^o 7ti

ing-rooms where, in his younger days, the ladies and gentlemen were accustomed to the company of each other, were now almost totally deserted; and that, as far as he could observe, amidst the boasted refinement of modern manners, the gentlemen paid less attention to the ladies, both in public places and in private society, than they had done fifty years ago.

After some time passed in this manner, the noise of laughter and of vociferation on the stairs announced the approach of Mr Melfort and his company. The physician, and one of the lawyers, were indeed the only members of it who had chosen to attend him to the drawing-room 5 both of whom were prodigiously flattered; and yet, to my astonishment, they contrived to put a decent face upon it, and fell into fewer improprieties than could have been expected. A drawing-room, however, was not their element; and, after swallowing a little coffee, they withdrew, leaving Mr Melfort fast asleep in a corner of the settee,

Mr Umphraville and I took our leave. We were scarce out of the house when he exclaimed,

^ ■ ' Digitized by Google

.NP'j6. The M i r k o r. 17

** 0 rus^ quando eg9 te aspiciam ? "

And, after a little pause, "Good God! laid he, "Charles can such scenes be com- " mon at poor Melfort's? To what a degree must he have lost all respect for himself, and all taste for true happiness who, for such society as we have this day witnessed, can forego the agreeable conversation of his own family, or who can allow the elegance of their amusements to be disturbed by the intrusion of his loose and riotous companions?"

I represented to my friend, that he saw the matter in too strong a light. I observe, that the excess, on this occasion, had probably been greater than usual; Mr Melfort was nowise singular in the manner of entertaining his friends; that, in this country, the general opinion justified the observation of the poet, "Fecundi calices quern non feere difertum" that wine tends to remove the natural reserve of our manner, and give a proper degree of ease and spirit to our conversation. As to the appearance of Melfort and his friends in the drawing-room, I observed, that a little habit made the occasional intrusion

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i, 18 THE MIRROR. N° 76.

intrusion of a drunken company be considered as a sort of interlude, which ladies could bear without uneasiness; and, at any rate, as it was an equal chance that their future husbands would give such dinners, and receive such guests, as their father did, it might not be improper to accustom them, in their earlier days, to a species of conversation and behaviour which they must afterwards be obliged to endure.

"Ay," says he, "Charles this is your way; the follies of mankind are familiar to you, and you are always ready to find an apology for them; but I, who, for many years, have only heard of them, cannot be supposed to bear their defects with as much patience, I am sick of this town of yours; and, though I could have as much pleasure as any man in witnessing such elegant manners, and partaking in such agreeable conversation, as we know and

enjoyed during a * part of this evening, if I mufl* purchafe it, " by
(harling in the intemperance, the noife, ** and the folly which
preceded it, flould you ** wonder if I long to return to- my books and
?«my folitude?»* K

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N^ 77. Tuesday, Telruary i. 178©^

All impediments in fancys courfe^ Are motives of more fancy. .

Shak£spearb»

A Mid ST the ▼ariety ciF objcdls around us^ pbilofophers have
frequently been eo ployed in pointing out and diAinguifhing thofe
which are the fources of pleafure> and tholie which are produAive of
pain; they have ea* deavoured alfo to inveftigate the caufes and the
qualities in the different objects by which thefe effects are produced. I
fufpect that, in many cafes, we muft be obliged to have recourse to
the original conftitution of our frame, and that the moft penetrating
philofophical inquirers can often go no farther than to fay, thus^
Nature has made vs.

But whatever may be the original fources of our pleafure and pain^ it
is certain that there are various circumAances which may be pointed
out, as adding to or diminifhing both the one and the other y
circumftanccs by which

tbiCi

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20 The Mirror. N^77.

the warmth of expeAation may be heightened or allayed^ and the
pangs of difappointment increafed or mitigated.

It i\$ a common obferyatioQy the juftice of vrhich, I believe, will not be
difputed, that every paiBon increafes according to the difficulty there

is in its gratification. When once a desire for a certain object is raised every opposition which occurs to the attainment of it provided it be not such as cuts off all hopes of succeeding, and every perplexity and embarrassment thrown in the way, when the mind is engaged in the pursuit, inflames the desire; the object becomes heightened and exaggerated in our ideas, the mind grows more attached to it, and the expectation of enjoyment from the possession is increased.

To account for this appearance in our nature it may be observed, that nothing is so apt to make an object figure in the imagination, as to have our attention long and earnestly fixed upon it. This makes it appear more and more lively and more desirable. If it be an object of desire, it appears more and more calculated to give pleasure; if an object of aversion, it appears more and more calculated to produce pain. Every time we view it, there is

aa

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Kr⁷⁷- The Mirror. zt

an addition made to the impression we have received. The passion it has already given us will continue and the passion it has created receives additional force. If the object be pleasant, the mind dwells upon its good, if disagreeable upon its bad qualities; it broods over them, it amplifies, it exaggerates them.

Now, no circumstance is so much calculated to fix the attention upon any particular object as those difficulties which arise in our pursuit of it. The mind, unwilling to be overcome, cannot think of submitting to a defeat, or of giving up those expectations of enjoyment which it has formed. Every little opposition, therefore, that is met with, every obstruction thrown in the way, calls forth a fresh consideration of the object. We take a view of it in its every form, to try if we can get the better of those difficulties, and remove those obstructions. The object itself, meanwhile, gains complete possession of the soul. It swells and heightens in our imagination, and is no longer seen as it is by other

men, nor as it would be by the same person, were other objects allowed to have a place in his mind, or to divide his attention.

From this circumstance in our nature[^] that

fixing

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aa The Merchant, N[^] 77

fixing our attention upon any one object, or set of objects, is apt to increase or heighten them in our imagination; a variety of remarks might be made, tending to illustrate the history of the human heart* It is owing to this circumstance, that a general lover seldom forms an attachment to any particular object. It is from the same cause, that the gentleman who follows no particular profession seldom exaggerates the advantages of any one. It is the merchant who limits his views solely to commerce that sees in too strong a light the advantages of trade; it is the man of learning, who is shut up within the walls of a college, that exaggerates the advantages of literature; it is the scholar who confines himself to one branch of science that is the complete pedant. The moral philosopher wonders how any man can be occupied by the dry unpleasant study of the mathematics, while the curious fabric of the human mind remains unexplored. The mathematician is equally surpris'd that any man should compare the certainty of mathematical evidence to the vague inquiries of the moral philosopher. The geometrician, who, by the intreaty of his friend Si was prevail'd with to read the Culo

Corneille[^]

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N[^]77* The Merchant & his A. a}

Corneille wondered that any body should admire a thing in which nothing was proved.* And the learned Budaeus[^] when he was writing

his treatise concerning the Roman as[^] being interrupted by his mal-
servant, who told him the house was on fire[^] bid her go tell his wife[^]
for that he did not mind family-matters.

It would far exceed the bounds of this paper to exhaust this subject[^]
or to take notice of the different remarks which may be drawn from
it, either with regard to human sentiments and conduct, or in relation
to the fine arts *. I shall, therefore, confine myself to one other
observation, on a point which has[^] been treated of by Mr Addison in
the 4th Number of the Spectator[^] where he justifies^{^^} again: the
ruling passion at that time, the practice of those writers of tragedy
who disregard what are called the rules of poetical justice. To his
defence of that practice, I think we may add one argument, which
seems to have escaped him, drawn from the effect[^] of the opposition
above mentioned to heighten our passion for a particular object,

- Sec Emotions of Criticism,

There

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t4 The Mirror. N^o 77.

There is implanted in the mind of every man a desire that virtue
should be followed by reward) and vice by punishment. But this desire,
like every other, gathers new strength by opposition, and rises upon
refinance. When, therefore, a virtuous man, amidst all his Virtue, is
represented as unhappy, that anxiety which we feel for his happiness
becomes* so much the greater; the more undeserved calamities he
meets with, the higher is that principle raised, by which we desire that
he should attain an adequate reward; the more he is environed and
perplexed with difficulties, the more earnestly do we wish that he may
be delivered from them all; and, even when he is cut off by
premature death, we follow his memory with the greater admiration;
and our respect and reverence for his conduct is increased so much the
more, as all our prayers for his happiness, in this life, are
disappointed.

On the other hand* with regard to the vicious, nothing excites ^o
ftstrongly our indignation againft vice, or our defire that it {hould" be
puni&^d, as our beholding the vicious fuccefsful, and, in the midfi; of
his crimes, ^n* joying prosperity. Were we always to fee ibe vicious
man meeting with a proper punifhment

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.lf^77' The M i r a o t. .ay

nifluneot for his guilt, wretched and unhappy, our eagerneis for his
punifhment would fub-> iide, and our hatred agaioft him would he
converted into pity; his guilt would be forgoty and his misfortunes
only would affeft us. Before the trial of an atrocious criminal^ xhe
unanimous voice of the public iS| that he fhould be led out to
punifhment. Suppofe liim condemned^ how altered is that voice ! His
fate is now univerfally pitied and deplored ; and, did not the fafety of
thoufands depend on his fuffering, hardly, in any cafe^ ihould we fee
the laws, of juftice finally put la execution.

There can be no good reafon, therefore^ for obferving the rules of
what is called foetU caljuftice. The cfFeft which a departure from
ihefe rules produces, afford* the higheft poffible teftimony in favour of
virtue. It fliews, that, where virtue meets with calamities and
idifappointments, this, inftead of leflening it la our eftimation, only
attaches us fo much the more warmly to its interefts •, and that,
where vice is fuccefsful, inftead of creating a feeling in its favour, this
only increafes our indignation againft it. Were virtue always
fortunate.

Vol. III. C were

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^ T H £ . M I R R o R. N^77

^wcre vice always unprofperous, that principle •would be enfeebledd*
by which we defire the reward of the one, and the puni(hment of the

•other.

N⁷⁸.

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N⁷⁸. Saturday, February 5. lySa

To the Author of the Mirror.

Sir,

THE praises of friendship and definitions of the happiness arising from it I remember to have met with in almost every book and poem since first I could read. I was never much addicted to reading and, like this instance, I think, I have little reason to put confidence in authors. How it may be in their experience, I know not but, in mine this same virtue of friendship has tended very little to my happiness; on the contrary, Sir, when I tell you my Situation, you will find that I am almost ruined by my friends.

From my earliest days, I was reckoned one of the best-natured fellows in the world; and, at school, though I must confess I did not acquire so much learning as many of my companions; yet, even there, I was remarkable for the acquisition of friends. Even there too, I acquired them at some expence; I was cross-flogged.

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78 The Mirror. N⁷⁸.

flogged, I dare say, a hundred times, for the faults of others, but was too generous ever to peach; my companions were generous fellows too but it always happened, I don't know how, that my generosity was on the losing side of the adventure*

I had not been above three years at college, when the death of an uncle put me in possession of a very considerable estate. As I was not violently inclined towards literature, I soon took the opportunity which

this prefctcd nic of leaving the univerfiiy, and entering, ttpon the.:world. I put myfelf under the tui-r lion of one of my companions, who generally fpent the vacationsy and indeed fome of the terms too, in London, and took up my refi* dence in that city^ There I needed not that propenfity which, I have told you, I always poffeffed, to acqiiirc ar multitude 6i friends ; f found myfelf furrounded by them in every tavern and coffee-houfe about town. But I foon experienced, that, though the commodity waff plenty, the price was high> Befides a confiderable mortgage oh my eftate, of which one of my beft friends contrived to poffiefs himfelf, I was obliged to expofe my life- in a couf4e of duels, and had very near loft it by

difeafe.

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N® 78"- The M i r k a r. 79^

difeafe, in that courfe of friendfhip which I underwent in the - metropolis. All this was more a focial facrifice to others, than a grati-* fication to myfelf. Naturally rather of a fo^ ber difpofition, I found more frequently difguft than pleafure amidft thofe fcenes of dI Giipation in which I was engaged. I was oftea obliged to roar out a catch expreffive of our happinefs, at the head of a long table in a ta* vern, though I would have almoft exchanged my place for the bench of a galley-flave ; and to bellow for a bumper, when i would as foon have fwallowed the bittereft drug in the (hop €f my apothecary^

From this fort of bondage I contrived to emancipate myfelf by matrimony. I married the fifter of one of my friends^ a girl goodnatured and thoughtlefs like myfelf, whh . whom I foon after retired into the country,, and fet out upon what we thought a fober well-regulated plan. The fituation was fodiftant, as to be quite out of the reach of my former town-K:ompanions; provifions w^f^ cheap, and fervants faithful j in fhort, every thing fo circumftanced, that we made no doubt erf living confiderably withm our income. Our inaaner of lif^ however, was to be as happy C 3 . m

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30 The Mirror. N^{^*}.^{**};

as prudent. By the improvement of my estate, I was to be equally amused and enriched; my skill in foreign languages (for I had acquired that science to great perfection at the university) was to procure vigour to my constitution, and dainties to my table; and, O! gainst the long nights of winter, we were provided with: an excellent neighbourhood.

The first-mentioned article is the only one which we have found come entirely up to our expectations. My talent for/«V«[^]-w/2[^]i«[^] has indeed extended the limits of neighbourhood a good deal farther than the word is commonly understood to reach. The parish, which it is not a small one, the county, which is proportionally extensive, comes all within the denotation of neighbourhood with us; and my neighbour^{C^j^}ry, who pays mean annual tribute of several weeks, lives at least fifty miles off.

Some of those neighbours, who always become friends at my house, have endeavoured to pay me for their entertainment with their advice as to the cultivation of my farm, or the management of my estate; but I have generally found their counsel, like other friendly exhortations, put me out of pocket in the end,

- . Theirs

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N[^] 7^{*}- T H B M X R R O K. Jf

Their theories of agriculture failed in the practice of them; and the ingenious men they recommended to me for tenants seldom paid their rent by their ingenuity. One gentleman, in particular, was so much penetrated by my kindness and hospitality[^] that he generously communicated to me a project he had formed[^] which he showed me to be infallible[^] for acquiring a great fortune in a very short time, and offered me an equal share in the profits[^] upon my advancing the sum

of L. 500, to enable him to put his plan more speedily into execution. But, about a twelvemonth after, I was informed that his project had miscarried[^]. and that my L. 500 was lost in the wreck of it. This gentleman is almost the only one of my friends, who, after having been once at my house, does not choose to frequent it again.

My wife is not a whit less happy in acquiring friends than myself. Besides all her relations, of whom (for I chose a woman of family) she has a very great number, every lady flies to her at visits, at church, or at the yearly races in our country-town, is so instantaneously charmed with her manners and conversation that she finds it impossible to leave our

part

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32 The Mirror. N^o 78.

part of the country without doing herself the pleasure of waiting on Mrs Hearty at her own house. Mrs Hearty's friends are kind enough to give advice too, as well as mine. After such visits, I generally find some improvement in the furniture of my house, the dresses of my wife, or the livery of my servants.[^]

The attentions of our friends are sometimes carried farther than mere words or visits of compliment; yet, even then, unfortunately[^] their favours are just so many taxes upon us. When I receive a present of a delicate fat[^] tureen, or a nice haunch of venison[^] it is but a signal for all my good neighbours to come and eat it at my expence ; and, some time ago, when a nephew of my wife settled abroad, sent me a hog(head of excellent claret, it cost me, in entertainments for the honour of the liquor, what might have purchased a tun from the wine-merchant.

After so many instances in which misfortune's shifts were hurtful to my fortune, I wished to hit on the way of making some of them beneficial to it. For this purpose, my wife and I have, for a good while past,

been employed in looking out for some snug office, or recreation, to which my interest with several powerful

friends

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N^yS[^] The M r r r o r. gj

friends might recommend me* But, some 1

how or other/ our expectations have been al- |

ways disappointed ; not from any want of in- •

clination in our friends to serve us, as we have been repeatedly assured but from various unforeseen accidents, to which expectations of that sort are particularly liable. In the course of these solicitations I was led to engage in the political interests of a gentleman, on whose influence I built the strongest hopes of success in my own schemes and I flattered myself, that, from such friendly footing on which I stood with my neighbours, I might be of considerable service to him. This, indeed, he is extremely ready to acknowledge, though he has never yet found an opportunity of returning the favour; but, in the mean time, it kept my table open to all his friends as well as my own, and cost me, besides, a headache twice a-week during the whole period of the canvass.

In short, Mr Mirror, I find I can afford to keep myself in friends no longer. I mean to give them warning of this my resolution as speedily as possible. Be so good, therefore, as inform such of them as read your paper, that I

have

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34 T H J a M I R R o R. N[^] 78.

have shut my gates, locked my cellars, turned off my cook, disposed of my dogs, forgot my acquaintance^ and am resolved henceforward^ let people say of me what they will, to be no one's friend but my own*

I am, &c.

JOHN HEARTY.

NO 7s^.

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N^o 79* To ESDIT, February Z. 1780;

■ Tanto major fama Jitis est quam virtutibus Juvenal, Sat. 10.

To the Author of the Mirror.

S I R,

There is, perhaps, no character in the world more frequent than that of your negatively good man; people who strictly conform to the laws of decency and good order in society, whose conduct is squared to the rules of honesty and morality, and yet who never did one virtuous or laudable action from the day of their birth. ' Men of this sort seem to consider life as a journey through a barbarous country, occupied by savages, and overpread with dangers in every quarter. Their only wish is to steer the safest course, to escape any hidden snares or precipices^ and to avoid exasperating the enemy \. but, to win them by offices of kindness or attach them by real for* vices, they consider as a fruitless waste of time.

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315 The Mirror. N^o 79.

a needless expence and often a dangerous experiment.

It is not a little surprizing that these good J^ohns should, by the decency of their exterior deportment, so far impose upon the ' world as to glide on with ease and safety, to arrive often at riches and eminence, and, from being free of the censure of every species of open vice, to obtain not uncommonly the reward which is due to virtue.

You> Mr Mirror, like some other rigid moralists, seem, from the general strain of your writings, to require something more towards the formation of a good man than the mere absence of evil, or the mere livery of goodness* It must be allowed, however, that, by a scrupulous observance of certain rules of decorum, and a timely use of the vocables of W^tp[?], the exterior and visible part of the character is to be attained, which for most of the useful purposes of life, seems to be quite sufficient. But, as there are still a few who go a little deeper, and are scrupulous enough to require a purity of heart as well as of manners, it is pity, that those sincere good people should lose all recompense for the sacrifice they make of many comfortable gratifi-

cations,

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No 79* The M i r & o k* 37

cations, while they see the rewards of virtue as certainly attained at a much smaller expence.

From my concern for the few I have mentioned, I have been considering whether it were not possible to devise some means of making those of the former character, some standard by which the two classes might be compared, or of a balance which should show the difference of weight and solidity of such objects as have a similar appearance. I think| Sir, I have been successful, and shall now propose to you my plan..

Imprimis, I lay it down as a rule, that mca fliall not be judged of by the aftions they perform, but by fiich as they do not perform. Now, Sir, as thofe ufcful chronicles of fafts, called newS'paperSi have hitherto been only the records of what men have been daily a-doing, I propofe to publifli a news-paper of a different kind, which ihall contain the daily intelligence of all fuch things as are not done.

For the benefit of fuch as chufe to encourage my undertaking, I fend you a fpecimea of the work, which I can fafely promife, and hereby engage, fhall contain more in quantity than any other periodical regifter whatever. Vol. III. D "Saturday

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3*' The Mirror. N® yy.

" Saturday laft, being the feftival of Chrifft'* mas, a day which the late worthy Sir Tho

**^ mas W ufed to commemorate by giving

*' a warm dinner to all the poor of the pariflii ** the fame was^ celebrated by his fan, the pre** fent Sir Thomas, 'with no folemny what* ** ever.*'

*' Tefterday George B —, Efq; who, by " the death of an uncle, fucceedcd htely to ** an eftate of L. 4000 per annimtj gave no ** anfwer to five charity-letters from the na*^ tural children of his deceafed relation, and *' their mother, who works hard for their ^ maintenance.*'

. '^ In the courfe of laft week four poor people *^ died in the ftreet, — owing to the great in* •« clemency of the feafon/*

«< On Friday the 24th ult. the Puke of ■ ♦* vifited the Royal Infirmary of this city, and, ** after perufing the lift of contributrons to ." that humane and nfcful foundation, was

" pleaded to give a pinch of snuff to the

" gentleman that stood next him." :

" It was confidently reported, some days ago

<»' go, that C W , Esq; had paid his

father's debts; but this, we are assured, is without foundation."

♦«In

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N⁷⁹ T H B M I R R o R. j9

" In the action lately brought by E. L. a pauper against her son-in-law, Lord — for an alimony, several eminent counsel being applied to in behalf of the plaintiff, refused to take any concern in so shameful a prosecution."

" W. P. Esq; who lately sustained, a considerable loss by play, has not, as was asserted, sold his hunters and pack of harriers. He has only dismissed his chaplain, and cut off the allowance of five hundred pounds dole on whom his father bestowed annual pensions."

" Whereas it has been reported, that R. V, Esq; who some time ago made a composition with his creditors of five shillings in the pound, has of late given several entertainments of three, courses we are desired to inform the public, from the best authority, viz. his butler, that the said gentleman never gives more than two courses and a dessert."

" Last night between the hours of nine and ten, a fire broke out in the kitchen of R. H, Esq; which, after burning with some violence for two hours, was happily extinguished. It did no farther damage than the consumption of fuming

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40 The Mirror. N^o 79

•* fuming of about 20 lb. of coals. It is surprising how very few such accidents have happened of late years.**'

M

Such, Mr Mirror[^] is the nature of the paper which I propose to give daily intelligence of whatever is omitted to be done in this city and its environs. Besides the recommendation of novelty, its general usefulness must be so apparent, that I can have very little doubt of its extensive circulation. I am,[^]

S I R,

Your most obedient servant[^]

INTEGRAL;

To the Author of the Mirror.

Sir,

I Am one of a family of young Ladies who read your paper, with which we have been hitherto tolerably well pleased, though we could wish it were not quite so grave[^] and had a little more love[^] in it. But we have found

out,.

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N^o 79' The Mirror.. 49

but, perhaps late[^] that it is none of your own, but mostly borrowed from other people. A cousin of ours who is himself a fine scholar, and has a great acquaintance among the critics, showed us many different

instances of this. Your first paper, he told us, was copied from the first
 paper of the Spectator\ and, upon looking into both, we found them
 exactly the same, all about the author and the work from beginning to
 end. Your Umphraville^ he said, \fdi^ just Sir Moger de Coverley \
 which we perfectly agreed in, except that my sister Betsey obfer* vcd,
 Umphravilk wanted the Widow^ which all of us think the very best
 part of Sir Roger^ Tour Bobby Button, he assured us, was borrowed
 from N^ 13. of the True Patriot, published by Mr Fielding, who writes
 Tom Jones %, and there, indeed, we found there was a story of a
 young gentleman who liked French, wine better than his country, just
 like Sir Bggby. N° 72. which we thought a very weef paper, he
 informed us was taken from the. Night Thoughts \ and indeed,
 though we don*c understand Latin^ we saw plainly,, that the Mottos
 were the same to a TJS)fAW this, how* ever, we might have
 overlooked, had not a •gentleman, who called here this morning,, D J
 who*

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42 The Mirror or Rc K^7s^

who used formerly to be a great advocate for the Mirror, confessed to
 us^ that our cousin's intelligence was literally true ; and, more than all
 that, he told us, that your very last; number was to be found, CYcry
 'word of it in Johnson's Dictionary.

VTt fend you, therefore, notice, Sir, that unless you can contrive to
 give us something new for the future, we (shall be obliged to
 countermand our subscription for the Mirror. We can have a reading
 of a fresh N<h vel every mornings for the money, with a /pick and/pan
 new story in it, such as none of us ever read or heard of in all our
 lives be^ ibre.

Yours, &c.

EVELIN-A.

N<'8ou

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fJ^So. Sattthday, FeBraarx 12. 1780. ^Ex fuma dare he em.

Cogttaty ut fpeciqfa dehinc miraculo promat*

AUTHORS have been divided into two claiTesi the iafruAive and the entertaining, to which has been added a thirds whomix, according to Horace, the •* utiie dulci^ and are, in his opinion, intitled to the higheft degree of applaufc.

Readers complain^ that, in none of thefe departments is there, in modern writing, much pretention to originality. In fcience, they fay, fo much has been already difcavered, that all a modern writer has left is, to -explain and enforce the fyftems of our prcdeceflbr^ 5 and, in literature, our fathers have fo exhausted the acutenefs of reaſoning, the fialhes of wit, the luxuriance of defcription,^ and the invention of incident,, that an author now-a-days can only give new form, not matter, to his argum^&t) anewturn^ not thought, to his

epigram \

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44 The Mirror. N^ 8a.

epigram; new attitudes, not objeft, to his piAure; new language^ not iituation, to his ftory.

Hqwever true this cooaphiim iB^y b^ in the main^ there is One clafs of writers to whom the charge of triteaefs ddes^ 1 apprehend, very lhtk apply. They ari generally oi the ^rft fpecifesf mentioned above, who publifh ufeful information to mankind ; yet, in the laft quarter of the i-Sth century, their information is often as new as if tk^y bad written in t>he- IOBm fianry of art and of fi:ien<:«i when every &sld Was opentoth« tefcarehes of iridarfi:ry,,and the invention of genius. The writers I alhide . to, are the authors of tnofc little eflays which appear in the learned world under the title of

-ADVERTISEMENT,

the necessary and ornamental arts of life are equally the objects of the efforts of authors whom I describe. In both, I will endeavour to shew, that the novelty of their productions is equal to their usefulness.

It was formerly imagined, - that disease was an evil which mankind had inherited as a punishment for the lapse of their progenitor, Milton has given, in his Paradise Lost, a catalogue of some of those tormenting maladies

which.

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No. The Mirror »• 45:

which were to be felt by the race of fallen Adam. - So has Dr Dominici in an advertisement, which is now lying before me; but, with the most extraordinary force of original discovery, has informed us that, in his treatment of those disorders, there is no evil, no pain, but, on the contrary, much pleasure, and even luxury. «* / engage[^] says the Doctor, " with pleasure, and even luxury, to the ** patient[^] to increase or diminish the vital heat[^] *' and the circulatory[^] secretory[^] and excretory [^]functions ;. to /often and relax the too hard ** and dry muscular and nervous fibres[^] and " contracted ligaments; and to harden and make " compact[^] and give the proper tone and elasticity[^] ** city to the too moist and flabby muscular and " nervous [fibres and relaxed fibres[^] Sy and produce[^] *' vide and establish an equilibrium between the [^]fluids and vessels; to sweeten acrid corrosive; ** and saline- humours and to cure the dropsy[^] j ^ asthma consumptions[^] colic[^] gravelly rheu[^] _ ** matism[^] palsy pleurisy[^] and feversy fevers[^] * and gouty scurvy and leprosy j to moisten and " and destroy inveterate callosities to, detergi[^] ** and cure [^]burnt ulcers[^] ' &c. *

** These are not the representations of a [^] [^]accidents bill y I detect the arts of quackery are

*« muck

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4\$ T H e M I It R o 1. N^So.

^* much ^as any/nidn livings J deal not fn lio^ •* ft rums or myfieriest
or magic or expedUnt t» <* captivate :

f Hon fibi» f^d totq geoutcim ft cr^d<re maivdo.^'

If he who invented, one ^ new pleafure ii^as formerly thought intitled
to.imperial munifcepcei what reward does the DoAor defery^ iH^ho
has added as many luxuries to tha U{1 as there,are difeafes In the
catalogues o£

' Quv own country has tl;e honour of pro-i dXKJng an author, who, in
an advertlfemeiH paabiifhed aot long ago^ has - added to the.
ftoaces.. Q£].naturai hifiory- the .foUowing . yeryi cwicnw fa<3ts, with
regiu'4\to the ^properties, of air and heat.. ..kfr Faify mafpn>
oppoGte .tft ^hc White-Hart Ino, Grafts-. Market, Edin-i ^rgh> thus
delivers himfelf <>«, the fubjeftof fn^miatks. y 4tr {jLnifrmke^^' f^ys
he, *' are. ** tiMO tlaftjc fluidsia ^<^P.^PM 9f being condeujed
^^and^^xpande^. Htnt^yor^^hi^jiTe in th ^*£rate, \expands ike .o/>./
U/i}ig expanded, «' it becomes ligbUr. ^"A,nd% as it is in nature ^^for
light matter tofwim to the t<^ ofheavier^ ^ it^ rJfes. up tkf. v^nt,
carryings tie, /moke a

<« long

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N^8o. The M x r & o r» 47

^ long with it. This is the principle by ivbich ^^fire bumSy and fmoke
afcends. No'w^ that ^' the particles of air may be brought above the
*^firef that, they may be heated to expand and ** carry off the fmokej

Jboul be the chief care ** of a mafon in finifbing of the fire^placeu ^*
On the contrary^ it is the caufe of fmoke.^

** The other caufe of fmoke is the wind. Wind ^* is a current of the air
always rufhing inf\$ ^* voids. At the fame time it goes forward by ^*
the law of gravity^ it has a tendency to\$ ** prefs downwards. Now,
when it blows over ** any one obje^t higher than the chimney-top^ ^*
gravity brings it downward^ P^^ffi^g il>9 ^fmoke before it^

It will be obferved)' that, like many other great theorifts, Mr Fair ufes
a language in fome places a little obfcure \ and that, in others, at
where he mentions the tendency of wind to prefs downwards, his
exprefion borders on the jocular ; a liberty in which fome of the
greateft philofophers have frequently indulged.

Thofe difcoveries, however new and aftonifhing, are not
fuficiently ftriking. But I have juft now read an advertisement, which
carries its information beyond the bounds of fpace and

time

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4^ The Mirror. N^JJo;

time and, though the modefty of its author allows that fhe has
borrowed fomething from the Enchanter's Magic, may fairly be deemed an
original. ^ Mrs Corbyn, 4^N^4i. Stanhope's ^ftreet in Clare-market^
London^ by the genuine rules of the real aftronomical arcana^ «for
which the Wife men of the Eaft 'mere fi ** noftei^ undertakes to
anfwer all legal objections" ** logical queftions, in a moft furprifing manner
tier. Continues to give the moft amazing accounts of perfons by fea
and land. Gives at f* tendants at the warehoufe every day from **
ten in the morning to eight at night. The wife men of the Eaft, and
fome other aftrologers might perhaps retail fome predictions ; but the
idea of a warehoufe of prophecy was, I am perfuaded, referved for
3frj Corbyn of Clarendon market.

In the ornamental department of science has there been any thing, since the "days of Medea that could so effectually give beauty 40 homeliness, or restore youth to age, as the CircaJJian Wafhy or the Venetian Flower-iva' ter ? ' or has the cunning of art ever rivalled the productions of nature more successfully than in the Elajic Cushion and Spring Curls^ «** "which,^ says the advertiser, '*' are as

** natural

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N^ 80. _ The M i r r o r . 49

*' natural and becomings nay^ by many thought ** morefo^ than the natural hair itself?^

Nor is the merit of those gentlemen much inferior, where they apply arts already discovered to purposes which ^their inventors never dreamed of. Socrates was said to have brought down philosophy from heaven to dwell with men. I think the same eulogium may be fairly bestowed on the very ingenious artifice who has informed us in an advertisement, ** That he makes leather breeches by the ^* rules of trigonometry."

Having thus done justice to the merit of those authors, in point of substance, I proceed to show their excellence in the composition and style of their productions. Amidst a variety of instances, I shall make choice of one, merely because it strikes my view in last night's Public Advertiser. It is the production of a very voluminous writer in this department, Mr Norton of Golden-Square.

" £. S. Gent, of Tenterden in Kent, was •* long afflicted with an inveterate scorbutic ** disorder* It first broke out in hot pimples ♦* and dry scales all over his face; then appeared in great blotches on various parts of *' his body^ and oedematous swellings in his legs^^
.Vol. III. E ^^-which

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50 TijE MiRK0it. N°80.

•* which terminated in dreadful excoriations, ** and foetid ulcers, j^ll this was attended with •* a total loss of appetite^ and, at last, with **such extreme languor and debility^ that the " poor gentleman was utterly dejected by •• several of the most eminent of the faculty ^ who attended him ; till^ at last by the pro^ ^* providential discovery in the news^papers of the *« efficacy of Maredant's drops, by taking a ^^few bottles of them, all the above terrible *^ symptoms began gradually to disappear^ his ** appetite returned, his complexion regained '• its pristine bloom, his skin became as smooth ** as that of a new born babe, and his flesh r^«< covered the hollows and elasticity of the ** most vigorous habit. He has ever since been '• perfectly stout and hale, and alive, and has ^* had three children born to him, all thriving ^^ and healthy,^

This may be considered as a sort of tragicomic recital, and, if examined by the rules of Aristotle, will be found to contain all the requisites of the best dramatic composition* Here is a beginning, a middle, and an end. The beginning, the breaking out of Mr S's disorder \ the middle, the progress of the disease \ the end^ its perfect cure. Here, too,

in

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N°80. The M i r r o r. 51

in some sort, is the Ayvafmc, and here evidently the JltftriTeia, the two great beauties of a perfect drama; the Ayrwf kt/c, the providential discovery of Maredant's drops in the liifftiTiTetoi, the change of situation from pimples and scales to a blooming complexion, from blotches and ulcers, to smoothness of skin and hollows of flesh, from extreme debility and languor, to being the father of healthy children.

Nor is this class of writers less remarkable for adaptation of style than for correctness of composition. The advertisement above recited of Dr

Dominicetif and the daily performances of Meff. Chrijie and Anfell^
 fhcw to what elevation they can raife it, when the fubjeA requires
 elevation. On the other hand, wherfr fliall we find more truly
 charafteriftic fimplicity than in the following notice from a gentleman-
 tailor ? ** Wanted^ by a Jingle gentle-^ *' man-tailor^ a fervant-maidy
 to a^ as houfe-^ " keeper and cooky 'where a girl is kept to attend' ***
 and wait upon the majier. None need apply ** 'who ivill pretend to
 manage the kitchen* ^Jire viithout his direHionSy as he underjlandl
 ** the management of coaUJireSy which few ^Servants in this town
 do* As he commonly Ea ^dines^

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S% T I T E Mirror. N@8ov

** dities out of a Sunday y he expeFls hh fer-. ** vants to go to
 churchy injeiad of cooking dain* ** ties to themfcelvesj fiich as
 Jboulders of ueal ^^fiuff^d^ &c. J asy though he is a fingle man,. **
 he is very well influEied by a neighbour ho-m ** to manage his
 family. —~ Apply next door •* to theJlepSy Panton Square-^^

Other writers, often equally poor and proud, may perhaps objeft to
 the clafs of au* thors whom I commemorate, that they write, not from
 the love of fcience, or the defire of fame, but from motives merely
 interefted and felfiifh. But a little acquaintance with many of their
 productions will effectually remove this reproach. Is it not
 benevolence alone that forces Mr Speedimany in fpite of his natural
 modefty, to addrefs the public in an advertifement ? ^* Mr
 Speediman i}Ould be un-^ ^^juji to the public if he any longer
 delayed acm, ** quaintlng t^em (f the viKtues of his ftomach ** pills.**
 Are there not daily advertifements of fales ^^far beloju prime, cojly^
 which continue for feveral. years,, to the evident advantage of the
 public, and lofs pf the advertifer > and does not Mr Molefvorth prefs
 advcnturera io the. lottery to purchafe his tickets and

fharcjsj.

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JH^So. The JST r tf w <r w. f^

fhares, though he i;aows^ by certain calcula* tioD, that they are to be drzvm prizes ?

To fuch men> may not the above-quoted^ motto of the Illuftrious Dt Dmniniccti be mo(t defepvedly applied ?

" Non fibiy fed toto gem turn fe credere mundo/*

which, however^ as malice is always ready to dietraft from merit, I heard a wicked wag of" my acquaintance tranflate t'other day to acompany of Fadics^ " That the Dbftor's fumi•*gations were to make himfcif lixx, and ta> ^ kill all the world bcfide.'*^

Z

E 3. W 8r;

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K^8^ . TuESDAT, FeFmaryirS'iT^bi.

, To'the AuxH,OR of the, l^ljRjioft.

I R.

SOMe time agO'youiaferted ill.ypur papc»a letter from a lady who fubfcribed herfelf ^ . M, giving an. account of thi: hai;cifliips lfee has fuffered as the daughter of a man o£^ fortune, educated in, the roidfl:...Df ^^fBuence^, and thealeft tp the fupport of a very flender. provifibn. I own. the fituation to be a hard; one J but it may, perhaps, afford her fome. ^onfblation to be told, that there are others,, feemingly enviable, which are yet as- diftrefful, that derive their diftreffes from circum^ ftances exadlly the reverfe of thofc in which Mifs S. M, is placed,

I loft my father, a gentleman of confiderat)le fortune, at an age fd early, that his death* lias fcarce left any traces on my mind* I can.

only recoUeft, • that there was fomethiig of buftle, as well as of
forrow, all. over the koufej thaf my coloured fajb was- changed,

for

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N^8i.- T:hi;e. M r r r o- r. yj:

fbr^bbck o&e fvahd that I was not allowed to.drin^ Pappa's
Jieahh^afterJ dinner,! which,, before,. L had beem.taught.rcgularly to
.do,. Soon aftar, I caa remember day Mamma being: fick) and that
there. :was ^rlittle brother born,^ whov.was -much mqte attended to
than I. As/ we grewfupj-Ican remember llls.getting fnec; p*ay-tbitig5r,
aaci being oftemer the ftibjca.of difcoiH^fe 'among our vifitors : and
that ibmctniies, when there were little quarrels, in the; HHrfery,^
Silfy^s maid wouid, tell mine, that. Mifs muft irl&ir t^il her betters
werc.fervcd. . A foperibi'ifytowhich. I was fo early ac*' cufto^fed, it
gAve-iiie little imeafincfs'to bear^ The vivacity natural to children,
which in me. was fupported by uninterrupted good health,, left'me ad
leifuj^e to complain.of a preferences^ by which though tny
biiothir.was diftinguifh-. ed', hew^s fcldoiil or h'eperi miade happier..
The notice, indeed, to which his birth-bright itftitl^d him, was often
more a hardhip thaa. »privilege. He was :fi^equently kept in jtha
drawiftg-iropm with Mamma,* when he wouhl^ Jiave-ipui:!* rather
been.'with. mje. in the garrj d^n; he was made to repeat his le0bn ;to
the company^ that they might admire his parts r ^odhis.progrefs,
wMc I was.fuffered to be

playing

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50 T IT E iM 1 R R icr r; N® 8r.

playing bliad-man'd-balF below ftatrs-; he was. fet ac dioner with the
did ffolk^, he%ed to: light things that wo^ald not hurt.him^' obligedb'
to drink toaft and wate^r^and to behave him^ felf like a

gentle can while I was. a fire lowe to devour a jppled n m p l i R,
guld oim f m a l U b e e r t. and play monkey-tricks at the iider l^ble* - Tha^
care, however,; which t W juch f c A. , h » ^ health, wai^ not repaid with
fuecers^ i. he wa » always more delicate, and more. fubjedito Uttlc.
diforders than I; and/ at: Uft| . ^ K ^ t i ^ o m ' p l ^ * ting his feircn thycar^
wa ^ feii ^ d with a f c v e r ^ which y in a. few daj[s,. put aa.ejid to his life,,
and t i r a n s f e r r e d to m e j t h e i n h e d t a n c e o f m j a n c e f t o r s b i j

After the firft tranfport\$. o j tny- mother's grief were fubfided, fhe
begaai Q ^ F i P ^ 7: ^ r ^ f. to the care of her fuirviving c W W. ... I ^ as
no W. become i b h e r i t r e f i of her anxiety as. well as of jny father's
fortun'e; a remarkable change was made in every department of my
education, s r i y company, and my amufements. I n f t e a d o f f g o i n g
along with a. fet of other ^ ics of my. own age to a < clafs > f o c
leaving French i ^ n d a, p i u b l i c v ^ r i t i n g - f c b o o l j t e a c h a ^ were brought
into the houfe to i n f t r u c t n a e p r i v a t e l y . ; and, though X f t i l l w e n t to a
dancing-£ c b o o l t h r e e

days

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N « » S i . T H E ' > : M I R r : o t l . s l \

days in the weefe, to praftife the l c f l b n s which I received from aa
eminent matter at horne^ yet I was always attended by my mother,
my governefs, or fomebody, by whofe fide I was ftuck up before and
after the dance^ to the' gr^at vexftion of niyfelf, and the ridicule, of
my former companions. Of companions,' indeed, I was f t o w
altogeth e r d e p r i v e d . I was too confiderable a perfon to a f l b c i a t e with
thofe in whofe fports and . a m u f e m e n t s I had formerly been fo happy
to fharc; if. at any. lime I ventured to; mention! a wi h for their fociety, I
was immediately checked by an ob-fervation of my Mamma, that flie
believed they were very good girls, but not fit company for me,

.To prevent t h e f o l l i u d e in which my fupe?riprity would have thus
placed me, a little: girl, an orphan niece of my jnother's maid^ was
taken into the houfe, whofe office it was to attend me during all- my

hours of ftiddy or amufement, to hold the pm-cufhion while my maid was drcffing me, to ^ck leflbns along, with n\le, and be chid if I neglected them,, to play games at Draughts^ which flie was never to win, and to lift the Shuftkcccky which L commonly let fall j in ihoi^ fhc was to,fcrcv:

me'

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5? T H E M f ji R o n. N^iu

0

mc for the prkSice of. all that iafo kncc which the precepts of others had taught me I had a right to affume. I feel, at .this moment, Mr Mirror, the moft flncere compunftion for the hardhips which this poor ,girl fuftered while ihe wa4 with me; tiardihip^ from which, at l^ft, flie freed herfelf, by running off with a recruiting ferjeant; yet I wa« taught, at the time, to call her fubiiftence a bounty, and ta account myfelf generous when I bcftowed any trifle beyond it.

While my mind was thus encouraged in perversiion, the culture, of iny body was little lcfs prepofterous. The freedom and exercife, which formerly beftowed health and vigour, I now exchanged for the conftraints of faihion,' and the* lazinefs' of' pride* Every {hackle of drefs which the daughters of any great man were underflood to wear, I was immediately provided with, becaufe I could afford it as well as they. . I was never allowed the ufe of my limbs, becaufe I could afford a coach; and, when attacked by the. flighceft diforder, immediate recourse was bad to the phyfician, becaufe I could afford a fee. The confequence was natural; I loft all my former fpirits, as well as my former bloom; and,.

whea

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N°8i. The Mirror. 5^

when I firft put on the womanly garb, I vns a fine lady complete, with cheeks as pale, and nerves as weak as the fineft.

I was now arrived at a period when attention and anxiety were to be pointed altnoft folelyvto otic objeft, the difpofaf of my pcrln in marriage. \Vhh regard to this event, I was equally the flave of my mother's hopes and fears. I was dreflcd and rc-drcfled, fqueezed and pinched, that I might catch a fine gentleman who had lately returned from his travels. I was often hurried fevcral miles in the dark to a ball at bur county-town, to difplay myfdf to a Lord who was to be of the party there; I was wdlked over hedge and ditch, in order to captivate a country-fquorc of a very large eflate in our neighbourhood; and I was once obliged to hazard my neck^ that I migitt go out a hunting with a Duke. On the other hand, I was in perfeft durance when any improper man had been feen to look at me. I was forced to leave the parifixchurch, upon information received of a young gentleman having bribed the beadle with a ihilling to admit him into the next pew j my dancing-mafter was changed, becaufe his wife died while he was attending raej and mf

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6o 3? H E Mirror. N°8r.

drawing-maOrer, an old bachelor of threefcore, was difmifled, .bec>iufe Jie l^appened to put; his hand on mine in Are wing roe,how to manage .iny Crayons.. The only poor naan with whom I was allowed to aflbciate was the clergyman of our pariflr, a very-old gentleman of the mod irreproachable charafter. To this indulgence, .however, I W2s more indebted than, my mother was aware, or I had any reafon to hppe. PofleiTed of excellent fenfe and gre*t learning, the .good man was at ^pains to teach me the ufe of the firft, and the value of the latter. By his afliftance, my m.Jnd, .which, be.fore, had always been .e^thfr uncultivated or mifled,. was informed with ^knowledge more ufeul than the extent of my fortune, or the privileges of my birth. HejChewed me the folly of pride., and the

meannefs of infolence; he taught me the refpeft due to. merit, the
,tenderne& to poverty, the reverence to mjffortune ; from him I firft
learned, the dignity of condefcenfion, the pleafures of civility, the
luxury of beneficence. He died, alas! before I could receive the full
benefit of his ioftrudions, before he was able to eradicate the cffefts
of early perverfion ?jind habitual indulgence \ and left me rather in a
condition to

feel

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N^Si. The Miheoe. 6t

feel the weakaefs of my mind than to recover its firength.

My mother did not long furvive him* I Jiad been forced to fee the
errors of her judgement, though I could never doubt the warmth of
her affeftipn. I was unfortunate enough to lofe her afiiftance, when
her aiSftance would have been more ufefui^ and her indulgence leis
prejudicial. In the management of my fortune, which has now
devolved on me, I am perplexed with budnefs which I do not
underftand, and haraffed by applications which I know not how to
anfwer. I am fometimes puzzled with fchemes for improving my
eftatc, fometimes frightened with dangers that threaten to diminifh it;
I am vexed with the complaints of poor tenants, and plagued with the
litigioufnefs of rich ones. I never open a letter fr«m my fteward in the
country without uneafinefs} and a viiit from my agent in town is to me
like that of a bkiliff. Amidll ail thefe difficulties, I have no relation
whom I can truft, and no friend to whom I can lean 5 the intereft
which people have in deceiving me, deprives me of confidence in
advice, or plcafure in approbation. In fliort, it is my fingular Vox* III. F
misfortune

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6i The Mirror. N^8i.

misfortune to possess wealth with all the em^{*} barrat^Tment of poverty,
and power with all the dependence of meannefs^{*}

I am, &c.

OLIVIA.

V

N^o82.

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N^o82. Saturday, February xp^{*} 1780,

THE paper of to-day was received from an unknown hand several weeks ago^{*} The publication of it may, perhaps, appear rather unseasonable after the last Gazette. There is still, however, much truth in my correspondent's observations, who, I dare say, will not regret that Sir George J Rodney's success has somewhat lessened their force.

For the Mirror,

Romulus et Liber paterj et cum Castore Pollux, Pofit ingentia fa^aa^a
Deorum in templa recepti^{*}

HoR. Ep.

\yf EN who either possess a natural fullness of temper, or who have been unfortunate in, the world from accident or imprudence, or perhaps think they have been so from over-rating their own defects, are apt to ascribe to human nature a variety of vices and imperfections. They consider these as the 2 chief

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tf4 The Mirror. N^o8^a2.

chief ingredients of the composition of man* kind, and that their virtues and good qualities are only exceptions from the general rule, like . accidental strokes of genius, or colouring, in the works of a painter whose performances, on the whole, are coarse and irregular. • Nothing can be more groundless and unjust than this accusation^ I am convinced that, upon a thorough examination, though we might discover many vicious and profligate Individuals, we should find in general, that human nature is virtuous and well disposed, and little merits the abuse that peevish or unfortunate men are inclined to bestow upon it.

One charge, much insisted upon against mankind, is public ingratitude. With what justice or truth this is urged, we may judge^ by examining the behaviour of men from the earliest period to the present times ; and, in doing so, I flatter myself we shall be able to discover that the reverse is true, and that a strong spirit of gratitude has appeared on all occasions where it was due,, though, in different ages and countries, it has been expressed in a different manner.

In Egypt and ancient Greece, the tribute paid by the public voice to the benefactors of

mankind,.

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N^Sz. The Mirror. 6;

mankind, was to consider them as objects of divine worship, and, for that purpose, to enroll them among the gods. Such was Ceres, for the invention of corn, Bacchus^ for the discovery of wine, and a variety of others, with whom every school-boy is acquainted. If a man of superior strength and valour happened to repel an invader, destroy a monster^ or perform any notable deed of public service, he was revered while living, and, after his death, his memory was respected, and a species of inferior worship was paid to him, as a hero, or a demi-god.

In later times, in the Grecian states, the general who fought a successful battle, or destroyed an enemy's fleet, had statues erected to him by the public voice, and at the expence of the public. The Romans did not think of honouring their brave or fortunate commanders with statues ; but they had their triumphs and ovations bestowed by the public, and supported by the voluntary applause and attendance of a grateful populace.

I should be extremely sorry if the moderns*

yielded in the article of public gratitude either

to the Greeks or Romans. I shall not enter

upon the practice or manners of other Euro-

l 3,]?eaa*

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66 T H E ' K T I R R o R. N^SSii

pean nations; but I can venture to assert, with some degree of confidence, that the people of Great Britain possess a degree of public gratitude unexampled in any other age or country*

In making this assertion, I do not allude to public monuments, hereditary pensions, or thanks of parliament, which, though of a public, and seemingly of a general nature, may nevertheless proceed from a very limited cause. —I allude to that universal effusion of honest gratitude which the good people of England frequently bestow on successful commander«, by putting up their pictures as signs for their taverns and ale houses, and frequenting them more than any other, till the reputation of the original begins to be obscured, by the increasing glory of some new favourite.

I must, at the same time, observe, that great statesmen have seldom experienced this mark of public applause. The late Mr Pitt was,

indeed, an exception from the remark^—; but he was, in fact, a minister of war only, and never meddled with finance. A first Lord of the Treasury, let him be as wise as Ximenes^ and as moderate as Fleury^ cannot expect to be revered on the signpost of an alehouse; every.

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W^8i. The Mirror. ^7

ever^ article of consumption there has felt the weight of his hand; and^ whether the company get drunk in wine or punch or enjoy the cool collations of tea and coffee, still the reckoning calls ideas that lead to execrations on the whole system of finance and taxation, from the department of the first minister to the walk of the lowest excise-man; and, by an easy transition^ the duke of the treasury and the offices pass, in some degree, to the persons of those who fill them.

But, as the fame of unmerited obloquy does not exist with respect to our admirals and generals, they have been often and much the objects of this species of public gratitude. It is needless to go far back. In the year 1739, Admiral Vernon took Porto Bello with few ships only. The public gratitude to him was boundless.—He was sung in ballads. —At the ensuing general election in 1741, he was returned from three different corporations; but, above all, his portrait filled every sign-post; and he may be figuratively said to have sold the ale, beer, porter, and punch of England for six years.

Towards the close of that period, the Admirals' favour began to fade apace ^with the

colours

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€8 The Mirror. JS^ ffa*

colours of his uniform ; and the battle of Culloden was total annihilation to him. When the news of that victory reached England, a new object presented itself to the public eye; and the honest Admiral, in every respect, made way for the more portly figure of the glorious Duke of Cumberland*

The Duke kept possession of the sign «poets a long time. In the beginning of last war, * 4th Duke Admiral in the Mediterranean» and our Generals in North America^ did nothing that . Could tend in the least degree, to move his -Royal Highness from his place ; but the doubtful battle of Hamellan, followed by the unfortunate convention of St. Emand^ and the rising glories of the King of Prussia^ obliterated the glorious Duke of Cumberland as effectually, as his Royal Highness, and the battle of Culloden, had effaced the figure, the memory, and the renown of Admiral Vernon.

The Duke was so totally displaced by his Prussian Majesty, that I have some doubts whether he met with fair play. One circumstance indeed^ was much against him'; his figure being marked by a hat with the Keven^ hallow cock, a military uniform, and a fierce look, a very flight to^ich of the painter converted

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N^S^a. The Mirrds. ^

verted him into the King of Friesland; but what crowned the success of his; Prussian Majesty^ was the title bestowed upon him by the brothers of the brush^ " The glorious Protestant *• hero i" words which added splendour to every sign-post, and which no British subject could read^ without peculiar sensations of veneration and of thirst.

For two years the glorious Protestant hero^ was unrivalled ; but the French being, beat at Minden upon the 1st of August ^1759, by the army under Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, the King of Prussia began to give place a little to two popular favourites who started at the same time, I mean Prince Ferdinand and the Marquis of Granby» — Prince Ferdinand was supported altogether by his good conduct at

Minden, and his high reputation over Europe as a general;—the Marquess of Granby behaved with spirit and personal courage every where; but his success in the signposts of England was much owing to a comparison generally made between him and another British general of higher rank, but who was supposed not to have behaved so well. Perhaps too, he was a good deal indebted to another circumstance, to wit, the baldness of his head*.

The

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70 T ttfi Mirror. N^aSa.

The rtiext who figured in the signpost way was the celebrated John Wilkes, Esq;—This public honour conferred on him was also an effusion of gratitude ; for he was supposed to have written the Earl of Bute^a who was both a Scotman and a favourite, out of power, mtd to have refuted and explained the illegality of general warrants. Besides^a he fought a bloodless duel with E. Talbot, and was shot in the cause of liberty by Mr Martin of the treasury. All these were great Weights in the scale of popularity \ and, though Mr JWilkes never attained the glory either of Admiral Vernon^a or the Duke of Cumberland, yet his visage has filled many a sign-post, and much ale and gin has been sold under his auspices.

These are the last whom the people of Great Britain have thought Worthy of being so honoured ; and, though the thing itself may seem ludicrous, yet the tale has a morale by no means flattering to the well-wishers of this country.—We have been now for five years employed in attempting to reduce our rebellious colonies \ we have been two years at war with France, and one with Spain \ many troops have been raised, many millions have been expended in expeditions without number

have

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have been pUoQed'and fupported, and the moft powerful fleets
hdYC been fitted out that the coafts and dock«yards of Eogland ever
be^ held; yet, during this long period, with fb many opportunities and
fo much force, wc have not an admiral whofe head would fell a fiogle
can of flip, i^or a. general whofe futl length would procure cuftom for
an additional pot of porter.

That this ezpreffion of public gratitude may be fometimes mifplaced, I
will by no meant deny; but ftill this tribute paid by the people is more
likely^ than any other circum(^aDoe, to be a fure prpof of real merit.
The Sove« reign may be miii£^ormed as to the defervings of thofe
whQm he is pleafed to honour ; and although, in the prefent reign«
no fubftantial mark of unmerited favour has been conferred, yet
every body remembers the late Cene^ ral Blackney^ who gave up
Minorca, made a Lord for defending it, merely to fupport a Unking
adminiftration, What reliance can be had on the thanks of parliament
as a proof.of public merit, may be learned from the anfwcr of a
gallant fea-officer, (not an admiral), who, upon being told that the
Houfe of Commons meant to give him thanks for bis intrepid and

fuccefsful

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f2 T tt » M I R X O R. N[^] 82.

fuccefsful conduA on the coaft of France, fwbre, if they did, he would
infantly refiga his commiffion.

Perhaps, at that time, feme recent inftance of party-in}«ftice and •
partiality had broiaght the thanks of parliament into difrepute \$ but,
be that as it may, I fh'all never think our af« ^alrs, either by Tea or
land, in a profferous condition, till I fke the fign-pofis of England filled
with frefh figures of generals and admirals. When that happens, it will
be a fure proof, that our affairs have taken a favourable turn, and
that fbmie of our commanders have, at lail, a^led in a manner

fruitful to the troops and treasure with which, from the beginning of this war, they have all been so liberally supplied.

N^o 5.

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N^o 5* Tuesday, February 2nd. 1790.

IN a paper published at Edinburgh it would be improper to enter into any comparison of the writers of this country with those on the other side of the Tweed, But, whatever be the comparative rank of Scottish and English authors, it must be allowed, that, of late, there have been writers in this country, upon different subjects, who are possessed of very considerable merit. In one species of writing, however, in works and compositions of humour there can be no sort of doubt that the English stand perfectly unrivalled by their northern neighbours. The English excel in comedy & several of their romances are replete with the most humorous representations of life and character, and many of their other works are full of excellent ridicule. But, in Scotland, we have hardly any book which aims at humour, and, of the very few which do, but few have any degree of merit. Though we have tragedies written by Scots authors, we have no comedy, excepting Ruffey's Gentle Vol. III. G. Steinhilber

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74 The Mirror. N^o 5

Shepherd \ and, though we have tender novels, we have none of humour, excepting those of Smollett who, from his long residence in England, can hardly be said to have acquired in this country his talent for writing; nor can we, for the same reason, lay a perfect claim to Arbutnot who is a still more illustrious exception to my general remark* There must be something in the national genius of the two people which makes this remarkable difference in their writings, though it may be difficult to discover from what cause it arises. '

I am inclin^{ed} to suppose, ^{hat} there is some^{*} thing in the situation and present government of Scotland, which may, in part, account for this difference in the genius of the two coun^{tries}. Scotland, before the union of the two kingdoms, was a separate state, with a parliament and constitution of its own. Now the feat of government is removed, and its constitution is involved in that of England. At the time the two nations came to be so intimately connected, its great men were less affluent than those of England, its agriculture was little advanced, and its manufactures were in their infancy. As Scotland[;] was[^] therefore[^]

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N^{Sj}. The M i r r o r. 75

in this situation, obliged to exert every nerve/ that he might be able to hold his place.

If preferment, or offices in public life, were his object, he was[^] obliged to remove from home to a city, which, though now the metropolis of the united kingdoms, had formerly been to him a sort of foreign capital. If wealth was the object of his pursuit, he could only acquire it at home by great industry and perseverance^{*}, and, if he found he could not easily succeed in his own country, be repaired to other countries, where he expected to be able to amass a fortune. Hence it has been[^] remarked, that there are more natives of Scotland to be found abroad than of any other country.

People in this situation are not apt to indulge themselves[^] in humour \ and few humorous observations will appear. It is only in countries where men wanton in the extravagancies of wealth, that some are led to indulge a particular vein of character, and that others are induced to delineate and express it in writing^{*}. Besides, where men are in a situation which makes it necessary for them to pursue their way in the world, more particularly if they are obliged to do so among strangers,

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^6 The M i r h c e.- N* ffj.

gers, though this may give them a firmnc6 and a refulutencfs in their conduft, it will na*turally produce a modeft caution and rcfervc in their deportment, which muft chill every approach to humour* Hence, though the Scots are allowed to be brave and undaunted in dangeroy's fituations, yet ba&fulnefs, referve, and even timidity of manner, unleis when they are called forth to aftion, are juftly confidered as making part of their character. Men of this difpofition are not apt to have humour : it is the open, the carelefs,^ the indififferent, and the forward, who indulge la k \ it is the man who does not think of intereft^ and who fets himfelf above attending to the proprieties of conduA. But he who has ob« jcfts of intereft in view, who attends with circumfpe£tk>n to his conduft, and finds it necef^ fary to do fo, is generally grave and filenfi^ and feldom makes any attempt at humour.

Thefe circumftances may have had a confiderable intiuence upon the genius and temper of the people in Scotland j and, if they have given a particular formation to the genius of the people in general, they would naturally have a limilar cSeSt upon its authors: the

geniuA

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N°83. The M i r e o u. 77.

genius of an author commonly takes its direction from that q{ his countrymen.

To thef? caufes, ariiing from the prefent fituatiaand government of our country, may "be added another circumftancc, that of there being no court or feat of the Monarch in Scotland. It is ouly where the court is^ that the fiandard of manners can be fixed; and, of coafequencei, it is only in the neighbourhood of the court that a deviation from that

ftandard caq be exa^ly ^fcertained, or a departure from it be ealily made the objedt of ridicule. "Where there is no courts it becomes ot little importance what drcfs the people wear, what hours they obferve, what language they exprefs themfclvcs in, or what is their general deportment. Men living at a diftance from the court become alfo unacquainted with the rules of fafeion which it eilablifhes, and are unable to mark or ppint them out. But the . great fubjeft for wit and ludicrous reprefentation arifes from mens having a thorough knowledge of what is the fafliionable ftandard of manners, and being,able to feize upon, and hold out a departure from it, in an humorous point of view. In Scotland, therefore, which, fince the removal of the court, has become, G3 in

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79 .The M i u r o r. N^i^j^

in a certain degree, a provincial country, there being no fixed ftandard of manners witliin the country hfelf, one great fource of ridicule i» cut off*, and an author, by that means, is not led to attempt humorous compofition, or, if he does, has little chance of fucceeding,.

There is another particular which may hare had a very confiderable effeA upon the genius of the Scots writers, and that is, the nature of the language in which they wri&e. The okl Scottish diakftjisnow hanifhed fi*om-our books^ ftnd the Englilh is fubftituted iu its place. BiK^ though our books be written in Englifli, our converfation is in Scotch. Of our language, it may be faid, as we are told of the wit of Sir Hudlbraf, that we have a fiiit for holidays, and another for working-days. The Scotti& dialed): is our ordinary fuit; the English is^ ufed only on folemproccafions. By this means, when a Scottfmatt comes to write, he does-it generally in trammels. His own native original language, which he hears fpoken around him, he does not make ufe of; but he ex- ■ prefcs himfelf in a language in fome refpefis foreign to him, and which he has acquired by ftudy and obfervation. When a celebrated ScottiJ[h writer, after the publication of hb Mi'

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N® JTj. T H E M I R R o ». 7>

ftory of Scotland^ was firft introduced to Lord ChefterfieU^ his Lordfhip, with that happy talent of compliment for which he was fo remarkable, addrefled him, at parting, in thefe words: <^ I am happy, Sir, to have met widi «* you,— happy to have pallida day with you, «< —and extremely happy to find that you fpeak •* Scotch,—It would be too much, were you to ^ fpeak^ as well as nurite our language, better ** than we do ourfelves,**^

This cireumftance of aScottifh author not writing his own natural dialeA, muft have a con* fidcrable influence upon the nature of his Hteraly produdion\$« When he is employed in any grave dignified compofition, when he writes hiftory, politics, of poetry, the pains he muft take to write in a manner different from that m which he fpeaks, will not much affis^ h«s productions \ the language of fuch compofi« tioDs is, in «very cafe, raifed above that of common Ufe; and, therefore, the deviation which a Scottish author is obliged to make from the common language of the country, can be of little prejudice to htm. But, if a writer is €o defcend to common and ludicrous pi^res of life ; if, in (hort, he is to deal in humorous compofition, his language muft be, as

nearly

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So 7 H * J^f 1 R:»tO R. .N?S3.

neafly asppffiblCf,: thait ^f commun iffe, that of the l^ulk of the people. But a Sqptfman

.who wiishes to write Engliili cannot eafily <|a this. He neither, fpeaks the.Englifli dialed):, nor is it fpoken .by.thofe .around him.: aniy

knowledge I^he has acquired of the language, is

-go,t fcom books, not frofp converfation^h

^hHenc6S<;otti^h authors may ha^he been prevented from ^h attempting to write books of humour J and, when they have tried it, we may be abie> ia fpme.meafuve,. to account for their failure, ...

. In confirjpciation of thefe remarks, it may be obferved, that almoft the only works of humour which we have in this cduntry, are in the Scottifh dialeft, and- moft of them were written before the union of the kingdoms, when

} the Scotch was the written, as well as the fpo

.kep langiiigc .of ^he countiy.. The Gentle Shepherd^h whida is full of natural ^hd ludi

. crous repreftations of low life, is written in -broad Scotich* Many of our ancient Scottish ballads are full of humour. H there have been

.lately any publications of humour in this country, written in. good Englifh, they have

^hbeen moftly of that graver fort, called irony. In this fpecics of writing, where the.author

himfelf

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N^h'SS' T H » Mirror. 9%

himfelf never appears to laugb^h a more digni* fied compofition is admiffible} and. in that cafe, the difadvantage of writing in a language diffirrent from that in which the author fpeaks^h or thofe around him converfei is not Co tax* fiblyfclt.

K^h

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N⁴- SA»ruiti>AYi Febhiary⁶. 1780[^]

Clamant periiffe pudorem Cundii pene patres. Hon.

TO dispute the right of Fajhion[^] to calarge[^] to vary, or to change the idcas> both of man and woman kind, were a want of good breeding, of which the amhor of a periodical paper, who throws himself, as it were, from day to day, on the proteftion of the police world, cannot be fuppofed capable. I pay, therefore, very little regard to the obfervations of fome antiquated correpondents, who [^]pretend tafet up what they call the invariable notions of things, againft the opinions and practice of people of condition. At the fame time, I murt obf[^]rve, that, as there is a College in Phyficy and a Faculty (as it is called in Scotland) in Law, fo, in Fajbiori^y there is a feleft body, who enjoy many privileges and immunities, to which pretenders, or inferior praftitioners in the art, are by no means intitled. There is a certain grace in the rude

neis,

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N⁸⁴. The Mirror, S3

tie[^]i and wit in the foliar of a perfon of faftion, to whith qne of a lower rank has no manner of pretenfion.

I am afraid that our city (talking like a man who has travelled) is but a fort of mimic metropolis, and .cannot fairly pretend to the fame licenfe of making a fool of itielt, as London or Paris, The circle, therefore, taking them in the groSf of our fafhionable people here, bave feidom ventured on the fame beautiful irregularity in drefs, in behaviour, or in manners, that is frequently praftifed by the leaders of the ton in the capitals oi[^] Frame ot England*

With individuals, the same rule of subordination is to be observed, which, however, persons of extraordinary parts, of genius above their condition, are sometimes apt to overlook. I perceive, in the pit of the playhouse, some young men, who have got fuddled in punchy as noisy and as witty as the gentlemen in the boxes, who have been drinking Burgundy; and others, who have come forward from the counter, or the writing-desk, give almost as little attention to the play as the men of L. 3000 a-year.—My old schoolacquaintance. Jack I should be, the other morning,

had

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\$4 T H B M I R & • R, N⁴S4.

had a neckcloth as dirty as a Lord's, and picked his teeth after dinner, for a quarter of an hour, by the aid of the little mirror in the lid of his tooth-pick case, I take the first opportunity of giving him a friendly hint that this practice is elegant only in a man who has made the tour of Europe.

Modesty and Fashion are two opposite powers, that have long been at variance with one another. The first is allowed to preside over the bulk of the people known by the denomination of the middle; the last is peculiar to the higher orders of the state, and by her honours they have a title to be distinguished. Attention to interesting scenes, civility to those we ought to oblige, and propriety in public behaviour belong to Nature, and are therefore the property of the people. It is a direct infringement on the rights of Fashion if the inferior members of the community shall laugh where they should cry, be noisy where they should be silent, rude where they should be civil, or dirty where they should be cleanly. These are the badges of greatness, and, like certain coats-of-arms, are only to be borne by illustrious personages. These are matters in which, I think, I may

venture

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N[^]. The Mirror* S5

venture to interpose my advice or animadversion. But} as to some more delicate subjects, I am very doubtful whether they come within the limits of my jurisdiction, or how far it would be prudent in me to exercise it, if they did. I mean this as a general apology for not inserting a variety of letters from unknown correspondents) giving me information of certain irregularities in the manners and deportment of the fashionable world, which they desire may be taken immediate notice of in the Mirror One who writes under the signature of Ruffinus, tells me, that fainting is now "become so common a practice among our fine ladies, that he has oftener than once been introduced to a lady in the morning, from whom, till he informed himself of her name, he was surprised to receive a curtsey at the play or the concert. Another, who subbribes, his friend Modestus, desires me to imitate the example of the Tatler^ by animadverting, not on the large, but the small size of the petticoat which, he says, has so thrunk up this

winter, that there is more of the ankle

seen than he can find countenance to look at.

To the first of these correspondents I must

reply. He answers.

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S6 The Mirror) r. N^o 84,

answers, that I think the ladies, (whose number I am inclined to believe is small), who choose to dress their faces in rouge or carmine^ are exempted from all censure j they certainly do it to please themselves, as they know how much it is detested by the men. Or, perhaps, they are of that icy order of females who have made vows of perpetual celibacy, and thus varnish over their beauty, as virtuosos do certain

delicate natural productions, which are meant to be looked at, but never to be touched* As to the complaint of Modejius^ I can only account for the prefct (hortnefs of the petticoat, from the attention of the ladies being fo miich ingroiled about their hads^ as to leave them no leifure to take care of the other extremity; as generals who are anxious to cover one part of their works, are apt to leave an oppofite quarter defencelefs.

But the moft ferious complaint I. have received, is a letter fubfcribcd Cenfor^ arrainging, with true Juvenalian feverity, the conduct of a certain Club^ which, in the words of my correpondent, " continues^ in defiance " of decency and good manners, to infult the '* public in Large Chara^ers^ in the front of

" every

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N^84. The Mirror. 87

•* every news-paper in town. This,** he adds^ "moves my indignation the more, when I " coniidder that feveral of its principal mem* ** bers are arrived at a period of life which " fhould teach decorum, at leaft, if it does " not extinguiſh vice.**

In anfwer to this angry correpondent, I will tell him^he following flory. Some years ago, I happened to be in York^ at the time of the ajfizes. Dining one day in a tavern with fome gentlemen of that city and its neighbourhood, we were violently difturbed by the noife of fomebody below, who hooted and hollow'd, fmacked his whip, and made his fervants found their French horns, in fhort, rehcarfed, during the whole time of our dinner, all " the glorious tumult of the " chace." Some of the company, after feveral ineffectual meflages by the waiter, began to be angry, and to think of a very ferious remonſtrance with the fportfman below. But an eli^erly perfon, who fat oppofite to me, pacified their repentment: ** I know the gentle" man who difturbſ you," faid he; " his " head-piece was never one of the bed 5 but " now, poor man I ^believe we muſt let him H z •* alone.

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W The Mirror. N^a 84.

(^ alone.—Since he is paft running down the «• fox in the field, he mnft e'en be allowed la «< hunt him in the parlouF^"

NO 85?

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N^a5* Tuesday, February 29. 1780;

Pojfum oblivifci qui fuerim ? Non /entire qui' Jim ? ^0 caream honore ? ^a ghria ? ^likis Hberis ? ^ibus fortunis ?

Cic, ad Att.

A Periodical publication, fuch as the Mirror, is, from its nature, confined chiefly to profc compofitions. My illuftrious predeceffor, the Spectator, has, however,^ fometimes inferted a little poem among his other efTays ; and his example has been imitated by moft of his fucceffors. Perhaps it- may be from this caufe, that, among the variety of communications I have lately received, many of them confift of poetical compofitionsI muft obferve in general to thefe correpond* ents, that, Uthough the infertion of a' poera!': now and then may not be altogether improper* for a work of this kind, yet it is not every poetical compofition that is fit for it, A poem may be poffeffed of very confiderable merit, and may be intitled to applaufe, when publifhed in a poetical colledlion^ though, H J frpnv

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90 The M i R R o R. N^a 85W

from its fubjeft, its length, or the manner in. irhich it is written, it may not be fuited to* the Mirror. I hope my poetical correpondents, therefore, will receive this- as an apology for their poems not being

inferred, and will by no means consider their exclusion as proceeding from their being thought deficient of merit.

Among the poetical presents I have received, there is, however, one, which seems very well fitted to a work of this kind'. The gentleman from whom I received it says[^] he has been informed, that it was founded on the following inscription (probably written from real feeling) on the window of an inn situated in the Highlands of Scotland[^]

[^] Of all the ills unhappy mortals know,[^] •* A life of wandering is the greatest woe;. ** On all their weary ways wait Care and Pain,, ** And Pine and Penury, a meagre train;.— ** A wretched Exile to his country fend, [^] Long worn with griefs, and long without a friend r .

This poem contains a description of the situation of a Scotch gentleman who had been obliged to leave his country for rebellion a

gainst

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tf[^]i[^]. The M r r r o b;* 91

against our present happy government. It points out the fatal consequences of such treasonable attempts[^] and represents the distresses of the person described, in a very interesting and pathetic manner. S

The exile. An Elect.

'T[^]HERE, *midst the ruins of a fallen state[^] The once fam'd Tiber rolls his foamy wave, Where half a column now derides the great,. Where half a statue yet records the brave i

With trembling steps an Exile wander'd near, In Scottish weeds his {hrivelM limbs array'd; His furrowed cheek was cro[^]d with many[^] tear. And frequent sighs his wounded soul betray'd.

Oh ! Wretch I he cry'd, that like fome trouf - bled ghofl Art doom'd to
wander round this world of wo. While memory fpeaks of joys for ever
loft. Of peace, of comfort, thou haft ceas'd to

know I

Thefe

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92 X » R . M J R a o. R. N^Sj.

5fhcfc' ^pe the fcencs, with fancy'd ^charms endow'dy .

Where happier Britons, cafiing pearls xwsij^ The fools of found) of
empty trifles.proud.

Far from the land of bUfs and freedom ftraj.

WouM that, for yonder dome, thefe eyes could fee The withered Oak
that crowns my native

Win —

Thefe urns let ruin wafte; but give to me The tuft that trembles o*cr
its lonely rill.

Oh ! facred haunts ! arid is the hillock green That faw our irifant-
fports beguile the day ?

S<ill are' our feats of fairy faihion fcen ? Or is my little throne of mofs
away ?

Had but Ambition, in this tortur*d breaflr, Ne^er fought to rule beyond
the humble plain,

"Where mild Dependence holds the vafal bleff. Where faith and
friendfhip fix the chieftain's reign;

Thus had I liv'd the life my fathers led ; Their name, their family, had
not ceas'd . to be ; And thou, Monimia f on thy earthy bed !— My
name, my family, what were these to thee !—

Three

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N** 8^ . The Mirror. jj

Three little moons had ften our growing love, Since firft Monimia
join'd her hand to mine^

Three litrle moons had feen us bfeft above All that enthufiaft hope
couM e^er divine*

Urg*d by the brave, by fancy'd glory warm'd. In treafon honed, if
*iwas treafon here.

For rights fuppos'd, my native band I arm'd. And joined the ftandard
CharUs had dar'd to rear 5

Fated we fought, my gallant vaflals fell, But fav'd their matter in the
bloody ftrife ;

Their coward mafter, wha cou'd live to tell He faw them fall, yet
tamely fuffer'd life.

Let me not think ;—but ah J the thought wilt rife.

Still in my whirling brain its horrors dwell. When pale and trembling,
with uplifted eyes,

Mmimia faintly breath'd a laft farewell i

" They come, fhe faid \ fly, Jy thefc ruthlcfs "foes,

** And fave a life, in which Monimia lives ; " Believe me, Henry^ light
are all her 'woes,

"Except what Henry\ dreaded purpose

** gives»

J* And

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94 The M j k ^ o r. N<^ 85.

«' And would'st thou die, and leave me thus ** forlorn

'< And blaft a life the moft inhuman fpare ? ** Ob I live in pky to the babe unborn

* That ftirs within me to affift my prayer!—"

What could I do ? contending pailions ftrove, . And prefs'd my bofom with alternate weighty

Unyielding honour, foft perfuafive love— I fled and left her—left her to her fate !

Faft came the ruffian band v no melting charm^ •That e'er to fuffering beauty Nature gave^

The ruthlefs rage of Party can difarm ;

Thy tearSj Monimia^ wanted pow'r to fave*

She, and the jennant of her weeping train, Whofc faithful love ftill linked them to her fide, : Torn f^om their dwelling, trod the defert plain, ♦ No hut to fhelter, and no hand to guide.

Thick drove its fnow before the wintry wind, And itidnight'datknefs unrapp'd the hemh they paft»

Save on.e Old gleam, that, blazing far behind. The ancient manion of my fathers caft.

> Calmly

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N^{8s}* The Mirror. 95

Calmly fhe faw the fmouldering ruins glare; ** Tis paft, all-righteous
God ! 'tis paft, ** fhe cry'd; *• But for my Henry hear my latcft prayV!
—** Big was her burfting heart; — fhe groaa'd» and died !—

Still, in my dreams, I f^e her form conitffs'd Sailing, in robes of light,
the troubled lky! —

And foon, fhe whafpers, fhall my Henry reft[^]-[^]iAnd dimly (iniling,
points my place, to die!

I hear that voice, I fee that pale hand wave !

I come once more to view my native Aore i Stretch'd on Monimiah
long-neglected grave

To clafp the fod| and feel my woe» np more!

N«8[^].

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' N<⁸⁶. Saturday, March 4. i78o#

To the Author of the Mirror,

Sir,

MAnt ineftimable medicines, as well for preferving health as for
curing difeafes, are overlooked by our modem pra£titioners* An
attempt to revive fome of thofe obfolete remedies, though it may
appear better fuited to a medical performance, yet does not (eem
altogether foreign to the Mirror ; fince 9l found mindf according to the
well* known apophthegm, is in natural alliance with 2, found body,

the same publication which is calculated for the improvement of the one, may, not improperly, be made subservient to the health of the other.

I. The first that I shall mention is of sovereign efficacy in restoring debilitated stomachs to their proper tone. It renders the body vigorous, and it prolongs the days of man even unto extreme old age. Of it Tulfius^a an eminent

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tJ^a86. The Mirror. 97

physician of Amflerdiimi treats in his *Observationes Medicales**

in some languages it is called Cha^a in others, Tzai \ but with us it has received the appellation of Tea.

II. There is another simple of a singular kind : according to the great traveller Pietr^a della Valle^a it is cooling in summer, and warms in winter^a without, however, changing its qualities.

It expelled a gout of thirty years (landing from the toes of the Reverend Alexander d^aAlhertus^a a bare-footed friar of Marfeilles, aged seventy.

For a long time Madame de Laufun could not walk without the aid of a crutch; and^a no wonder; for the good lady " had number^aed the frosts of four score and two winters." She was seized with what my author calls a tertian quartan ague, which undoubtedly is a very bad thing, though I do not find it in my dictionary ; but she tried Father Alexander's remedy \ . her youth was renewed, as one might say {comme rajeunie^a* and she threw away her crutch.

The wife of M. Morin^a physician at Grenoble, was reduced to the last extremity by a

Vol. III. I confirmed

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^8 The MiRROi. N^86.

confirmed Ptific^ of no lefs than fixtccn. years endurance : at length the DoAor fottail out a method of laying the difeafe that had fo obfti•nately haunted his bed. By way of experiment, he adminiftered the remedy to his chere moitie [dear half J, which is French for a wife. She recovered of her Ptific, and afterwards, by ufing the fame remedy, of another difeafe with a horrible Greek name, a Peripneumony.

I might add many and various effecls of tliis medicine ftill more wonderful. ' thdt of the public fpeaker, who was feized with a -fit of ^modefty, is the moft remarkable. By taking a fingle dofe, he felt himfelf reftored to his wonted compofure of mind 5 and he declared that he could, with ^afe, have fpok^n out an^Kher hour.

For this, and other authenticated cures, the ioqujfidve reader is referred to the treatife of Philip Sylvefter du Tour, concerning the vir'tues of Coffee.

III. There is a certain weed, " which, ta^« ken a while after meat, helps digeftion ; it «« voids rheum, &c. A little of it being *« ftecped over night in a little white wine, is ** a vomit that never fails in its operation.. It ♦'cannot endure a fpidcr, or a flea, or fuch

"like

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N^ 8(5. The M i- r r o r. 99

^ like vermin : it is good to fortify and pre* ^* ferve tbe iight, being let in round about " the balls of the eyes once a week, and frees ^ them from all rheums, driving them back •* by way of repercullion : taken into the. fto* ** machy it will heal and cleanfe it; for my " Lord Sunderland, prefidcnt of York, ta* ^ king it downward into his

flomachi it cured << him of an impofihume, which had been of a " lonj time engendering out of a bruife ho *^ had received at foot-ball, and fo preferred * < his life for many years.**

Thefc are the words of Howely in hisjetters, "ivhcre he enlarges on the praife of Tobacco.

IV. But there is ftill another medicine pf adonifhing virtues, which have been circum* ftantly related by MatthioluSf an Italian pbyfician of the fixte^nth century : it is *' a ** liquid, which, when ikilfully prepared, " proves a powerful anti-feptic [an oppofcr <«^ of corruption] to every thing fteeped in It; *• and fo, by removing all tendency to cor" ruption, it is a comforter and a reftorativc> ** and preferves and prolongs the lives of '* thofe who ufe it. It not only cherifhes the " natural beat, and preferves it in its full vi«• gour, but it likewife renovates, as it were, la ^* an^

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ICO The M r r r o r. N® 85*

** and vivifies the animal fpirits, gives an a^ ** greable warmth to the ftomach, ffaarpen? **^ the apprehenfion and underftanding, clears '* the eye-fight, and repairs the memory : it is ** more peculiarly beneficial to thofe who are ** of too cold a temperament, and who are ** fubjeft to crudities of the ftomach, and o(^ ther diforders proceeding from cold affec** tions. It 'therefore affords a fovereign re<* lief to all who are tormented with pains in ** the ftomach or bowels, proceeding from ** wind or indigeftion ; as alfo to thofe who ** are fubjc(Jl to giddinefs, the falling flicknefs^ " a relaxation of the nervous fyftem, invc*' terate melancholy, hypocondriacal difor** ders, palpitations of the heart, tremors, and «* fainting fits."

Matthiolus fubjoins the method of ufing this, medicine:

W- Once a day a table fpconful of Aquavitae^ dyfiUed from the beji wine. But, with all deference to his authority, Jquavit^, diftilled even

from the best wine, is not superior in any of its virtues to our great
staple, Whisky: for, from the researches of our own patriotic
philosophers, these two conclusions may be deduced, That
Whisky is a liquor pleasant

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N^o 6. The Matter of it, - let us take the taste; and, 2dly That it is a
wholesome

,V. I shall conclude with a receipt which

might have been considered as of general im-^{por}

portance in the seventeenth century, and may

prove of no less importance in the nineteenth.

Bartholomew Carrichters in his Secret^{ary} b. 2^d

c. 12. published a recipe which is mightily

commended by Helmschländer, in an epistle

to his learned friend Gregorius Horstius; see

Horstii Epist. Medici. § 7. 1612. " 2^d Dogs

** grease, well dissolved and cleaned, 4 ounces.

" Bears grease, 8 ounces. Capons grease, 24

" ounces. Three trunks of the mistletoe of

** hazle, while green ; cut it in pieces, and

•* pound it small, till it becomes moist : bruise

** it together, and mix all in a vial. After
 " you have expofed it to the fun for nine'
 ** weeks, you ihall extract a green ointment,.
 " wherewith if you anoint the bodies of the
 ^ bewitched, efpecially the parts mojl affeEled^
 ** and the joints, they will certainly be cured.'*'
 This recipe was^ tried with amazing fuccefs>
 in the cafe of a young girl whofe condition was
 truly deplorable ; for ** fhe vomited feathers,.
 ** bundles of llraw, and a row of pins Jiuck in'
 [^ blue paperf as frejh and ne%^ as any in th^'
 \ 3 ** iedW^

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102 The Mirror. T!^^S6^

•« pedLir*s Jlal^ pieces of glafs windows, and ** nails of a cart-
 wheel;" as may be feen in*'« The Wonderful and True Rehition of the
 &** witching a young girl in Ireland^ 16^^)^ by Daniel Higgs.

It is with the utmoft diffidence that I give my own fentiments in the
 Materia Medica^ efpecially on a fubjeft which has been expreffly
 treated by fiich men as Dr Bartholomeu^ Carrichters, and Dr He£lor
 Schlands. May I then be permitted humbly to propofe ihi* quare^ Is
 there not fome reafon to conjecture, that the recipe fo effectual in the
 cafe of heilritchiny would anfwer equally well in the cafe of
 childblains- ?

I amjt &c^

ANTIQUARIUS.

NO 87.

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N^o 87. Tuesday, March 17th

Men fear death as children fear to go in the dark\ and^ as that natural fear in children is increased with tales so is the other.

Bacon.

There is in the mind of man a fund of superstition, which, in all nations, in all ages, and in all religions, has been attended with effects • powerful and extraordinary. In this respect, no one people seem intitled to* boast of any superiority over the rest of mankind. All seem, at one time or other, to have been alike the slaves of a weak, a childish, or a gloomy superstition. When we behold the Romans, wise and great as they were, regulating their conduct, in their most important affairs, by the accidental flight of birds; or, when threatened by some national calamity, creating a doctor for the sole purpose of driving a nail into a door, in order to avert the impending judgement of Heaven, we are apt, according to the humour we are in, to smile

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104 The Mirror. N^o 87.

at the folly, or to lament the weakness of human nature.

A little reflection, however, is sufficient to show, that, with all our advantages, we ourselves are, in this particular, equally weak and absurd. The modern citizen of Rome,^ who thinks he can appease an

offended Deity, by creeping on his knees up the steps of St Peter's
so many times a-day ; or the pious Neapolitan, who imagines that
carrying forth the relics of St Januarius is sufficient to stop an
eruption: of Mount Vesuvius,, are equally objects of pity with the good
Roman, who devoutly afflicted himself at driving the nail into the temple of
Jupiter Capitolinus.

It is amusing to observe the conduct of our first reformers in this
particulars Their penetration led them to discover the gross errors and
 manifold superstitions of the church of Rome, and their spirit and
 strength of mind, aided by fortunate circumstances enabled them to
 free themselves from those shackles in which Europe had been
 held for so many ages. But no sooner had they done so, than they and
 their followers adopted another mode of superstition, in the place of
 that which it had cost them so much pains to.

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K^{8j}. The Mirror. 105

pull down. To make signs and crucifixes and images were substituted a
 precise severity of manners and homilies, and a certain mode of
 beautifying the Sabbath which were inculcated as constituting the sum
 of virtue, and as comprehending the whole duty of a Christian, So
 ingenious are men in finding out something to put in the place of true
 piety and virtue! Neither is this confined to one religion or to one sect.
 To the same cause must be attributed the broad brim and plain coat of
 the Quakers the ablutions of the Gentoos the pilgrimages of the
 Mahometans the severe fasts observed in the Greek churchy with
 numberless other instances that might be mentioned.

There is a species of superstition, which perhaps might be traced back
 to a similar origin, that often lays strong hold of the imagination and
 fills the mind with terrors and apprehension, which reason and
 philosophy have not power to eradicate, when once they have fairly
 got hold of us. Of this sort is the dread of apparitions, of spirits, and of

witches. Mr Addison, in an excellent paper in the Spectator, has shewn the folly of those apprehensions, and has cautioned parents to be particularly careful to preserve their children from.

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io6 The Mirror. N^o 5.

those little horrors of imagination which they are apt to contrail when they are young, and are not able to shake off when they grow up. He justly observes, that, next to a clear judgement and a good conscience, a sound imagination is the greatest blessing of life. Perhaps it might be going too far to attribute to this essay of Mr Addison the reformation so strongly recommended by him. It is, however, certain, that all these apprehensions, formerly produced of so much real uneasiness, are now, in a great measure, unknown. We have so far succeeded in plucking the old woman out of our hearts and we no longer see a brave soldier afraid to walk through a dark passage, or an intrepid sailor shrink with horror at the thought of passing the night in a solitary apartment.

There is, however, another weakness somewhat akin to this, that, I am afraid, still prevails among us, which my fondness for children, and the pleasure I find in prattling with them, give me frequent opportunities of observing. I mean, a custom of terrifying children, and filling their young minds with gloomy apprehensions of death. This is one of the most common methods employed by

ignorant

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N^o 5. The Mirror. of

ignorant nursemaids and foolish parents to frighten infants into obedience. But nothing can be more absurd or attended with more

pernicious consequences. Were a person of a timid frame of mind under a necessity of crossing the ocean would it be the part of a friend to magnify the danger, and to acquaint him, all the way to the port where he was to embark, with accounts of storms and tempests, and with a fearful picture of the many and various hazards to which he must be exposed on the voyage ?

A wise parent, attentive to the future happiness of his children ought to follow a very different rule of conduct. From their earliest infancy he ought to make the idea of death familiar to them ; he ought to accustom them to look upon it, not only without fear, but with the same indifference as on any other unavoidable occurrence to which they are daily exposed. By this means, they will, as they advance in life, be led to consider it as a friend rather than an enemy ; they will perceive, that, but for death, this world would be a prison more dreadful than any the most cruel tyrant ever invented ; they will look forward to it as the only period to the cares

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.it)S The Mirror. N^o 87,

of this life, as a happy passage to that better world, where only they can expect a complete reward for a faithful discharge of their duty in this.

However absurd a dread of witches and apparitions maybe, the consequences attending it are not so bad as those that flow from the fear of death. The one, it is true, fills the mind with many disagreeable apprehensions, and causes many uneasy moments but the other unfits a man for discharging his duty in society, and too often exposes him to infamy and disgrace. Courage is a quality that depends, in some measure, on the constitution of the body ; and it has been observed, that the same individual is not, at all times, and upon all occasions, equally brave. I cannot help being of opinion, however, that, if a boy, from his earliest infancy, were taught to view

death in a just light, he would imperceptibly acquire a strength of mind, that would enable him to face danger, and to do his duty, on all occasions, without being obliged to summon up his resolution, and to call reason to his aid, upon every trying emergence. I have heard it said, that, if men were ac-

customed

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N[^]Sj. The Mirror. 109

accustomed to despise death, they would be apt, through a sort of fool-hardiness, to throw away their lives on every slight occasion, or idle quarrel. But, for my own part, I entertain a very different opinion ; that fool-hardiness is seldom to be met with in a man of a calm, firm, determined mind, who knows how to estimate the true value of life. In general, it proceeds from a secret consciousness, that leads a man to put too high a value on the quality of courage, and to indulge his vanity by a display of it; as we often see men most desirous to be thought to possess those virtues and those talents, to which, in reality, they have the least pretensions.

I was much pleased with a conversation I had on this subject; on a visit I lately paid to Lady -, the wife of my much-valued friend General >, who is now abroad fighting the battles of his country. I found her in her dressing-room, surrounded by a group of the most lovely children. After they retired, she began to complain, that, with all the attention a parent could bestow, it was often impossible to prevent children from receiving bad and improper impressions from servants and attendants. <f It was but just now," said she, " your fa-

Vol. III. K . ^^^ yourite.

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no The Mirror. N[^]Sy.

'* yourite, little Charles, told his brother, ^* that, if he was a bad boy, he would be put <* into a black box, carried to the church'* yard, thrown into, a hole, and covered over ** with earth," After some observations on the bad tendency of representing death in frightful colours, she said, she had often been disposed to think the poets to blame in this particular, who, by dwelling *on all the circumstances attending our dissolution, and presenting them to the imagination in strong and lively colours, often leave an impression which reason is not able entirely to wear off. She intanced the well-known lines of Shakespeare:

*• Ay, but to die, and go we know not where; " To lie in cold obtrudion, and to rot; " This fenfible warm motion to become '• A kneaded clod; and the dilated spirit •V To bathe in fiery floods, or to refine *• In thrilling regions of thick^ribbed ice ; ** To be imprifoned in the viewlefs winds, " And blown with restless violence round about " The pendent world; or to be worse than

" worst ** Of those that lawless and uncertain thought " Imagine howling; — 'tis too horrible I '* The wearied and most-loathed worldly life,

** That

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No8]. The M i r r o r, in

** That age, ache, penury, imprisonment, ** Can lay on nature, Is a paradise " To what we fear of death.*'—

«' It is impossible,** said she, « to read those ** lines without being affected by them. Yet,' " were I to judge from my own feelings, I " should think the sentiment unjust. If told *' me," continued she, stealing a glance at the picture of my friend, while an involuntary tear half started in her eye, " if to me, there •* be any thing terrible in death, it proceeds " from the thoughts of what I should leave, " not from the dread of what I should meet « with.**

M

K z N^85.

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N^88. Saturday, March ii. 17^0.

To the Author of the Mirror,

Sir,

MY Father was a farmer in a tolerably reputable fituatlon. I was his eldefth fon; and, at the age of fix years, I was fent to the parifh*fchool, to be taught reading and writing. My father naturally made inquiries concerning my progrefs, and the fchoolmafter gave him the moft flattering accounts. After I had fpent the ufual time in learning to read and write, my mafter faid it would be a pity to cut fhort » boy of my genius, and advifed my father to allow me to remain a year or twolpnger at his fchool, that I might get a little Latin. This flattered my father's vanity, as it put his fon in a lituation to appear fomewhat above that of the children of the neighbouring farmci's. I was allowed to fit on the fame bench at fchool with our landlord's fon, and I had fometimes the honour to be whipped for his faults. In lUiding Latin I fpent three

years.

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N^88. The Mirror. 113

years. The account which my father received of my progrefs in that language, led him to follow my teacher's fuggeftion, to give me a littl^ Greek. Having gone thus far, the tranfition was eafy \ it would be a pity, ftiid our fanguine advifers, to lofe all the knowledge I had got J with my application, and my genius, if I profecuted my ftudies, I might

become a very learned, and a very great man. If I studied divinity, (which was proposed), I might in time preach in the pulpit of the very parish in which my father lived ; nay, I might rise to be a Professor in the University, or become Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

I was accordingly entered a student in the university. My father considered my fortune as now made and my expectations were not inferior to his. But I soon found my situation at the university a very hard and uneasy one. My father had been able to supply me tolerably with necessaries at the parish-school; but to do this, at the university, situated in a great and expensive town, was above his power. I was obliged to walk about, therefore, with a shabby coat, and with an empty purse. I could not attend all the lectures I wished, for I want

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ti4 The Mirror, N^o 11.

want of money to purchase admission, or to procure the necessary books. I now like to find, that, far from being more knowing than my college-companions, as my country-schoolmaster flattered me would be the case, most of them knew more than I did; they had been better taught, and had profited accordingly. Poverty, want of books, of friends, and of the other conveniences of life, were not circumstances very well suited for the study of the beauties of Homer and Virgil, nor for making a progress in the abstract sciences; but, with all these difficulties, I gave such close and intense application, that I was able to pick up a good deal of learnings and my diligence drew the attention of some of the professors. By their interest, I was recommended to Mr M, a gentleman, of considerable

fortune, who resided in the town where the university was situated, to be tutor to his children and accordingly he was pleased to engage me at the salary of £. 20 a-year. with the additional advantage of living in his house. I now thought the world was all before me, and every thing seemed to flatter me with present

happiness and future exaltation. Out of my vanity I hoped to afford to be better

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N⁸⁸. The Mirror. iv

ter dressed, to buy more books, and to attend more lectures. I expected from the knowledge I had acquired, to be able to make a figure in the company which resorted to Mr M.'s. I doubted not that they would fingle me out as a prodigy of learning and genius ; that, by their favour, I might be recommended to some lucrative or honourable place; or at least, that I should, by Mr M.'s interest, be settled as a minister in some churchy after having pleasantly spent a year or two in his family in attending to my pupils» from whose progress and improvement I expected equal pleasure and reputation. How these hopes have been answered, I proceed to inform you*. When I entered to Mr M.'s family, I found it was expected that I should not only attend to the studies of the eldest son, a lad of about fourteen, but that I was likewise to take care of all the younger children, consisting of no fewer than six. Some of these were to be taught to read, others, who were too young for that, I was to look after* and walk out with when they went abroad, to keep them out of harm's way, to prevent them from falling into a ditch, or being run down by a carriage. This I saw must occupy my whole

time}

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ii6 The Mirror. N⁸⁸.

time; and every thought of reading for my own improvement was to be laid aside. But though, in this manner, a temporary stop was to be put to my learning, I still flattered myself I should make it up by the improvement and knowledge of the world I should acquire from the society and conversation at Mr M.'s. But this expectation was as vain as the former. When there were engagements of distinction at the house,...

was not Allowed. I sat at table, but was placed in a corner of the room with the younger children, where my province was to attend to what they eat, and to cut their meat for them. When the family were alone, or the guests were such as Mr M. did not think necessary to treat with ceremony, I was permitted to sit at table but I soon found, even when this was the case, that I was not to be permitted to talk there. Seldom, indeed, was there any conversation which was worth joining in; but when any occurred in which I ventured to join, what I said was received in such a manner, that I was obliged to resolve to be silent. If I threw in an observation which started a doubt of the justice of any thing that was said, I was considered as an impertinent conceited fellow,

-Who

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N^o 88. The Mr M. & his son

who had no right to express his doubts; if I endeavoured to support any opinion, I saw I was deemed officious and troublesome. Mr M. who, to the credit the world justly gave him for a great fortune, wished also to add the reputation, though without any pretensions, of learning, was afraid, when I opened my mouth, lest people should think that his son's tutor was more knowing than he; and therefore, took care always to contradict me flatly, and with an air of superiority; and, sometimes, even made a joke of that awkwardness of manner, which it was impossible one in my situation could have escaped. You may judge what effect this treatment must have upon one who can relish the beauties of the classics, and has read many of the most eminent French and English authors. Poor, helpless, and dependent as I am, something within tells me that I am superior; — but I have no title to be proud.

For some time, the only pleasant moment which I found in Mr M.'s family, were those employed in reading with my eldest pupil. But this continued a very short time. The young gentleman soon began to despise one, whom he saw his father and his father's

friends

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ii8 The Mirror. N[^]SSr.

friends treat with fo much difrefpea; and, inflead of following roy direAions, • took care to do the very reverfe of whatever I defired him. I perceived alfo he made me the fubjeft of jeft: with his companions. In vain did I venture to reprefcnt this in the gent left manner to Mr M. I was the worfe ufed for my complaints 5 he afcribed his fon's little progrefs to my remlffoefs, not to any fault in the boy, who, I foon found, had much more influence with his father, in regard to his edu« cation, than L had.

Such, Mr MiRBOR, is my fituation with the upper members of the family. With thofe of an inferior rank, it is not a whit more agreeable. John, the footman[^] receives a falary nearly equal to mine, and he wears a better coat. He, therefore, looks upon himfelf as a finer gentleman than me ', and, as I am but little refpected by thofe whom he confiders as his betters, he does not think himfelf bound to r€fpe<a: me at all* At dinner, he feldom hears when I call; and, when he does, I. often get fifh-f*uce. to my pudding, and pepper inftead of fugar to my pancakes. Nor U John to be blamed for this; for he fees his lu[^]fter give me port, or punch, while he and

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N[^]88. The Mirror. 119

his guefts drink claret. For fome tlme[^] indeed[^] after J came to refide in the family, I received much complaifance from Mrs Debo* rah Hitchcock the houfe-keepcr. Mrs Deborah is now confiderably paff her fortieth year; in her perfon, thick and fquabby, with a mouth a little awry, and eyes a little afquint. Mrs Deborah frequently fends her compliments, and afks me to drink tea with her, or invites me to

evening entertainments with her gossiping companions. She is sometimes also so kind as to visit me in my own apartment,— says (he wonders I do not tire when alone; that {he and I, from our situation in the family, should be companions to each other; and she has several times hinted, that, by her long residence in Mr M.'s, she has acquired a sum which might be of use to ^a young man like me.

Thus, Sir, have I given you a view of my situation in Mr M/s family for more than two years past that I have resided in it. My pupil is doing no good under my care. I am not respected in the family, the servants insult me, and my farther's progress in learning is stopped. I have often resolved to give up my place & but what will become of me, if I do ?

Others

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from The Merchant of Venice. N<> 88.

Others will not enter into my motives ; they will attribute my conduct to folly or ill temper; »Dd I shall be thrown upon the wide world without a friend without money, and with a mind ill calculated to struggle with poverty and misfortunes. It has occurred to me» that« if you print this letter^ and Mr M« chance to see it, it may produce some change in my situation ; or, if it has no other effect. It may at least serve as a justification of my father's conduct in leaving his family.

I am, Sir,

K. B.

The case of Mr K. B. may perhaps be exaggerated (but I suppose his situation is not altogether uncommon. Indeed, I have been often surprised to see men of excellent sense in every other particular, and fond of their children, so inattentive to those who have the care of them. It should not, methinks,^ require much reasoning to convince them, that there is a good deal of respect due to those on whom so important a trust is placed as the education

of their children is devolved 5 it should require but little observation to satisfy them« that, unless the parents regard the tutor? it is impossible the children can \ that, unless the instructor be honoured, his precepts will be contemned. Even, independent of those considerations, something is due to a young man of education and of learning, who, though his situation may make it necessary for him to receive a salary for his labours, may, from that learning which he has received, and that taste which it has given him, have a mind as independent as the wealthiest^ and as delicate as the highest born.

But, while I venture to suggest those hints to such gentlemen as may be in a situation to afford tutors for their children, I would recommend the perusal of, Mr B.'s letter to per-, sons in that condition from which \ he has sprung. I have of late remarked, with regret, in this country, a disposition in many,, who, from their station and circumstances, ought to have been bred farmers or manufacturers, to become scholars, and men of learned professions. Let such persons and, their parents be assured, that, though there may be a few Angular instances to the contrary, there

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is no pursuit which requires a competency, in point of fortune more than that of a plain of learning. A young man who has not enough to make him easy» and to bear the expense requisite for carrying on his education^ can hardly be expected to rise to any eminence* The meannefs of his situation will humble and depress him, and render him unfit for any thing elegant or great} or if this should not))e the case, there is much danger of his becoming a {prey to anxiety and chagrin, and perhaps passing a neglected and a miserable^ life. K. B. seems to

have suffered much; he may still have much to suffer; had he followed his father's profession, he might have been both happy and useful.

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N^o8p. TaESDAY, March 14. 178a* .

To the Author of the Mirror.

S I R,

I was lately one of a pretty numerous company of both sexes, when a lady then going to be married was the subject of conversation, and was mentioned* by a gentleman present, as a very accomplished woman, to which the company in general assented. One lady remarked, she had often heard that phrase made use of, without being able precisely to understand what was meant by it; that she doubted not it was bestowed with pro-

priety on Miss ; but, as she was not of

her acquaintance, she wished to know, whether, when one was* said to be an accomplished woman, we were to understand such accomplishments as music, dancing, French, Sec. which a boarding-school affords, or those higher attainments which the mind is supposed to acquire by reading and reflection ? Reading and reflection, repeated,, with an ironical

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124 T H B M 1 R R a R. N^oS^o.

nical sneer, a very fine gentleman, who sat opposite to her; I wonder how any one can fill girls' heads with such ridiculous nonsense* I am sure I never saw a woman's learning have any other effect than to make her conceited of herself, and a plague to her neighbours. •Were I to enter the JBuckles^ I have too much regard to my own ease to

chuse a lady of r[^]leElion \ and, had I any daughters, I should probably have plague enough with them, without their being readers. Another lady, Without taking the frhallest notice of what the gentleman had said, obfcrv[^]d, that she did not wonder young ladies were discouraged from taking much pains in improving. their minds, as, whatever a girl's understanding or mental accomplishments might be, they wer⁶ ^ universally oeglected, at least by the gentlemen } and the company of any fool, provided (he was handsome, preferred to theirs.—But, as this lady was rather homely, I durst not rely on her opinion.— An elderly gentleman then said, he did not see that reading could do a woman any harm, provided they confined themselves to books fit for them, and did . not meddle with subjects they could not understandj such as religion, and politics. As ta

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jj[^] 8p. The. M r ft r t> e. i2y

the first, he said, that, if a woman went regularly to church, said her prayers, read her Bible, and did as she was bid, he thought it all that was necessary ; and as for politics, it was a subject far beyond the reach of any female capacity. This gentleman had a little before given a very circumstantial (and I am sure I thought a very tiresome) account of the method of making votes for the next general election, to which the company seemed to pay very little attention; and, if that was what he meant by politics[^] he was certainly in the right \ for I acknowledge I did not understand one word of it i nor did any of the ladies present,. as I afterwards found,, comprehend it more than myself[^]

A young gentleman, whoj from his correct[^] manner of speaking, I suppose, belonged to* the law, and who had hitherto listened with great attention, then took upon him to be our sex's advocate, and was proceeding to show (in a very sensible manner, as I thought) the little danger that was to be feared, and the great advantage that might be reaped from a young lady's appropriating a considerable

part of her time to reading, provided her studies were ^properly directed> when the arrival of L 3, " some

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ia< The Mirror. N^ Bg.

some ceremonious Visitors put an end to the conversation'; and the company sat down to cards.

When I came home, I could not help reflecting, with a good deal of uneasiness, on what I had heard. - For, if there is really no such thing as mental accomplishment rendering a young lady more amiable, or, if reading is to be of no real service to U8» I have certainly employed a great part of my past life to very little purpose. I was brought up in the country, where reading was not only my greatest amusement, but I was always told> that, by that, and making proper reflections on what I read, I {hould become contented with myself, and be beloved and respected by all who knew me \ and, by these improvements alone, could hope to equal my sister» who is a great deal handsomer than I, but who could seldom be persuaded to open a book.

But the conversation above mentioned^ which happened, very soon after I came to town, has raised many doubts in my mind, as to the real importance of my former studies. I have mentioned my uneasiness to Several of my female companions^, who are all (especially

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N^gp. The M i i t k a k. izj

ly inclined as are not handsome) very much interested in it, and would be very happy to see a Mirror on this subject, though they were much surpris'd at my courage in proposing to write to you ; which, indeed, I

never could have done, had I been able to find any other way to communicate my distress*

If you think this letter worthy your attention> I intreat you to give us, as soon as possible, your opinion as to what sort of accomplishments a young lady ought to be most anxious to acquire, and whether there is not some real advantage to be derived from reading. For, I would fain think the young gentleman was in the right, though I am sorry I have never seen him since, to hear what he had further to say on the subject.

But if, on the contrary, you convince me^ that I either cannot, or need not aim at any mental accomplishments, I shall lay by my book, and proceed to finish some ornamental pieces of work, which have hitherto advanced very slowly, as I was always more solicitous to improve my mind, than to adorn my person* I am^ Sir, your constant reader and admirer^

EMILIA*

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429 THE MISTRESS OF THE MIRROR

In doubts of such moments I am; cautious of giving an opinion, except, like some crafty lawyers, by other doubts» In answer, therefore, to my fair correspondent, I will subjoin* another letter from one of her givers, who> though of inferior rank, seems, in the latter part of her epistle, to judge sensibly enough of personal and mental accomplishments.

To the Author of the Mirror*

Sir,

I am just going to commence business as a Milliner^ and am resolved to bestow more than common pains in furnishing out as elegant a shop-front as possible, being of opinion, that much of the

employment a shopkeeper gets, is owing to the attraction of a happy-fancied sign, advertisement, or flip bill. In executing this intention, I have met with several difficulties ; and, therefore, am induced to trouble you for a solution of them. A friend of mine, whom I consulted, (because, as he was often reading, I imagined him to be a wise and learned man), advised me to look into a book called Johnson's Dictionary^

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N^o 1. The Mirror of

truth^ which he said would explain^ and describe to me, any thing I was at a loss about. Accordingly, after some difficulty, I procured a sight of this book from a relation, who was acquainted with a bookseller. But, as this same Johnson explains his words in a foreign language, I am as much at a loss as ever \ because I am totally ignorant what language it is^, and, therefore, cannot judge« whether verily he says be such a description of my commodities, as will bring me customers. Upon my looking, for instance, at his explanation of net-work^ I find it to be, ** any ** thing reticulated or decussated with intersecting lines between the intersections.** Now, Mr Mirror, I beg the favour- of you to tell me what language this is. You certainly can easily do it, when you have obtained such a character in town for wisdom and learning. If it should be French, be so good as translate it to me ; and, if it proves to be such a description as I think suits the net-work I have on hand, I (shall most gladly insert it in my book But, if it should turn out to be Latin, Greek, Hebrew, or Dutch, or any other Heathen language, I would not meddle with it for all the world ; for no person would come

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13a The Mirror of N^o 1.

near my (hop. I am advicd by all my friends to put as much French into my bills and adver^fements as poiBble ; and, indeed, I be'lievc the advice is good ; for I have a relation a Perruquier^ as he calls himfelf, who has told me, that he believed he owed almoft all his bufinefs (and a great deal he had) to an advertifcment in the newspapers interlarded with French words. It began thus ; for I copied it letter for letter, " Perruques jui dernier */ gout^ made to fit the head, avec une air bien ** ^^g^g^f to be had," &c. This wigmakcr informed me, that there was fcarcely a young beau in town who wore a wig that could reilft his advertifement.

I fhould beg pardon for the freedom I am uiing, in thus taking up your time about a matter which muft appear fo trifling to you } but, if you are a benevolent man, (and fuch I have heard you are), it will readily occur to you, that, though my requeft appears of a trivial nature, yet it treats of an afl^air of very great cgnfequence to me* This conjideration has emboldened me to apply to you } and, if you take the trouble to give me your afliftance on this occafion, I promife you to take in your Mirror to my (hop for the amufe

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N^^Sp. The M.i r k o r. 131

ment of ray cuftomeraers; though, upon fecond thoughts, I am doubtful whether it may not rather hurt my bufinefs. A itiirror is a\$ ne-* ceflary to a milliner's fhop, as the goods that arc in it 5 but then it muft be a mirror for the body. Now, yours is one for the mind j and my beft cuftomers, in all prob.abHily, will confift of a fet of ladies who feldom ot ne- * ver look into their minds at all: for thofc ladies,. Mr ElikRaR, • >|rho dfecorate their perfons in the higheft extravagance of the fafhion, and who, of confequence, are the beft cuftomers to the milliners, are generally fuch, I am told, as have their minds word dreiTcd and leaft ornamented. Beiides, the ladies generally find fomethng in the bodily mirror which pleafes them; but your mental looking'glafs is one of fuch juft reflektion, that, if my ladies fhould view

themselves in it, I am afraid they would be so dissatisfied and displeased with seeing their minds so unadorned as they really are, that they would go away in very bad humour, and without laying out a penny in ornaments for their persons.

I must, therefore, before I venture upon this step, consider further of it, and have the opinion of my friends on the matter. I have

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it The Mirror & N^o.

a good mind, Sir, to consult yourself upon it. I think so highly of you, that I scruple not to abide by your determination. Be so good, therefore, as to tell me in your answer, whether you think I ought to venture to take my Mirror to lie on my counter.

I am, Sir,

Your very humble servant,

LETITIA LAPPET.

H^o

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N^o Saturday, March 15, 1750.

V^orum etiam amicum qui intuetur tanquam ex^oemplar aliquod intuetur fui, ^oiocirca et abfentes adfunt^o et egentes abundant^o et imbecillius valent et^o quod difficilior di^ofu ej^o mortui vivunt: tantus eos honos^o memoria^o desiderium prosequitur amicorum. Ex quo ^olorum beata mors videtur^o horum vita laudat^o hils. Cicero,

"The Ipe," says Sir William Temple "is like the wine which who would drink it pure, must not draw it to the dregs." Such, I confess, has

ever been my opinion, although, in reckoning up the good things of this world, long life is commonly estimated as one of its chief blessings.

I am ready to allow, that an old man, looking back on a well-spent life, in which he finds nothing to regret, and nothing to be ashamed of, and waiting with dignity for that event which is to put a period to his existence, is one of the most venerable and respectable of

Vol. III. M. all

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134 The Mirror. N^o. 1.

all objects. The idea that he is soon to quit the busy scenes of life, throws a tenderness around him similar to that we feel in bidding adieu to a friend who is to leave us for a long time.

There is, however, something wonderfully unpleasant in the decay of the powers of mind and body, the necessary consequence of extreme old age. To those around them, particularly to those with whom they are more nearly connected, the imbecility which almost always attends persons in a very advanced period of life, affords one of the most affecting spectacles that can well be conceived. It is a situation truly interesting; and, while it teaches us to make every allowance for the weakness of age, it disposes us, by every attention, by every mark of observance, to smooth the fiefs of the aged, and to remove, as much as possible, those clouds that hang on the evening of life.

It must, at the same time, be admitted, that

there are men who live to a very great age, in

the full possession of their faculties, and, what

is still more, with all the affections of the mind

[alive and unabated. Yet, even where this is

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Nº9[^]. The Mirrok. 135

the cafe, I cannot, for my part, confider long life as an objeA much to be defired.

There is one circumftance, which, with me, is alone fufficient to decide the queftion. If there be any thing that can compenfate the unavoidable evils with which this life is attended, and the numberlefs calamities to which mankind are fubjed):, it is the plcafures arifing from the lociety of thofe we love and efteem* Fricndftiip is the cordial of life. Without it, who would wifh to exift an hour ? But every one who arrives at extreme old age, muft make his account with furviving the greater part, perhaps the whole, of his friends. He muft fee them fall from him by degrees, while he is left alone, fingle and unfupported, like a leaflefs trunk, ex[^]pofed to every ftorm, and flirinking from every blaft,

I have been led to thefe reflexions by a lofi[^] I lately fuftained in the fudden and unlocked* for death of a friend, to whom, from my earlieft youth, I had been attached by every tie of the moft tender affection. Such was the confidencfe that fubfifted between us, that, in his bofom, I was won't to repofe every thought of my mind, and every weaknefs of my heart. Poffeffcd of excellent natural parts, and of eM z very

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136 T H E M I R R a It. N*=[^] 90.

Tery accomplifhimnt education could beftow, he pleafed ftill more by the gentlenefs of his xnanners, and the uncommon fweetnefs of his di/pofition.

It is not many months since I paid him a visit at his seat in a remote part of the kingdom. I found him engaged in embellishing a place, of which I had often heard him talk with rapture, and the beauties of which I found his partiality had not exaggerated. He showed me all the improvements he had made, and pointed out those he meant to make. He told me all his schemes, and all his projects. And, while I live, I must ever retain a warm remembrance of the pleasure I then enjoyed in his society.

The day I meant to set out on my return, he was seized with a slight indisposition, which he seemed to think somewhat serious; and, indeed, if he had a weakness, it consisted in a rather too great anxiety with regard to his health. I remained with him till he thought himself almost perfectly recovered; and, in order to avoid the unpleasant ceremony of taking leave, I resolved to flee away early in the morning, before any of the family should be astir. About daybreak, I got up, and let

myself

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Napoleon. The Mirror. v. 1

myself out. At the door I found an old and favourite dog of my friends, who immediately came and fawned upon me. He walked with me through the park. At the gate he stopped and looked up wistfully in my face; and, though I do not well know how to account for it, I felt, at that moment when I parted with the faithful animal, a degree of tenderness, joined with a melancholy feeling, that I had no inclination to check it. In that frame of mind I walked on (for I had ordered my horses to wait me at the village) till I reached the summit of a hill, which I knew commanded the last view I should have of the habitation of my friend. I turned to look back on the delightful scene. As I looked, the idea of the owner came full into my mind; and, while I contemplated his many virtues and numberless amiable qualities, a fugitive thought arose, if he should be cut off, what an irreparable loss it would be to his family, to his friends, and to society. In vain I endeavoured to combat this melancholy

foreboding, by reilefting on the uncommon vigour of hisconftitution,
and the fair profpe£l it afforded of his enjoying many days. The
impreffion Ml recurred, and it was feme confiderable M 3. tame

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138 The Mirror. N^90.

time before I had ftrengh of mind fufficient to conquer it.

I had not been long at home when I recci* ved accounts of his being
attacked by a violent diftemper, and in a few days after I learned that
it had put an end to his life.

This blow, for a time, unmanned me quite. Even now, the chief
confolation I find is m the fociety of a few chofen friends. Should they
alfo be torn from me, the world would to me be as a defert; and,
though I fhould ftill endeavour to difcharge my duty in that {Ration
which providence has afBgned me in life, I fhould never ceafe to look
forward, not without impatience, to thofe peaceful manfions where
the weary are at reft, and where only we can hope to meet again
whh thofc from whom we have been parted by the inexorable hand
of death..

N^9i.

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N®9'- TOESDAT, March21. x'jto.

Non quia, Macenas, Lydorum, quidguid £•

tru/cos Incoluit finesy nemo generajior eft te; Nee quod avus iibi
maiemus fuit afque pater-*

nus Olim qui tnagnis legionibus imperitdrint, Ut plerique 'foknfy nafo
fufpendis adunco Ignotai. HoRr

IN estimating the conduct of men we naturally take into account not only the merit or blame of their actions abstractly considered but also that portion of either which those actions derive from the situation of the persons performing them. Besides the great moral laws by which every man is bound, particular ranks and circumstances have their peculiar obligations ; and he who attains elevation of place or extent of fortune, increases not only the pleasures he has to enjoy, but the duties he has to perform. This, however moralists have always complained, is apt

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140 The Mirror. N^opr.

to be forgotten ; the great are ever ready to exercise power, and the rich to purchase pleasure ; but the first are not always mindful of benignity, nor the latter of beneficence.

In the lighter duties of life, the same rule takes place, and is, in the same manner but little attended to. In these, indeed, it is more liable to be disregarded from an idea of its unimportance. Yet, to the little and the poor, the behaviour of the great or the rich is often as essential as their conduct. There may be tyranny and injustice in the one as well as in the other ; nay, I have known many men who could forgive the oppression of the powerful and the encroachments of the wealthy in more material instances, who never could pardon the haughtiness of their demeanour, and the fastidiousness of their air.

It is strange, I think, that the desire of depressing the humble, and overawing the modest, should be so common as it is among those on whom birth or station has conferred superiority. One might wonder how it should ever happen, that people should prefer being feared to being loved, to spread around them the chillness of unfocial grandeur, rather than the warmth of reciprocal attachment.. Yet,,

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N⁹* The Mirror. 141

from the pride of folly, or of education, we find this is often the case; there is scarce any one who cannot recollect instances of persons who seem to have exchanged all the pleasures of society, all intercourse of the affections, for the cold pre-eminence of state and place.

But, in the ideas of their power, it is proper to inform such persons, they are frequently mistaken. It must be on a mind very contemptible indeed, that mere greatness can have the effects they are apt to ascribe to it. They cannot blazon with a frown or elevate with a smile, from rank or station alone, without some other qualities attending them. 'Tis with rank and station, as an acquaintance of mine, somewhat of a compound, though a better thing from nature, observed to me of dress, "Every man," said he, looking at himself in a mirror, "every man can put on a fine coat; but it is not every man who can wear one."*

It is, by no means, so easy to do the honours of a high station as many who attain high stations are apt to imagine. The importance of a man to himself is a feeling common to all; to settle with propriety the claims of others, as well as of ourselves, requires na

inconsiderable

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142 The Mirror. N^{ji}.

inconsiderable degree of discernment; and the jealousy of inferior stations in this matter, will criticize with the utmost nicety the determinations of their superiors. In proportion as the great claim respect or adulation, the spirit of those beneath them will commonly refuse it. We see daily examples of men, who go on arrogating dignity, and procuring contempt; who meet with flights where they

demand respect, and are refused even the attention to which they are intitled, because they would impose attention rather than receive it.

But it is not always by haughtiness of demeanour that people show themselves so haughty. There is a claim of superiority, amidst the condescension of some men infinitely more disgusting than the distant dignity of ordinary pride. Somebody has called the part which the inferiors of such people play, "holding the lower end of familiarity." Organi's dislike of the end-holders constantly about him. He calls them by their names, as he does his hounds \ they open at his jeers, follow the content of every observation he makes, and run down every character he attacks. For all this he rewards them exactly

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N^o.pi. The Micro. 143

as Jie does his favourite dogs^ by allowing them to dirty his parlour, and feed at his table; and, like the master of many a pack^ he is despised by all his neighbours who have understanding, and hated by all those who want it.

Nothing is more difficult than the art of a patron ; the power of patronising is but one ingredient in its composition. A patron must be able to read mankind, and, to conciliate their affections ; he must be so deserving of praise as to be independent of it; yet receive it as if he had no claim, and give it value where it is just, by resisting adulation. He must have that dignity of demeanour which may keep his place in the circle ; yet that gentleness which may not overpower the most timid, or overawe the meanest. If he patronise the arts, he must know and feel them ; yet he must speak to the learned as a learner, and often submit the correctness of his taste to the errors of genius. With so many qualifications requisite for a patron, it is not wonderful that so few should arise; or that the bunglers whom we see attempt the part, should so frequently make enemies by offices of friend

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144 The M i r r o r. N^o 14.

friendship and purchase a lampoon at the price of a panegyric.

There is a sort of female patronage, of which I cannot forbear taking notice, though it be somewhat out of place here. It is considered as of little importance, though, I am apt to believe, its consequences are sometimes of a very serious nature. In some great houses. My-Lady^{as} as well as My-Lord, has a train of followers, who contend for that honour which her intimacy is held to confer, and emulate those manners which her rank and fashion are supposed to sanctify. Let the humanity of such a patroness lead her to beware, lest her patronage be fatal to her favourites. If the glare of grandeur, or the luxuries of wealth, deprive them of the relief of sober enjoyments; if the eagerness of fashionable behaviour seduce them from the simplicity of purer manner?,* they will have dearly purchased the friendship which they court, or the notice which they envy. Let such noble persons consider, that to the young ladies they are pleased to call their friends, those sober pleasures, those untainted manners, are to be the support of celibacy, the dower of marriage^{and} the comfort and happiness of a future

life.

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N^o 14. The M i r r o r. 14f

life. It were cruel, indeed, if, by any idle fringement of those manners, any contempt for those pleasures, (too easily copied by their followers), they should render the little trifling distinctions which they bestow in kind^{ness}, a source of lasting misery to those who receive them. '

To the behaviour of the rich, the above observations may apply; wealth, in a commercial country like ours* conferring, in a great measure, the dignity of title or of birth. There are, however^{and} some

particular errors[^] . into which the poffeflbrs of fuddenlly-acquU Kd fortunes are apt to fall, that defeat the ends at which they aim, thac difguft where they meant to dazzle, and only create envy where they wiihed to excite admiration. When LucuUuSi at a dinner to which he has invited half a dozen of his old acquaintance[^], fliowfi his {ide*board loaded with plate, and brmgs in feven or eight laced fervants to wait at table, I do not reckon the dinner given, but fold. I am expe£ked to pay my reckoning as much as in a tavern ; only here I am to give; my admiration, and there my money ; and it ls certain, that many men, and fome very narrow ones too, will fooner part with the laft

Vol-III. N - thail

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14[^] The M I r h o r. N[^]pi.

'than with the fonEier. I have fometimes feen a high-fpirited poor nran at LucitUus*s table, affronted by the produftion of Burgnn* Sy, and xcfufe Cframpaigme, beiaufe it had the lorachio of our landlord's fburfcore thoufand pounds on't> This was honeft, and Lucvllus had not much title to complain; but he knows not how often his Burgundy and Cfaampaigne are drunk by fellows[^] who teH all the world, next day, of their former dinners with Jbim at a ihiHing ordinary, with fixpennyworth of punch, by way of regale, irpoti holi» days.

There is an obligation to complacency, I had a:Imoft faid humiRty, of manners, which Ae acquifition of wealth or ftation lays on c[^] very man, though it has often, efpecially on weak minds, a direftly-opposite effect* A certain degree of inattention, or even rudenefs, which, from an equal, we oiaiy eafily pardon, from a fuperior, becomes a ferious injury. When mj fchool-companion, Marcus[^] was a plain fellow like myfelf, I could have waited him half an hour after the time of appointment, and laughed at his want of an apology when w€ met. But now that he is become a

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N⁹* TiTE Mirror. 147

great maoi I cpuDt the minutes of my attendance with impatience ; and, when he fwag« gers up to his elbow-chair without an acknowledgemjent, I hate him for that arrogance which I think he affumes, and almoft hate myfelf for bearing it as I do. The truth is, 'Marcus was born in the rank, but without the fenilibilities of a gentleman 5 a want, which no office in the ftate, no patent of dignity, can ever fupply. If the term were rightly un« derftood, I might confine my admonitions on the fubjeft of this paper to three words, •* Be ** 2, gentleman.^ The. feelings of this character, which, in point of manners, is the moft refpectable of any, will be as immediately hurt by the idea of giving uneafinefs by his own behaviour, as of fuffering uneafinefs from the behaviour of another.

N 2 No⁹ 92i

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N⁹2. ' Saturday, March2\$. 178a

LOOKING from the window of a houfe where I was vifiting fomc mornings ago, r obfervcd, on the oppofite fide of the ftrce> a fign-poft, indicating a pcrfon to Kve thcr<^ by trade a Figure^maker. On remarking to a gentleman who flood near me, that this was a profeilion I did not recoiled having heard of before, my friend, who has a knack of drawing obfervations from trifles, and, I muft confefs, is a little inclined to take things on their weak fide, replied, with a farcaftic fmile, that it was one of the moft common in life. While he fpoke, a fmart young man, who has lately fet up a very flowy equipage, pafcd by in his carriage at a brisk trot, and bowed to me, who have the honour of a flight acquaintance with him, with that air of civil confe* quence which puts one in mind of the notice a man thinks himfelf ihtitled to^ •• That ** young gentleman," faid my friend, •* is a " Figure^maker^ and the chariot he drives in "]» his Jign-poft^ You might trace the bre

" thren.

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N°92- The M i r r o r. 149^

thren of this irade through every ftrect,. ** fquare, and houie in town. Figure-ma* ** king is common to all ranks| ages, tem-^ *^ pers, and iituations : there are rich and poor, extravagant and narrow, wife and " foolifh, witty and ridiculous, eloquent and ** filent, beautiful and ugly Figure-makers* la ** fbort, there is fcarce any body fuch a Qjif** pher from Nature, as not to form fome f^ preteniion&^to making a figure in fpite of " her.**

" The young man who bowed to you is aa^ •' extravagant Figure-maker, more remarkable •^from being fucceflbr to a narrow one I •* knew his father well, and have often vifited. ** him, in the courfe of money-iranfactions,, " at his office, as it was called, in the garret** ftory of a dark airlefs houfe, where he fat,, •^ like the genius of lucre, brooding, in his *^ hole, over the wealth his parfimony had ac« " quired him, .The very ink with which he ** wrote was adulterated with water, and he " delayed mending his pen till the charaftera <' it formed were almoft illegible. Yet he too ** had great part of his enjoyment from the " opinion of others, and was notinfenfible to' 'J the pleafurcs of Figure-making. I have ofN 3. ten*

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*5o . The M r r r a k. NPpr

♦* ten feen him in his thread-bare brown coat,» ** ftop on the ftreet to wait the pafEng of ** fome of his weU-drcffed debtors, that He ** might have the pleafurc of infulting them ^ with the mtimacy to which their fituations " intitled him j and I once knew him aftuaF^* ly lend »large fum on terms lefs advanta** geous than it was his cuftom to ihiff upon, •* merely becaufe it wa» a Peer who wanted •* to borrow, and that he had applied in vaiiXi ** tp two right honourable relations of hnv ** menfe fortune. ^

** His son has just the same desire of [^] increasing his wealth that the father had ; but he •* takes a very different method of displaying [^] it. Both, however, - display, not enjoy, •« their wealth, and draw equal satisfaction from the consequence derived from it in the ** opinion of others. The father kept guineas [^] ♦[^] in his coffers which he never used V the four ♦< changes, indeed [^] the species of property,, [^] but has just as little the power of using it. « He keeps horses in his stable, mill-rent, &c. «* lodgings/ and servants in livery [^] to no better [^] purpose than his father did guineas. He ♦* gives dinners, at which he eats made dishes y that he detest[^]ed, and drinks Champagne [^] and

[^][Burgundy,

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Ir[^]9[^]. T a % M r R R a ». r[^]t

•* But T[^]grmrfy, instead of his old beverage of [^] port and punch, t[^]U he is sick, because they ** are the diabolical and drink of great and rich ** men. The Ton V situation has the advantage " of twillancy, but the father [^] was more likely to be permanent; he was daily growing " richer with the aspect of poverty j his son ** h daily growing poorer with the appearance of wealth..

[^] It is impossible to enumerate the pranks [^] which the sudden acquisition of riches, joined to this desire of Figure[^]making, sets people " !i||)laying. There is. nothing so absurd or [^] extravagant, which riches[^], in the hands of ** a weak man[^] will not tempt him to commit •* from the mere idea of enjoying his money " in the way of exhibition[^] Nay, t[^]h wilT •* happen to persons of whose sense and discretion the world had formerly a high opinion, even where that opinion was a just " one J for wealth often makes fools where ** it does not find them.**—My friend happened[^] to cast his eye towards me at that moment, discovered a smile on my countenance[^] •* You are thinking now,*[^] said he, " that [^] you and I could endure being left twenty or [^] (hirty thousand pounds[^] notwithstanding

*« the

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152 The ST r r r o r; N^pz;

** the truth of my obfervation.^'—*^ It would •• f^il youf lefture, I replied ; but you may ** go on in the mean time."— He took the pinch of fnuff which my remark had flopped in its progrefs towards his nofe, and went cm " From this motive of Figure-making^^ continued he, turning to the ladies of the companyi ** beauty puts on her airs, and .\fit la* *' bours for a Bon-Mot, till thb iirft becomes ** ugly, and the latter tirefome. You may ^^ have frequently obfcruvd Betfey Ogle, in a ** company of her ordinary acquaintance, look ** charmingly, becaufe fhe did not care how " {he looked, till the appearance of a gentle«^ man, with a fine coat or a title, has fet her «* a-tofiing her head, rolling her eyes, biting •* her lips, twifting her neck, and bringing ?* her whole figure to bear upon him, till the ^* expreffion of her countenance became per" feft folly, and her attitudes downright dif** tortion. In the fame way, our friend Ned •* Glibi (who has more wit than any man I *^ know, could he but learn the economy of ** it), when fome happy ftrokes of humour ** have given him credit with himfelf and the *^ company, will fet out full tilt, mimickingi •^ caricaturing, punniog, and fiory-telling,

«tUl

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N°9^ The Mirror. ijj

*«tft every body prefent wifhes him dumb, " abcPlooks grave in proportion as he laughs.

" That wit and beauty fhould be defirous of *' making a figure is not to be wondered at, " admiration being the very province they " contend for. That folly and ugliness fhould " thruft themfelves forward to public" notice, " might be matter of furprife, did we not rc" colleft that their owners moft probaby think " themfelves witty and handfofie. In thefe, " indeed, as in many other inflances, it un* ^* fortunately

happens, that people are strangely bent upon making a figure in those very departments where they have least chance of succeeding.

" But there is a species of animal, several of whom must have fallen under the notice of every body present, which it is difficult to classify either among the witty or the foolish; the clever or the dull, the wife or the mad, who, of all others, have the greatest propensity to figure-making. Nature seems to have made them up in haste, and to have put the different ingredients, above referred to, into their composition at random. They are more common in such a place as this, than in a more extensive sphere, like Rome

. • vermin,^

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154 The Mirror. N^o 2.

• vermin, that breed in ponds and rivulets, which a larger stream or lake would destroy. Our circle is just large enough to give their talents room, and small enough to be affected by their exertion. Here, therefore, there is never wanting a junto of town of both sexes, who are liked or hated, admired or despised, who make people laugh, or set them asleep, according to the opinion of the time, or the humour of their audience, but who have always the satisfaction of talking themselves, and of being talked of by others. With us, indeed, a very moderate degree of genius is sufficient for this purpose; in small societies, folks are set agape by small circumstances. I have known a lady here contrive to make a figure for half the winter, on the strength of a plume of feathers, or the trimming of a petticoat; and a gentleman make himself to be thought a fine fellow, only by outdoing every body else in the thickness of his queue or the height of his foretop.

• But people will not only make themselves fools; I have known instances of their becoming knaves, or, at least, boasting of their being so from this desire of figure-

^ making.

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N^p^* The Mirror^ 155

** making. You £haU hear a fellow, who has " once got thecharafter of being a {harp man, *' tell things of himfelf, for which, if thej ** had been true, he dcferved to be hanged, '* merely becaufc his line of figure-making " lies in trick and chicane ; hence, too, pro* "cced allthofe hiftories of their own profl"gacy and vice, which fome young men of ** fpirit are perpetually relating, who are'wili" ing to * record them/elves villains,* ratherf '^ than not be recorded at all

" In the arts, as well as in the characters of ** men, this fame propenfitv is produftive of " ftrange diforders. Hence proceed the bom** baft of poetry, the tumor of profe, the ga** rish light of fome paintings, the unnatural " chiarofcuro of others 5 hence, in ciufic, the " abfurd mixture of difcordant movements, and " the squeak of high-fttrained cadences; in ** flort, all thofe fins againft nature and fim" plicity, which artifts of inferior merit are " glad to praftife, in order to extort the no** tice of the public, and to make a figure, by ** furprife and fingularity.*

The accidental interruption of a new vifitor now Hopped the current of my friend's dif

courfe;

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t^6 The Mirror. N^^pt.

courfe; he had, indeed, begun to tire mok of the company J who were not all difpofed to liften quite fo long as he feemed inclined to ipeak. In truth, he had forgot that the very reproof he meant to give his neighbours^, applied pretty flrongly to himfelf, and that, though

he might suppose he was ledluring from the desire of reformation, he was, in reality,, haranguing in the spirit of Jigoo-m^a king.

I

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I

N^o 93. Tuesday, Manh 28. i^jZ^a Parva leva capiunt animos. Ovio.

That life consists, in a great measure, of trifling occurrences and little occupationSy there needs no uncommon sagacity or attention to discover, Notwithstanding the importance we are apt to ascribe to the employments and the time, even of the greatest and most illustrious, were we to trace such persons to the end of their labours and the close of their pursuits, we should frequently discover, that trifles were the folace of the one, and the purpose of the other. Public business and political arrangement, are often only the constrained employments to which accident or education has devoted their hours, while their willing moments are defined, perhaps| to light amusements and to careless mirth.

It is not, then, surprising, that trifles should form the chief gratification of ordinary men, on whom the public has no claim, and indivi

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duals have little dependence. But, of those trifles the nature will commonly mark the man, as much as circumstances of greater importance. A mind capable of high exertion or delicate sentiment, will (loop with a certain consciousness of its defect, that will not allow it to waver into absurdity, or sink into grovelings. There is, in short,

a difference, which sense and feeling will not easily forget, between the little and the mean, the simple and the rude, the playful and the foolish.

But the surest mark of a weak mind is an affectation of importance amidst the enjoyment of trifles, a bustle of serious business amidst the most insignificant concerns. The bringing forward of little things to the rank of great ones, is the true burlesque in character as well as in style ; yet such characters are not uncommon, even among men who have acquired some estimation in the world. In this particular, the world is easily deceived ; dullness may often ape solemnity, and arrogate importance, where brighter talents would have drawn but little regard; as objects are magnified by mists, and made awful by darkness.

Of a character of this sort I received, some

time

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1793 The Mirror. 159

time ago, the following letter from a young lady, who sometimes honours me with her correspondence, whose vivacity can give interest to trifles and entertainment to absurdity.

Dear Sir,

Mr. OU made me promise, on leaving town that I would write to you whenever the country afforded any thing worth writing about. The country, at present, merely a country, presents no landscape but one undistinguishing tract of snow and vegetation is locked up in frost, and we are locked up within doors; but something might be traced within doors, had I a good pencil for the purpose.—* Mine host, of whom you have heard a good deal, is no bad subject: Suppose I make him fit for his picture.

Believe me, he is not quite the fenfible intelligent man we were told he was,—So much the better; I like bddities — even now and then, in town ; flll better in the country j — -but in froft and fnow, and all the dreary confinement of winter,—Oh ! your battledore and Jbuttlecoch are a joke to them.

You remember, a long while ago, (fo long,
that I have forgot every part of the book but

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itfo The Mirror. N*=^93".

the name), we read Nature dlplayed together. Tou then told me of a certain Mr Leeuweri' hoeky I think you called him, whose microfcope (hewed the circulation of frog's blood, the fcales of the fcales of fifties, the briftles of mites, and every other tiny thing in the world. Now, my worthy landlord, Mr G. R. has always fuch a glafs as LeewwenhoecVs in his noddle; every little thing is fo great to him, and. he does little things, and talks of little things, with an air of fuch importance !—but I hate definitions ; piftures are ten times better \ and now for a few lketches of my wiXiter-quarters, and of the good man under whose government I live.

I difcovered, on my firft entry into his houfe, that evei'y thing was in exaft order, and every place inviolably appropriated to its refpeftive ufc. The gentlemen were to put their hats and fticks in one corner, and the ladies their clogs in another. The very day of my arrival, I heard the family-apothecary get a fevere rebuke for violating the chaftity of the clog-corner with his rattan. I have hitherto efaped much cenfure on this fcore: Luckily I have attrafted the regard of Mr R/s youngeft fifter^ a grave, confideratc, orderly

youngs

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JM^pj. T H £ M t n R o K. %6t

young lady. I don't know how it is, but I have often got into favour with those grave ladies.—God knows, I little deserve it.—Miss Sophia R. therefore keeps me right in many important particulars, or covers my deviations with some apology; or, if all won't do, I laugh, as is my way; Mr R. calls me Rattleicull, saying he (shall bring me into order by and by, and there's an end on't.

By that attention to trifles, for which, from his earliest days he was remarkable, Mr R. made himself commodious to some persons of considerable influence, and procured many advantages, to which, neither from birth nor fortune, he was any way intitled. He travelled in company with a gentleman of very high rank and distinguished abilities, by whose means he procured an introduction to many eminent men in foreign countries; and, when he returned from abroad, was often in the society of the eminent men of our own. But his brain, poor man! was like a gauze screen, it admitted nothing of any magnitude: Amidst great men and great things, it took in only the dust that fell from them.

He was reading, in the news-papers, the

improvement, of the marriage of the Honour

able

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able Miss W to Sir H. S. << Ah f*

said he, " to think how time passes I I re

** member her grandfather Lord W well

*• a gi'eat man, a very great man. We met at " Naples J and afterwards went to Ptinna togc** ther. I gave him the genuine receipt for *^ the Parmefan cheefe^ which I went purpofe•* ly to procure, while he was eiamining feme " ftatues and ancient manucripts. We were " ever afterwards on the moft friendly foot*^ ing imaginable. I was with him a few ** mornings before the marriage of Lord C.

«< W this very Mifs W 's father. I

** remember it well,— it'was at breakfaft 5—I ** often breakfafted with him before he went ^ to the houfc i—he always cat buttered muf ** fins \ but when I was there, be ufed to op*< der dry toaft\ I always tzxdry toaft. — The ** bride was with us; I was intimately ac^ *^ quainted with her too 5 fhe let- me into ^ the whole fecret of the courtihip. Her fa** thcr*s principal inducement to the match,—

•* it was a long affair, — the B eftate was

•' to be fettled on the young folks at the mar* <^ riage 5 —no, not all, — part of the B—

« eftate, with the manor in Lincoln (hire. •

^ But, as I was faying, we were, at breakfaft

*« at

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N^93' The Mirror. 163:

•* at Lord W——'s. His fon and the bride ** were by; Lord C. had velvet breeches, aod <' gold clocks to his flockings ; the quefiion ** was, whether this was proper ? I put it to ^ the bride; I made her blufh, I warrant you; " — fhe was a fine woman, a prodigious fine ^, woman.; fhe always ufed my wafh-ball; I " wrote out the receipt for her; it was given

•' me at Vienna by Count O ; a very great

*' man Count O——, and knew more of the *^ affairs of the empire than any man in Ger* ^ many.—From him I firft learned with ccr* *• tainty^, that the Duchefs of Lorraineh two. ** fore-teeth were falfe ones. I remember he "had an old gray monkey. —Sifter Mary, ^ you have heard me tell the ftory of Count «i O *s monkey.*^—But here it pleafcd Heaven that William called his mafter put of the room, and favcd us from the Count and his ©ld gray monkey.

This fuperficial knowledge of great men, and accidental acquaintance with fome of the vocables of ftate^ buinefs, has given him a confcquential fort of phrafeology, which he applies^ with all the gravity in the world, to the moft trifling occurrences. When he orders the chaise for his eldeft fifter, himfelf,

and

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i\$4 The JM l r r p r. N'^pj.

aad me, the white p^d iot. Sophy^ and the

old roan mare f<>r her attendant, he calls it

/^* r€gulating ihe order offhe procfiffion^^ When

jhe gives put the wine fipiti the cellar^ and the

groceries from the (lore-room, (for he does

;boith 10 perfon), h^ tells us, he has been

.^^ granting the Supplies'^^ ^rhe acceptance, or

offer of a vifit, he Jays before ** a lommittee of

:" the v)hcle koufe ;** and for -the killing of the

{2X OX this Chriftnas, he called the gentleiDen

-three fuoce/five mornings to " a grand council

'* if VJ(ir*^

It were well if all this were ooJy matter of amufement j but fon\e of us find it a fource of very ferious diftrefs. Your managing men are commonly plagues; but Mr R. manages fo much to a hairVbrcadth, that he is a downight torment to the other members of his family. It was but yefterday we had the honour of a ceremonious vifit from fome great folks, as we think them, who c?mie lately from your town to eat their mince-pies in the country. After a wonderful ringing of bells, calling of fervants, and trampling upon th^ flairs all mornintg, Mr R. qame down to the drawing-room at a quarter before three, with all his ufual fiddle-faddleiitior^ but, as I thought.

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N^pi* The Mirror. i6j

thought, in very good humour. He had on his great-company wig, and his round fet shoe-buckles. . The fervants had their liveries new white-baird, and the beft china was fet out, with the large filver falvers, and the embossed porter-cups on the fide-board. The covers were ftripped from the worked chairbottoms^ and his grandmother's little diced carpet was taken off the roller, and laid, like a patch, on the middle of the floor, the naked part of which was all fhining with beeswax. The company came at their hour \ the beef was roasted to a turn 5 dinner went on with all imaginable good order and ftupidity j fupper was equally regular and fleepy 5 in flirt, every thing leemed quite as it fhould be : Yet, next morning, I perceived foul weather in all the faces of the family 5 Mr R. and his filler fcarce fpoke to one another, and he talked, all the time of breakfast, of female carckffhefs and inattention. Mi/s Sophia explained it to me when we were left alone. «« Oh ! do you know," iaid (he, '^ a fad af. *' fair liappened lafl night: My brother and " fifter had fuch a tiff You muft under" ftand, before the company arrived yefter" day, he had, as ufual, adjufted the cccrmo

*«mal

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i66 The Mr r |t p r. N^pj,

<' nial of their different apartments ; but he ** difcovered, on attending them to their ** rooms at night, that my fifter had put the '^ gilt-china bottle and bafon into the caliico .^^ bed-chamber, and. the ordinary blue and '•^ white into the pink damajk.^—It is lucky this man h no guardian of mine \ were he to watch me as he does his flifters, and fee all the odds and ends about me.-^ But what has he to -do to be a guardian. Yet Nature, perhaps, meant him for fomthing, if fortune had allowed it 5 kc might have been excellently employed in a pin-Jbopy m ftickjog the rows ioa pin^paper.

I fancy you harve got quite enough of my -landlord. You ufed to fay I was iht beft of -your philofophers, your Democritus iu petticoats. If I have an inch of philofophy about me, it is without my knowledge, I

affure you j you ai-e welcome to it, however, fuch as it is. Other folks may give you what I have heard you call the great views of Nature and Life \ it is enough for me if I. can-enrich your colle^ioa with a paper oiinfeEls. Yours moft truly,

C.F. V

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N®94. Satdrdat, Jfriti. 1780.

AMoNG the other privileges of an anonymous periodical author, is that of wri-* t«ng letters in praife of himfelf, which he is, now and then, obliged to infer on account of their merit, however ofFenfive they may be to Ws modefty. This fort of correpondencc, which I fuppofe is a very pleafant one, I have not yet ventured to indulge in. The correpondents whom I ha'^e "pe'rfonated, alw'ays talk of themfelves inftead of the Mirror j ^nd, ori the other hand, feveral of the papers I have received, are written in the perfon of the author, a charafter in which it were improper to praife him, and which, when afu' ^edy gives, perhaps, no great inclination to do ^t. Of thi* laftYort is the firft of two comn^unications to which I devote the paper of to-day ; the fecond, containing one of the ^ery few compliments which the Mirror has exhibited of itfelf, is a genuine letter from London, written by a gentleman in the very

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i68 The M i r u o &• N<*94.

fituation the feelings of which he fo naturallj defcribes.

\ T N my firft paper T took occaCon to mention a few particulars of my fituation and charafter, and my objeft in this publication. My

design has been to afford an agreeable and innocent amusement; and, by laying before my readers those characters which were acquainted with, and which presented themselves before me, I had some hopes, though I should not reclaim the completely vicious, that I might be able to guard the young and inexperienced, to alarm the inconsiderate, to confirm the wavering, and to point out, even to the worthy, some of those errors and imperfections, from which, perhaps, the finest minds are in the greatest danger of suffering.

How far I have been able to afford any amusement, I will not take upon me to say; but, I am sorry to find, that many of the characters which I have presented to the public, with a view to point out men's errors and de-

fects,

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1794- The Mirror. 68

These, have been considered as proper objects of imitation, and that some of my readers have been so far mistaken, the purpose of this preface is to convince such characters, and to be satisfied with thinking that themselves bear some resemblance to them.

When I made my readers acquainted with my friend Mr Fleetwood, I never meant to recommend that excessive delicacy and refinement which often prevents him from being happy on the contrary, my intention was to point out the danger of that excess, refinement, and to guard such of my readers as should be disposed to indulge in it against its fatal consequences; and yet I know a gentle man, who is so desirous of being thought possessed of elegance and refinement, that, the other day, I saw him very much pleased when one of his friends told him he was a very Fleetwood-like fellow for him I know him to be possessed of Fleetwood's good qualities, without his imperfections, I cannot say so much for his acquaintance C. D.; he is a peevish discontented creature, and in his temper, jealous of his friends, and, dissatisfied with every thing

about high. JHe J^a» Of lftt« taken it into his head .to hQamAn^t^^
Vol. ni. P thou|;li

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§70 The M i r i t o ii. N094.

ichough he has not the leaft pretei)£oD8 to the icharader ;• and,
while he indulges his own jvecvifhneft and chagrin, he flatters himfelf
Vrith the thought that he is a Fleetwood, and :Rpologies for his bad
temper, by caUing it the efFeA of hts delicacy and refinement of
mind^ *rhough~I confefe my partiality for Fleetwood's ^ood qualities,
yet, had I not known C. D. I could hardly have thought, that any oqe
^ould have been vain of his imperfections, wrho was not poflefled of
any of his merits.

When I introduced Mr Umpbr^inlle to my readers, I never meant to
recommend that fecluOon from the world, and that abftraAion from
the duties of life, which, with all the dignity of mind he is pofiefled of,
have given occafion to his little oddities, and difqualified him for
every aotive purpofe; and yet Ttm Meadov^s, who gave up the
profeffion of the law, becaufe he was too idle to attend to it, and who
has lately fold his commiffion in the ftrmy, becaufe he would not
undergo the fatigues of a foreign campaign, has thought proper to
juftify his condu£V, by appealing to Mr XJmphravfllc's example, and
pretends to fay, ihat he, forfooth, has too much pride of mm^f to
ocicupy himfelf in applying the rules

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N^ 94. T H B Mirror. ^71^

of bir to the uninterefting difputes of indivw doabj or to be engaged:
iixailifting at a review, or lining the ftreets at a proceflkm.

H. B.'s letter in my 51st number, describes the dangerous effect of giving too much culture, and too many accomplishments, and of softening too much the mind of a young girl, who has to struggle with the difficulties of life and is not placed in such a situation as makes her independent of the world. It represents, in a very feeling manner, the delicate distress which these circumstances had occasioned. I have lately, however, received a letter from a correspondent who, from her language and expressions, seems to be a Greek reader in the circulating library. She says,; &e -has lately spent much of her time in studying the Books Lettré that, of all things, she would wish to be learned and accomplished—that (she regrets that her father did not educate her better;— that, of all the persons she ever read of, she would wish to be like my correspondent H. B.;—that (she envies her affliction, for that affliction makes a part of her dream of happiness!*

The letter published in my 78th number, gives an excellent description of the bad effect

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17,1 Trir:>E' M i'r r or/ N@94*.

ja of that (too great. cautions of temper which leads a man into folly and extravagance and makes him ruined by having too many friends. . My neighbour Will Littlehit's whole heart is taken up with a notion to be susceptible of the sentiment of friendship and who, far from being in danger of being, preyed upon by his friends, never admits a guest within his house, says, that this is the only good paper, he has seen in the 'Mirror', and that the last paragraph in particular should be printed in letters, of gold, just as the fervent prayer of imitation for all the योग-m^n q(- the age of the particulars . above mentioned have, taught me how difficult is the attempt to improve ourself: reform, -Xhier if no virtue which. it is not nearly connected with some vice; —• there is no imperfection which does not bear a resemblance to some excellence. T— And mankind, fond of indulging their foolish passions and inclinations lead a dissipated life endeavouring to confound their

vices with their virtues - in the end of the world, the good
will rain, they bind all; up to - ». together, and hug themselves in the belief
of holding only what is valuable..

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Vf⁹⁴. The IJ I » k or;- 173⁹⁴

To the AVTHOK of the MfBTBfOR.

S I R,. London, Marc/fiji, 1780.

T AM, though at this distance, . 00c of your constant reader's, and
mark with pleasure. not only the general good tendency; of your
papers, but perceive also, that you draw your pictures of human
nature from the only pure fountain,. Nature herself•

You must know I am a native of Edinburgh⁹⁴, where I passed my youth,
and received my education but have been long settled in this⁹⁴
place. Some years ago, I was impelled by a very natural desire to
revivify my native country, and I now sit down to communicate to you
the sensations I felt upon that occasion*

On my arrival in Edinburgh. I will own.. that what first struck me - was
the total change. of faces. Very few were left whom I knew when a
boy and those so altered in their appearance, so much the shadows
only of what they once were, as could not fail to excite many serious
reflections. Hardly a single house did I find inhabited by the same
persons; but every where a new race, new manners and
new modes of living. In short.

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174 T it: B* M r R R" Cr R* N⁹⁴?

I found myself, in almost every sense of the word, an alien
Even the improvements that I had seen during my long ab*

fence displeased me. The corn-fields on the both side of the town were quite covered with husbandry; - Barefooted parks', where I have had many a Retired and pleasant walk into a splendid city and, in that cold town, many ruinous buildings, the scene so far from my youthful amusement. Now rebuilt with equal solidity and elegance.

Nor were these my only grievances; The removal of the North bow-port and of many other mementoes, in short, every alteration, though evidently for the better, that had taken place since my departure, more or less displeased me. You will more easily account than I can, how it comes to pass that the human mind should be so much opposed against innovations of what nature soever. This may, perhaps, inferably arise from the picture they exhibit of the mutability of every object before us, and a tacit intimation that we ourselves are composed of the same changeable materials, and must soon quit the scene;

I will acknowledge, however, that I had the satisfaction to find many places (bar did

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N^o 94; The Mirror and the Lyre

not hurt me by any alteration or improvement. Your wind and clouds were nearly in the state I had left them; and where, in some parts of the fleets, you have got new pavements, the good people who live at the sides of them take care that there be no innovation in point of cleanliness; the Theatre and Concert Hall are new buildings; but your Assembly-Room where people of the highest fashion resort, is just as paltry, as ever. But, as they dance there for the benefit of the poor, I shall forbear any further remarks on it.— ** Chatterbox covereth a multitude of fools

The High-School *, and its environs, I found unaltered, though the yards appeared to me, to be much diminished in their extent; The College^ too, remained the same plain, mean, unadorned building it was half a century ago, and seemed^ to me, after having seen the splendour of the palaces of Oxford and Cambridge, more homely than ever. Though^ perhaps, in literature, as in religion, Sister Peg confines herself^ to substance, without much regard to ornament; yet, methinks, it is rather a reproach to the capital of our country, that^ - a

. * This school^ I understand^ has been since rebuilt.. ^ _

midst

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»7<S T I T B M I R It o^ It. K®94i

midst all its improvementSy* this university, far more celebrated over Europe for the ability of its professors^ and the success with which; every branch of science is there cultivated,^, than is presented to the eye of a stranger, a few of buildings so inconvenient as well as meant: The present period is, perhaps, not very favourable to expensive public designs; but I would have your readers, among whom, I hope, are included all the men of fortune and taste in the kingdom, think of the College^ soon as the profusion of the times will admit. As an individual, from that regard to the honour of the land of my nativity, which, I hope, will never be extinguished, I shall willingly and liberally contribute, whenever this necessary work is determined upon.

I will not tire you with my various observations during several excursions I made into different parts of the country; because some of them might to your readers^ appear too* trite, and others, perhaps, too trivial. But I cannot omit telling you^ that the spirit of industry, so conspicuous in the various manufactures on foot of late years, and in the improved face of the country, gave birth to many pleasing sensations which are not easily

described.

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^94' THE . MIRROR ». >77

described. Yet I was not much better pleased with fame of the fine buildings of the country than with those of the town. In many places I could not help regretting the Gothic grandeur of ancient castles, displaced by modern (heavy edifices. Some of their owners, I fancy, are of my mind for I was informed that their fathers used to reside at the mansions in their former (late nine months in the year ; but that the pleasures of those elegant hospes are scarcely seen there at all. Nor could I refrain, as I passed along from dropping a tear over the ruins of our illustrious houses in which, however they might have been perverted from the original purposes of their erection I could not help considering as splendid monuments of the piety, of our ancestors. Some of them I saw that had still more tender ties upon my mind. I remembered having played when a boy, under the arches, which time had since mouldered away, with companions, the echo of whose voices was still fresh in my memory, though they, alas! as well as those arches, were now crumbled into dust !

Were I to go on, I find I should be in danger of growing too serious. Recalling to re-

membrance

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fji The Mirror. N°94/

membrance days long past, and the juvenile society of those who are now no more is an awful Operation of the human mind; and While it speaks loudly the truth of St Paul's observation that "the fashion of this world passeth away" imperceptibly leads to a train of thinking that might here be out of place, though it is neither unpleasing nor unfavourable to the character of a rational being who has been taught

and accustomed to consider him* self as an immortal part of the creation^.

I am^ &c#.

N^9j^

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N°9S- Saturday, April 4. i'j6%.

To the Author of the Mirror.

Sir,

AS you have, by several of your publications, given proof that you do not think the occurrence^ of domestic life unworthy your attention» I (shall, without further preface, address you on a subject full as deserving of it as any yet offered to your consideration. It is now above four years since I became the wife of a gentleman» my equal in rank and fortune ; and, what was more material, of a disposition and turn of mind every way suitable to mine*. His estate lies at a considerable distance from the capital; but, as it is situated in an agreeable neighbourhood, and as we have both a taste for reading, and Mr B. is not averr to rural employments, we spent our time as happily as possible, till about ^alf a year ago, that my ill stars directed me to renew my acquaintance with a young lady, who had been my companion at school, and

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i8d The Mirror, N°9J.

who now came on a visit to a relation who lived at no great distance from our home.

Before I proceed in my story, I must beg a candid confession of it.' From the introduction to the disagreeable part of it, you will be apt to imagine that I am one of those self-tormentors justly ridiculed by the ingenious author of the Jealous Wife. No such thing, •Mr MIRROR : my husband's attention to other women never gave me the slightest uneasiness. Convinced of his attachment and satisfied with his treatment of me, I never expected him to be blind to the charms of a beautiful woman, or to forget the merit of an agreeable one ; nor had I the mistaken "policy of many wives, of never offering a tolerable female to enter my doors, or of courting the intimacy of some tall elderly maiden, that I might gain by the comparison." No, Sir ! I depended wholly upon my unremitted attention to please Mr B. for the continuance of his attachment. Nor can I in the least reproach myself with giving cause for the abatement I too plainly perceive in it. . . ; I return to my story. I was much pleased at seeing my old school-fellow : We had been parted many years and I found the

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U«9j* The Mirror it. i8i

wild lively romp improved into an elegant woman. She still, however, retained a good deal of the heedless manner that marked her childhood days; and, though (he has an excellent understanding, she never seemed to make use of it in the regulation of her conduct or behaviour. She expressed herself much pleased at finding me so happily settled : Mr B. appeared to her a most amiable man, and my children (particularly my little Bess) she said were angels. Her attention to them, I own, endeared her to me very much ; though, indeed, Mr Mirror, no one can help loving them, for they are charming children. Her good-humoured playful ways made the little creatures doat on her. At my return from walking, I have frequently found her on her knees on the floor, building castles for their entertainment. Mr B. has observed to me, on those occasions, how amiable it was in a young admired woman, who had spent her life in the usual round of folly and dissipation, to preserve such natural and right feelings. He

generally concluded his observations with saying, that he believed she would make a most excellent wife. I, for a long time, agreed with him in opinion, and used to tell Vol. m. Q_ her

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182 The Miserable N^ops^a.

her before his face, the fine things Mr B. said of her. She received them in a rattling goodhumoured way, insinuating that her condition in the married state would depend on her husband's ^ for she declared that she did not find in herself that exalted turn of mind to love virtue for its own sake, and she believed she would make but an indifferent wife to half the men in the world. Such conversation generally produced an argument between her and Mr B. which, as it was carried on with spirit and temper, had no other effect than making them still more pleased with one another. If she found the argument growing serious, she would call over the children, putting them on their father's knee, and kiss them to kiss him into good humour, which never failed having the effect; or, if she said a flippant thing to him, with which he seemed half offended, she used to take his hand, and smile so sweetly in his face, it was impossible for him to continue displeased with her; and, generally, a kiss and a game of billiards sealed their reconciliation. I own to you, I began not to relish her behaviour; yet it seemed so unpremeditated, and so perfectly corresponding with her general character that

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183 The Miserable N^ops^a.

) did not know how to make her sensible of the impropriety of it. I even doubted my own judgement of the matter. I had for some time lived so much out of the gay world, that I did not know but Mariani's very great freedom of manner might be the fashionable behaviour of the people she had been accustomed to see: if so, how was she to blame

? or why should I be uneasy, knowing her to be a woman of honour, surely incapable of so base an action as endeavouring to alienate my husband's affection from me ? By such reasonings I strove to quell the first emotions (jealous, if you will have them so) that rose in my breast. Eutj alas, Mr Mirror, to what purpose I have every hour fresh cause of uneasiness. About a week ago I went suddenly into the parlour, and found Maria sitting on Mr B's knee, her head leaning on his shoulder: he looked a little out of countenance ; but she was not in the least disturbed at my appearance, but asked me, with her usual good humour, what made me look so grave ? then flapping Mr B gently on the cheek, said, ** It is your fault " you harsh thing you ! when I knew her formerly, she used to be all life and spirits/* He answered^ (coldly I thought), that it was Qjz bia

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i24 The Mirror. N^pj.

his will ever to see me in spirits, and that he was sorry he was not so happy as to hit on a method to make me so. I turned my head aside, to hide the starting tear. Maria, as if guessing at my emotion, put her arm about my neck, and, drawing round my averted face, said, in a loud whisper, ** My dear, Mrs " B. how can you indulge such weakness?" Iyr B. snatched up his hat, and left the room; I heard the word « child(h," as he shut the door. I remember the time when he could not bear the least cloud on my looks, without tenderly inquiring the cause ; but now he seems often to forget that I am present, while Maria engrosses his whole attention. I have been for some days deprived of his company, and have spent the time in reflecting seriously on my situation. The more I consider it, the more it appears to me of a particular and distressing nature. I have at last determined to request: your opinion of it, and, through the channel of your paper, to give Maria a hint, that to keep clear of the grossness of vice, is not sufficient for the delicacy of the female character \ and that the woman who, by an alluring and refined coquetry, engages the thoughts and interests the feelings of a man

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UP^S. The M i r r o ^* ft'. 185

ried man, is a more dangerousj and perhaps Bot a k(s criminal companion> than the avow* ed wanton who excites a ihort-lived paffion, foon extinguifhed by remorse, and, if I may be allowed the ^xpreffion, fully compenfated for by the returning tendernefs of the repent* ing hufband.

I am^^ &c*

E. B

To the iUTHOR o£ the Mirror.

Mr Mirror,

T Married, for love, a moft charming wo*? man, who has made me the happy fethcr of two very fine children : I have a thoufand a-year eftate, and enjoy a moft perfct ftate of health 5 yet a Very flight and contemptible caufe wAs itear deftroying all thofe fair prpfpefts of happinefs, by interrupting the har-^ mony of a union founded on mutual likings and cemented by mutual efteem. In your obfervations on the female world, you hav^ fu&red to cfcape your notice, a dangcrou*0^3 and

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1 ^6 T » E M I R R o It. N^ 9r

aad m^ll: deftruftWc race, whofe hearts, hardcne'd by vanity, are equally impenetrable tothe fliafts of love and inftnible of the charms of fritndfhip r yet the bufinefs of their lives is, to excite paffions they never mean to gratify, and fc*itiments' they ar€ incapable of returning. My dear Mrs B. unfortunately for us both, fome months ago, renewed an intimacy, formed in her childifli days, with one of thofe females. To Maria I was introduced as the hufband of her friend

^ as fuch> I was^ received by her, without reserve, and Iboia treated with the most flattering distinction. Maria possesses all those powers of allurements which men for ever condemn, and can never withstand: She can assume every shape that is fitted to captivate the senses or delight the imagination, and can vary her appearance at pleasure. So consummate is her art, that one could not, for an instant, suspect her of any design in her behaviour \$ and even at this moment, that an accident has laid open her whole character to me, I should not answer for my resolution, were I to enter the room, and smilingly take my hand, as I have seen Jier frequent custom, with such a mixture of sweetness and tenderness in her looks ! — I almost fear I

should

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Nº95' The* Mirror. 187

I should be weak enough to forget that my opinion of her is founded on the cleared proof of her dissembling arts, and that before her self-condemned, as the defamer of innocence and undefining simplicity.

Luckily I am out of her reach : I left my own house immediately upon the discovery I made of the fair hypocrite's real disposition. I mean to send for my dear -Mrs B. and with her pay a visit to the capital, and there use all my efforts to make her amends for any uneasiness my foolish infatuation may have given her* but first I wished to make this public acknowledgement of it and, as Maria deserves no mercy, I shall show her none, except concealing her family-name.

For five months, Mr Mirror, the Proteus-like animal had found out a thousand* different ways to charm me. Was I in spirits^ she was all life and good humour ; when in a graver mood, I found her all sense and feeling. If what I had been reading excited* in me a tender and not unpleasing melancholy, the sympathetic tear stood ready in her eye, A few days since^ upon my reading to her the story of La Roche^ she so beautifully told of your papers, she wept, leaning upon my

I should^rj

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i88 The Mirror. N^pj.

jt boulder^; and I own to you, Mr Mirror, ^s her tears fell upon the fineft boiom Nature aver forouedi while her white hand lightly prefled my arm, I thought I had never behekt fo interefting an objeA. Mrs B, came Aiddenly into the room i her grave cold manner i^as at the moment difagreeably contraAed to Marians animated feelings. For the firft time fince our marriagCi I thought I faw a change m Mrs B/s tem{>er9 ai^d that fhe was not the very amiable woman I took her for. She tx)ok amifs fomethng I iaid, and I left the room in difguft. I ftroUed down a fhady walk that goes round part of my improvements: at the end cf it, I found Maria feated oa the graft, with one of my little girls on her lap. She rofe at my approach^ and> defiring the child to walk before us, took me under the arm, and, in the gentleft te^ms, expoftu-. Ia ted with me on the abruptnefs of my man* jner. She had, ihe faid, after a vain attempt to footh her, left Mrs B. in tear^s. She acknowledged I had not given her very jferious caufe of. unea&nefs^ but that a man of my ienfe ihould make allowance for the trifling blemifhcs of a very good woman; addiagi. with a fmile, ** My dear Mr B. we are none

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VI^9S* The Mirror. 189

> '* of us angels/'—I was puppy enough to be ready to exclaim, ** Upon my foul, you arc " one." — I contented myfelf with faying, •* Whoever you marry, Maria, will have no " reafon to complain of your temper.** She blufhed, drew out her, handkerchief to cover her face with it, as if to conceal her emotions, but gave me fuch a look from below it! — A fervarit appeared to tell us that dinner waited, and we went into the houfe together.

In the afternoon, one of my little girls came into the parlour, where I was sitting alone : " See what I found in the walk, Pappa " said she, holding out a paper. I took it from the child, and feeling it was Maria's hand, was about to go up stairs to return it to its owner when my own name, written in large characters, struck my eye. My good manners were overpowered by the immediate impulse of my curiosity; I opened the paper, and read what follows & it was part of an unfinished letter to a friend in town.

" You talk what havoc I have made among the beaux at ? Alas ! my

" dear Bell, you know but little of my situation, when you talk of beaux ; not a creature would allow to pick up one's faded

withia

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po The Mirror. N^o 95.

" within ten miles of us. Having nothing upon my hands, I have struck up a sort of sentimental Platonic flirtation with a Mr B. " who lives within a small distance of our house. I knew his wife at school, and she was one of the first who visited me upon my arrival here. Her violent praises of her beloved gave me a sort of desire to see him ; and I own, I found him tolerable enough in his appearance, and by no means deficient in understanding, but vain of his flight pre-tensions to talents, and very fond of being thought profound. At the first glance I fell into him, and could now twirl him round my finger. It is very diverting to observe by what foolish principles your men who think themselves very wise are governed. Flatter this man's vanity, and you may soon lead him round the world. Now" " I know you will treat me, in return for my frankness, with a lecture upon coquetry, married men, impropriety, and so forth. Take my advice, my dear Bell, and save yourself the trouble } it would be all to no purpose, A coquette I am, and a coquette I will remain to the last day of the existence of my powers of pleasing."

The

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N⁹⁵« The M i r k o k. ipt

The paper was there at an end. It raised in me the strongest indignation and contempt for the writer. And I felt so aflamed of myself, that I determined not to see my dear Mrs B. until I had made some atonement, by sending you an account of my errors and repentance.

I am, &c.

Noptf.

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N⁹« Saturday, JpHIB. 1780. ^

To the Author of the Mirror.

Sir,

I AM neither ugly, nor old, nor poor, nor neglected; I have a clear conscience: nor have I suffered any calamity by the inconstancy of lovers, or the death of relations. I am not unhappy. The world would laugh at me if I should say I were unhappy. But I am not happy. I will tell you my case: I confide in your feelings & for you seem to understand, what few people understand, that a person may be in easy circumstances, have a clear conscience,* and enjoy sufficient reputation, and yet be — no, I will not say, miserable,— but not happy;

I am the only daughter of an eminent merchant. My father made his own fortune; and a very good fortune he has made of it. He married my mother before his situation was so comfortable as it is at present. They are neither of them niggardly. Having wherewithal

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N⁹. T H fi M f u n o &. 19[^]

withal to live, not only with ease[^] but with some degree of splendour, they chuse, as they say, to enjoy the fruit of their labours.

Accordingly, ^{^^} live in aⁱ elegant house, have a handsome carriage, keep a good number of servants, and['] see a great deal of company, You will easily conceive, however, that the friends attending my father's present system of living, and the manners suited to his present condition, do not just agree with his former habits. But this does not signify much. He is a good-natured worthy man ; and they must be very captious, indeed, who will not suffer his merits to conceal his defects.

With regard to myself, my parents, having no other daughter, and intending to give me a genteel portion, were determined I should have a good education. " For," said my father, <« a young woman of fortune, and of ^{**} an agreeable appearance, must go into company. You and I, Bridget," addressing myself to my mother, " set out in life in a ^{*} different manner. But Mary must have c[^] education."

So they sent me to a famous boarding-school and, in so far as my improvement was concerned, they spared no expence*—Sir,

Vol. III. R I

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194 T H s M I R It o It. N[^] 96.

I speak to you without reserve ; and I hope you will not think me too vain, if I tell you, that my education was no difficult matter. I understood music ; and had little difficulty in acquiring the French and Italian languages. Indeed, the worthy person who had the charge of my education, was well calculated to promote my improvement. She was a woman of family, of fine education, exquisite taste, great goodness of heart, and had shown spirit enough, on the decline of her

father's fortune, rather than live a dependant on her relations, to procure an independent, and now she has rendered it a respectable livelihood for herself. In a word. Sir, I am what they call tolerably accomplished; and you will think it strange, and I think it strange myself, that this should be the source of my uneasiness, • ,

It is now some time since I returned to my father's house. When I came home, I was received with raptures. My father and mother adored me. They would refuse me no«» thing. They strove to prevent my wishes.— Good people I may Heaven grant them peace of mind, and long life to enjoy the fortune they so justly deserve. — But why, Sir, did

they

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N^o 195, The Mirror.

they make me, as they term it, so very accomplished ? They have made me a different creature from themselves. I am apt to fancy myself of a higher order,— Forgive my presumption; and I am sure you will forgive me, when I tell you, I really wish myself lower, indeed, Sir» and it grieves me to the soul, I am sometimes impatient of my parents' But I will not dwell upon this.

I told you, we see a great deal of Company ^ and all the people we see are disposed to admire me. * "Mighty well," you will say : " Give a young woman admiration, and what ** more can she wish for ?" ^ Sir, I wish they loved me more, and admired me less. I am made to sing, and to play on the harp« ; and, to oblige my father, am sometimes constrained to repeat verses : and all this to people who understand no music > and know no other poetry than the Psalms of David in metre. Indeed, till I became better acquainted with them I found, that, even in our conversation ^ there was a mutual misapprehension ^ and that they were sometimes as unintelligible to me as I was to them. I was not at all surprised to hear them call some

of Oixr acquaint* aaces-^ddimen i, but, when i heard them call R z
our

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ipd The M r r r o r. N^ ^6»

our neighbour John Stay tape ^ great man, f could not help a&ing
what difcovcry he had made in arts or fciience, op what eminent
fervice he had rendered his country ? I was told, in return^ that within
thefe few years he had realized- a plumb. This phrafe was alfo new
to me ; and I wiflied to have known fomething about the nature of
fuch realization* Chufing, however, to-aik but one queftion at a time, I
faid nothing j and foon learned, that, whatever fervices Mr Staytape
might da his country, he had hitherto made no great ilifcovery in arts
or fciences. ' I confefs, indeed, that at one time I fancied ihey might
have fome little notion of books ^ and when I heard them fpeak
about under* writersy I thought'It might perhaps be fome ludicrous
term for the minor poets.

So, when they fpoke about policies^ I fan' cied they were ufing the
Scotch word for im* provements in gardening; and yentured to fay
fomething in favour of clumps; " Clumps,** faid a gentkman who is a
frequent vifitorat bur houfe, *♦ flic is to be laden with Norway *« fir." I
found they were fpeaking about the good fliip Rebecca.

A grave-IOoking man, who fat near me one

day

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day at dinner, (aid a good deal about the fal/, and of events that
thouM have happened before and after the fall. As he alfo fpoke a*
bout Providence^ and Salem,, and Ebenezer\ and as gi*eat
deference was fiiown to every thing that he fald; and being, as I told
you, a grave-looking man in a black coat, I was not fure but he might
be fome learned theo* logian ; and imagined be was fpeaking about

Oriental anticipties, and xht fall of Adam^ But I was ibon undeceived. The gentleman had liTed for fome time in Virginia ; by Providence he meant the town of that name in Rhodc'* yidnd\ and by the failj he meant^ not the fall' of our firft parents, for,, concerning them he had not the lead idea, but, as I fuppoſe, the fail of the leaf *, for the word is uſed, it ſeems, in the American dialed for autumn*

In this fituationy Sir, what lliall I do ? By my boafed education, I have only unlearned the language and loſt the manners of that ſociety in which I am to live. —If you can put me on any method of biioing my friends up to me, or of letting myſelf down to them, you will much oblige,

- * Yours, &c.

MARY MUSLIN. R 3 T(>

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ipS The Mirrok. N^9&

To the AuTHxxR of the Mirror.

'Sir,.

A S you are very fucceſſful iq delineatixig the tnanoers of modern times, it might add^ perhaps., to the cffeſt of your piftures,. if you ſometimes gave a view of former manners. The contraſt would be agreeable;. and, if I may uſe the expreſſion, would give a certain reiUf to your other delineations. I oflfer you a ſmall fketch of an incident, ſuppoſed to have happened ia the times of our forefathers. I flatter myſelf you have no obje<Elion to it on account of its being in verſe. It is merely an outline \$ yet, I hope, it is fo marked, as that concomitant circumſtances, though not ex* preiTed, may readily be conceived.

MONT ANUS.

iTic MAURI AGE of EVAL.

L

Loud from Jura's rocky fliore-, Heard ye the tum«kuous roar ?—

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N^96. T H B M t R E a R. 19^

Sudden from the bridal feaft^

By impetuous ire poflcfs*<J^

Fury flaChittg in their eyes,

Kinfmen agatnft kinfmen rife:

And ifluing to the fetal field.

Bend the bow, the falchion wield.—^»

From her eyry, with cUfmay^

The towVing eagle foars away^

The wild-decr from their dofe retreat. Start with terror and amaze,
Down on the furious confliA gaze,

The» to deep forcfts bend their nimble feet.

n.

Ah ! that recklefs fpeech fhould fire

Kinfmen with inhuman ire !—

Goaded by Tindiftive rage

Lo ! the martial clans engage.

Now the feathered arrows ling j

Now the boffy targets ring.

With rav'hing fwords the fudden foes^

Now in fierce encounter clofe.

Lo ! the blade horrific gleams i

And now the purple torrent fstreams :

The torrent fstreams from Eval^s fide. Tinging, with his flowing gore
The white foam on the fca-beat fhore.

Ah I who will fuccour his affiled bride,?

HI.

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200 1 B B * M I R m o &• N^9d

IEL

Lo ! fhe ffies with beadlong fpeed; ,

'* Bloodjr, bloody was the deed •^

Wild With piteous W'^ilf flie crks^

Treiles torn and ftpeamiag eyesr)^

*< lifCj OI gently lif(his^ head ; ,

•* Lay him on the bridal bed i

•* My kinfmctt I — cuiacl kiafinea ye ^

^ Th«fe your kindJkft deeds to me !*—

•* Yes, the day-cold bed prepare,

*^ The willing, bride and bridegroom there

** Will taarry ; will for eter dwell.——

** Now, inhuman men, depart;

** Go, triumph iii my broken* heart-.'rr: She faid, fhe figh'd, a
breathlefs corfe fht fclL

K^97.

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K^97- TuE\$DAT, April I u 178(861

To the Author of the Mi&ror.^

S 1 R,

YOur correpondient K; B; has well dc« fcribed the calamitous
condition of aprh vate tutors without money or fciends. Pcr^ haps it
will- affiDrd him fome confolation, ta hear of one who needlefsly
entangled himfel£ in difficulties of a like nature.

My father bred me to the ftudy of letters, and^ at hisdeath, left, me in
pofleiSon of a for* tune, not fufficient to check my induftry in the
purfuit of knowledge^ but more than fu& ficient toiecure mc from
fervile dependence.

Through, the intercft of his friends, I ohtained an honourable and
lucrative office;, but there were certain arrangements to be made,
which delayed my. admiffion to it for a twelvemonth. While I was
confidering in what way I might beft fill up this interval of life, an
acquaintance of mine requefied, as.a particular favour^ that I would
beftow the

year

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202 The Mirror. N^o 97*

year which I could call mine[^] in reading with the only son of the rich Mr Flint. The conditions offered were uncommonly advantageous and as indeed mattered the vanity of a young man.

For understanding my story, it is fit that you should be informed of the characters of that family into which I was received with too many marks of favour and distinction.

Rowland Flint, Esq; was born of poor but honest parents; they made a hard (shift to have him instructed in reading, and even in writing and arithmetic, and then they left him to find his way through the world as he best could. The young man, like a philosopher, carried about with him all that was truly his own, his quill and his ink-holder; he attached himself to one of the subordinate departments of the law, in which his drudgery was great and his profits scanty. After having toiled for many years in this humble[^] contented, and happy situation, he was suddenly raised to opulence by the death of an uncle. 'Twas his uncle went abroad! at a very early period of life, with the fixed resolution of acquiring a competency, and then of enjoying it at home. But that complicity[^] which filled

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N^o 97. THE MIRROR. No 10. 203

up the measure of the ambition of a bare Scotch lad, proved far below the desires of an eminent Foreign merchant. He imperceptibly became ^{**} in easy circumstance[&], well in the ^{**} world, of great credit[^] a man to be relied ^{^^} on, and to be advised with, and even one [^] superior to all shocks, calls, and runs."

While engaged in making his fortune, he thought it needless to inquire after his poor Relations, whom he could not assist; and, after he had made his fortune, he thought it equally needless, as he was to use them for good in Scotland. Yet, a multitude of unforeseen obstacles retarded his return: Some new mortgage was to be settled, some company concerns to be wound up or some bottomry* account to be adjusted; and thus, year glided along after year, till at length, death surprised him at the age of three score and ten.

Busied in making money, he had never bestowed a thought on providing an heir to it: that he left to the impartial determination of the laws of his country; and, dying intestate, he was succeeded by his nephew, Rcnuland Flint.

This gentleman, on his becoming rich, discovered himself to be eminently skilled in the

science

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Vol 4 The Mirror, 1797.

Science of law, the study, as he boasted, of his earlier years; and this knowledge engaged him in three or four law-suits, which the court uniformly determined against him, with costs.

But of every other science he honestly avowed his want of knowledge; and he did not even pretend to understand painting or politics; but he had a mighty veneration for literature and its professors, and he was resolved to make his son a great scholar although it should cost him in ten thousand pounds Sterling.

My pupil is in his fifteenth year, Thence he had taken him from school before it was discovered that his proficiency in literature did not qualify him for college; and it became any talk to bring him forward, that is, to teach him what he ought to have known already.

The youth is of a docile disposition, and of moderate talents ; his memory good^ and his application such as is generally to be found among those who, having no particular incentives to study, perform their tasks merely as tasks.

- I have little to say concerning his mother: her mind was wholly absorbed in the code

emplation

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11°97. The Mirror. ii

-temptation of her husband's riches, and in the eve of her father's health and her own. Baron Bielkoff, an eminent German author, observes^ that in our island, there is a disease called U catch'cold of which the natives are exceedingly apprehensive. Mrs Flint lived under the perpetual terror of that disease.

Being thus rendered incapable of the* active duties of house-keeping (he committed them to her brother. Captain Winterbottom, who, as he was wont to say, *' could bear a hand at *' any thing.** But his chief excellence lay in the conduct of the stew-pan and the nation. He had long commanded a vessel in the Baltic trade ; and it having been once employed as a transport in the service of government, he accustomed to wear a cockade, and wished to have it understood that he belonged to the navy. The captain had dealt occasionally in boroughs* politics, belonged to several respectable clubs in London, and was one of the original members of the Robin-Hood society.

The last of the family that I shall mention is Miss Juliana Winterbottom^ a maiden sister of Mrs Flint. Her original name was Judith % but, when she arrived at the years of discretion

Vol. III. Section.

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lioD, (he changed it to Juliana^ as being more genteel.

Many years ago Lady — was advifed to pafe -a winter at Nice^ for recovery of her health) worn out by the vigils and diffipation of- a London winter ; and flie eafily prevailed on Mifs Juliana to go as her companion. The htat of the climat/, and the cold blafts from the Alps, foon completed what the corrupted ^ir of tgood company, and the damp from the Thames, had begun, and Lady — lived nor to re-fee her Bricifh phyficians. ..rMifs Juliana^ on her return home, paffed by the caftle of Fernay^ and got a peep of M» de P'cltciir^i in his furred cap and night-gown. At Pavis, ihe chanced to be in company with Count Buffon for half an hour; and fhe actually purchafed a volume of mufic written by the great Rouffeau himfelf. Having thus become acquainted with the foreign literati, (he commenced a fort of literata in her own pcrfon. She frequently advances tliofo opinions in hiftory, morals, and phyfics, which, as fhe imagines, are to be found in the writings t£ the French philofophers. But, whether through the habits of education, or through confcious ignorance, it muft be confeiTed, that

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N^p?* The Mirror. a'07'

Ae dogmatizes with diffidences and is a very ftammerer in infidelity.'

Having feen Paris, and having picked up a good many French words in the courfc of her' travels, (he thinks that £he is authorifed, and, in fome fort, obliged to fpeak French. No-* thing can be more grotesque than her travelled language. When (he left Scotland, ** her. " fpeech," to ufe a phrafe of Lord Bacorif " was in the full dialeiSl: of her nation." At Nice ihe- converfed with EngliQi and Iriih; and, by imitating the language of each, ihe has, 4n her pronupciation, completed the union of the three kingdoms. But ft ill her own

country-language predominates ; for, during her residence abroad, she had an opportunity of preserving, and even of improving it, by daily conferences with the housemaid,; who was born and educated in the county of Banf.

In pronouncing French, she blends the tone of all those dialects: and her phraseology is as Angular as her pronunciation ; for she faithfully translates every word from her own mother-tongue. An example of this presents itself, which I shall never forget. One day, addressing her discourse to me, she said, ** y^

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croft The M r r r a h. N^97*

**^ doute pas que vous av^z peruse les ouvrages ** A Monsieur le Comte de Bavarian; que soit •* charming creature I il. met philosophes et de" vins />flr A-/ oreilles.*' That is, ** I doubt *' not that you have read the works of Count ** Buffon \ what a charming creature I he feels ** philosophers and divines by the cars." I answered her, that I had never read the works of that renowned author, but that I had read the Principia of Sir Isaac Newton* Why, indeed, replied she, Sir Isaac may have been a man of better principles but unfortunately the theories of the Count are wittier*

It is a happy circumstance that Miss J. Vintef's bottom did not make the grand tour. Had she visited Italy, she would have proved as great an adept in statuary and in painting, as she is at present in philosophy. But Miss Vintef's torn cannot, in conference, talk of her having visited Italy, while her travels were limited to the borders of Piedmont.

I never heard her mention Italy but once, and then she got no great encouragement to proceed in her remarks. At dinner she said, *• I remember that, in Italy, they have something very like our veal, which they call « vielh: ' " Well, Sister Juddy," cried Captain

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tain fFinteriottom, •«* and why fliould they not^ •* for if vitello means veal in their lingo^ what ** elfe would you have the poor dfcyih call "it?"

It was refolved to poftpone nay lefTons for a wliile, " that/" as Mr Flint exprei&d it, *« T " might come to know the ways of the houff':

Mifs Jtdiana conftantly teafed me with quefiions about my plan for her nephew's educa* tion. To puzzle her a little, I faid, that, fome* weeks hence, I propofed to teach him to make' ** nonfenfe verfes. •* Mifericorde^^ cried fhe^' ** nonfenfe verf£Si^^ Is that part of the tf//quaitte ?

*' Let the boy alone," added Captain Win-'terbottonif " when he is old enough to be in ** love, he will make nonfenfe verfes^ I warn't *' you, without any help of your's; ay, al^ though it fliould be on Mamma's dairy«< maid." Mr Flint laughed loud, and Mrs Flint faid gent»y, ** Oh \ fy, brother.'* •

• Perceiving that, on ihisencuiagement, the'

captain was ubv.au to be mors \\^ltty, I recallej^'

the conveiTatiou to nonfenfe verfes, cndca-*

voured to exphtn thi:lr nature, and obferVed,

S 3 that

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Ilia The Mirror. N⁹⁷^

that their mala ufe was to Inftruft one ia the quantity of fyUables.

*' Quantity of fyllaHes,** exclaimed the captain, *' there is modern education for you! " Boys have thfir heads lumbered with great **

quantities of Latin syllables and words, which they should be taught to understand things to speak their own language rough and round, and to cut a figure in parliament. " I remember William Fitzdriver but he is gone ! Honeft J. Vill knew no tongue except a little of his. and yet he would talk to you for an hour, and you would have thought that he had scarcely entered on the subject at all. He never valued any of your outlandish lingo. I

I said, that, if my pupil were of an age to go into parliament, I should be apt to advise him to follow the precepts of Pithagoras be silent for seven years. He must have been a fine card, that Mr Pythagoras observed the captain, and I do suppose that he lived up to his own precepts ; for I never heard of any speaker of that name; no, not even in committee of People, to be sure, they hold their tongues, and have a slice of the great pudding but this is not a

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N⁹⁷* Thb Mr R. to R. art?

* time for your dumb fenators. No, we must have bold, well-spoken men, to tell poor Britannia, that (he is beggared, and bleed^{ing} and expiring, ay, and dead too, for ought that some folks care. He rounded this pathetic period with one of his best oaths*

" Were all men: to make speeches, what time would there be left for doing business ? " Bu^{finefs}," cried the captain " is not oratory bu^{finefs} ? and why cannot " they set to it, watch and watch as we do at*

Mrs Flint expressed her hope, that I would not load her poor boy's memory, by making, him get a deal by heart.

" When I first got the 'multiplication-table by heart,' said Mr Flint,, who generally falls, in the rear of conversation, " it was a plaguy trouble^{ibme} job \ but now that I am master of it, I don't perceive that it loads my memory^{ci} at all."

** Learned men have remarked^" faid MHV

Juliana^ *• that it is not the getting by heart

" that is ccnfurable, but the getting by rote,.

" as one does one's catechifm.*'^

** There fhe goes, the travelled lady," cried

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aiz The Mirror. N097.

the captain; '* fhc muft always have a fling at ** her catechifou"

" Mr Winterhottom^ replied Mifs Juliana^ with exceeding . dignity, ** you. wrong me '* much. I am Aire that I fhould: be the laft ** woman alive to fay any thing, efpecially in '*' mixed companies, to the difparagementof '*' the religion of the ftate, which I have al•* ways confidered as the great fyeng [AVn] of « fociety."

'* You have always confidered religion as **: great lying \ and who taught you that, fitter •* Juddy ? your god-fathers and your god<' mothers ! No, fure.*' ; Here I was laid under the necefflty of interpofing, and of afluring Captain Winterhnttmy that he miftook his fitter, and that flie had inadvertently ufed a French word to exprefs bcr own tdea^ ** that religion was the great tie of '*' fociety." Perhaps 1 prevaricated a litde in my office of interpreter.

< Well, well," faid the captain, < if her •* tongue was tied^ fociety would be no lofer." - To divert the ftorm. which feemed gathering! I fpoke of my purpofe to explain the tenth fatu-e of Juvenal^ a poem, for method,

compofition,

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N⁹⁷» The Mirror. 213

composition^D and animated language, universal {My admired.

" What does that Juvenal write about ? ** said Miss Juliana; ♦* I am not acquainted " with his works : was he a member of the " French academy ?[^]—" Perhaps,* replied I, smiling, " he would be no favourite with you, ** Miss Juliana ; he has been very favo^rable upon ** the Roman ladies."

" Ay, they were Papists,** said * Captain ** Winterbottom[^] " and they are all wh——.** " Give me leave to tell you," cried Miss Juliana[^] in a higher key, *[^] when I was abroad, I had " the honour of being known to several ladies * of the Roman persuasion,. and they were ** persons of the most virtuous." •[

** I suppose you asked them whether they " were wh——, and they said they were not. " Poor fellow Juddy ! it is true, I never was * in the galleys at Nice[^] as you have been \ ** but I have touched at Mar/eilles, and have " laid clove off the mole of Genoa, and that * is farther than ever you travelled j and I ** say they are all wh——."

How this wonderful controversy would have ended, I know not j but happily we were called to coffee[^] which separated the combatants*

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I was now pretty well acquainted with the ways of a house[^] in which ignorance[^] self-conceit, and illiberality of sentiment and manners, had fixed their residence. It was agreed| Uiat, on the Monday following, I should begin my lessons. Appearances, I must acknowledge, were not very favourable. My pupil had been generally present at the

conversations of which I have given you a specimen, and', indeed, they were not such as could either enlarge his mind, or improve his understanding. I flattered myself, however,' that he would be left to prosecute his studies under my direction, and that every new acquisition in knowledge would increase his love for letters.

In what way our studies were conducted, will best appear from a faithful journal of the progress which we made during the first week. But of this hereafter. Meanwhile, I am, Sir, &c.

HYPODIT)ASCALUS.

N^pS.

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N⁹** Saturday, y^T/r/V 15, 1780.

To the Author of the Mirror.

Sir,

I Now send you a faithful narrative of the progress of our studies in Mr Flint's family, from Monday morning to Saturday at bedtime, carefully distinguishing the proficiency made in each day.

MONDAY.

Mrs Flint had previously informed me, that her son's constitution did not agree with much study before breakfast, and that, whenever he read on an empty stomach, he was apt to be disturbed with uneasy yawnings; we therefore resolved that he should have a short lesson (Only at eight in the morning,

. After waiting in the parlour till within a quarter of nine, I learned from Mrs Flint, that her son had been observed 'to turn himself twice or thrice during the night, and that

he

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2i6 The Mirror. N^pS.

he seemed to be threatened with a sort of Jiuffing and viheejing: and that, by way of prevention, he judged it best to give him a liule fenna, and confine him to his chamber for a few hours *, but that, in the evening, we might prosecute our studies without farther interruption.

Accordingly, at six, my pupil and I prepared to read the tenth satire of Juvenal. After having explained to him the general scope and method of the satire, I began.

Omnibus in terris qua sunt a Cadibus usque Auroram et Gangem.

V

At that moment I heard a gentle tap at the door, and then entered Miss Juliana and her father, with Mr Flint and the captain, a little behind, walking on tiptoe. " You must par** don my smelling curiosity^ said Miss Juliana^ « < we come to see Jimmy take his first lesson ** from you. What have you got here ? I ^ fancy, from my knowledge of French, that * I could pick out the meaning of some part ** of it. Oh ! I understand; there is auroram^ f* does not that mean, break of day ?

" Que Vaurons

" Nous trouvons encore.

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N^9^ T H B M X R ft o ft. tij

* I learned it in a French Chanfong a boar% •« What is that hoar fong^ demanded Captain Winterbottom^ "bit a hunting one f** •* Oh •* fy, no,* said Miss Juliana^ " it is a drinking ** fong.** ** And who taught you drinking "*** fongs," fitter Juddy ; •* did you learn them ^* from your outlandish ladies of honour ?" A tremendous aflUuk on the knocker and fionced the approach of a person of quality.

— *« The Counters of ^^ On this joyful

news the ladies hurried to the drawing-room. Mrs Flint presently returned, *• I must ^* make an apology,*' said she, ** for thus ** interrupting the course of my son's studies ^ but the Countess has made a flying visit to ** tell me, that there is a meeting of young *^ people at her house this evening, and that

* there will be a dance and a little supper,

* and (he intends to have Jimmy at the party; •* but I would not engage, for any thing, ** without asking your leave, as you have the •• whole charge of his education. There will ** be many rich folks, and many fine folks ; ** and there will be Miss Pender the great " heiress ; she has a vast improveable estate, " hard by the borough of Jynor and who can •* tell.*'—The good woman was busy in weaving the web of futurities, when I reminded

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THE MIRROR. No. 98*

her that her son had taken medicine that morning» and that, possibly, he might catch cold. At another time» the mention of a cold would have awakened all her feelings; but, at present, Mrs Flint was elevated above the region of alarms. ** Never fear," said she, ** we are going to a close warm house, " without a breath of air in it. Come away^ "' Jimmy and put on a pair of white silk " (lookings as fast as you can \ the Countess "' waits us."

TUESDAY.

My pupil had been kept out of bed too much beyond his usual hour^ that he did not make his appearance till after breakfast. ** Cheer ** up, my boy," cried Mrs Flint " you look like ** as if you had been dreaming all night of 1 •' your partner Miss Punnett .• -come^ let us **

take an airing, and refresh ourselves after «* the fatigues of the ball. These late fittings '• don't answer with my old bones. You see, <« Mr —, that I have been as good as my •* word, and that Jemmy poor man, has caught '• no cold. You shall go along with us on ^' our airing for there is room for you in Mr

" Flint's

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N°9'- The Mirror. 21

^ Flint's carriage and (ix, and you may talk " over your shoulders by the way ^ for you will " find the carriage quite easy.** Nothing, indeed, could be more admirably calculated to elude every jolt; and there wanted only solitude and independence to make it resemble a down-bed. ** We must, first of all, flout out •* the common enemy, the east wind,** said Mrs Flint, pulling up the glass. The weather was warm, and Mrs Flint grew eloquent on the fund of knowledge (he had acquired the night before. She gave me the catalogue and character of the company: she dwelt most on her son's looks and dancing. " A " gentleman at the Countess's, who said he " was lately come from Paris^ told me, Jemmy '• was vastly like the Count de Provence^ the " King of France's brother* particularly in " the minuet but remember^ Jemmy, that, ^' to be a great scholar, is a much finer thing ^^ than to be a great dancer. I am sure, Mr

** , that my boy will profit by your in

** friends to he has a charming memory,. ^ and he will take in his learning as fast as ^* you can give it him; and I am sure that is ** saying a great deal for, from all that I can discover, Mr Flint could not have bestowed. T 2 « ed

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" I had his money better." — She was going on but, alas, flattery vibrated faintly on my ear : we had got above pineapple heat, and I became fickle and oppressed. I asked leave to get out and walk home, as I felt myself not well. " Oh, to be sure," said she : " I have known people hire carriages for want of practice I don't think he alarmed, Mr ■ : but

Here. Jimmy do you wrap this handkerchief about your neck, before the coach door is opened." ^

I walked home in great spirits, animated by every gaze around me. and I forgot, for a while, that I was not my own master..

In the evening, my pupil came to me dressed out and powdered : " Mamma," said she, " has made me engaged to drink tea with Miss Pender's sister to-morrow night. I don't much like her neither. For she is pitted with the small-pox, has a yellow eye and a bleared eye and, besides, (he dances out of time,—There was a Miss with black hair"—Not inclining to become his confidante, I said, " After all engagements that cannot be kept with honour, must be kept or not, and, therefore, you must go." " Nay," said she, " he is not any the matter }

« for,

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Nov. 9. The Mirror; ^i

" for, I believe, the Misses with the black hair live with their Miss Pender. However, I can do a double talk to-morrow; and my aunt is wont to say, that a young man ought not to be always at his books." He seemed to have treasured up this precious apophthegm to his memory.

WEDNESDAY.

My pupil was punihial to bis hour. But we had hardly feated ourfelves, when Captain Winterbottom arrived. " No leflbns to-day,!*" roared he ; " Thii is my Lady*s ivedding-day^ ^ and tberifore we keep holiday y and c<mtefor to. ** be merry*. Why, you young dog, if it had '* not been for this day, you would either ^ have not been at all, or have been a ba** ftard/' It was indeed, a day of fcftivity and. idot.

T H I T R S D A,.Y.

All the fervants having dutifully got drunlc: over night, my pupil was not called, and fo he overflept himfelf. He came down to the parlour about eleven, and we refumed the fatal T 3. firft

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ail The Mirror. N^pjr.

firft line of the tenth fatire of Juvenal. •« The *• French mafVer is here,** faid a fcrvant. I begged that he might return in about an hour; but I' fbon learned that that was impoffible, without deranging the fyftem of education m alt parts of the city. •* It is no great matter •* for an hour," faid Mifs Julia?m, •• yon •* have always mj^nephew at your command*, •* but poor Signor Bergamefca is much hur** riedj and his time is not his own." Signor •* Rergamefco^ cried I, •* is your French ma•* fter an Italian ?" «« Yes," faid flie, " of a *' Noble family in the dominions of the Bog " of Venice, but a younger brother, wFth a f* fmall. patrimony, which he unfortunately •* con fumed en travailtant par V'Europe^ It *' was a fancy of my own; I thought that, *' after the Signor had taught my nephew ** French, he might teach him Italian alfo; ** for you know that it is a great lofs to «* change preceptors, and that young men *• who have not feen much of the world, arc ** fliy with ftrangers.**

The talk impofed on my pupil by S. Bergamefco occupied all his leifure till dinner-time j but I thought that I ihould have the abfolute command of the evening. I was beginDing to

read,

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N⁹ - The M r r it a r[.] aay

read, Omnilms in terris[^] when a fervant faid^{*}, " Here is the French mafter.^{*} « What," " cried I, ** can S. BergamefcOy who is fo •^{*} much hurried, affoed lo give two leflbns in ^{*}^ one day to the fame fcholar ?^{*} " It is an•^{*} other Frcnth matter, whom they have got •^{*} for me,**^{*} faid my pupil, I applied to Mift Juliana for the explanation of this phanome[^] non. [^]* It was none of my advifing,^{*} faid flie J ^{*} but my brother knew Mr O[^]CaHachan ** when linguift to Commodore FirebracCy and •^{*} he wijhed to throw a good fob-in the poor />A ** low^{*}! ivay ; thefe were his very words ; and ♦^{*} fo Mr O[^]Cailachan came ta be employed: ♦^{*} but, indeed, after rccolleption, I thought ft " would anfwer well enough, as both matters [^]< tanght by the fame grammar) and both of " them read TelemaeJ^{*}

The linguift of Commodore Firebrace had jutt taken his leave, wlien a faiart young fellow burft into the room, with an air of much hurry and importance, •• What," cried I, •• more French matters ?^{*} ** Don't be alarm•^{*} ed,^{*} faid Mrs Flinty who accompanied hiin 5 •^{*} it is only the Frifeur[^] who comes to put up ^{*}^ my boy's hair in papers. Pray don't aik me

•• vfhfj[^]

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2€4 Thb Mr Rao It. N[^]pS;

•^{*} nvhy[^] for it is a great fecret y but you (hall [^] know it all io-nu>rrow:."

FRIDAY.

•^{*} You muft know,** faid Mrs FRnt at breakfast, '[^] that 1 am affiired that Jemmy '[^] •^{*} very like the Count de Provence[^] the King " of France[^]s own brother. Now Jemmy is •^{*} fitting for his picture to

Martin \ and I * thought it would be right to get the friseur^ " whom you saw last night, [he is just arrived from Paris], to dress his hair like the * Count de Provence^ that Mr Martin might * make the resemblance more complete. Jemmy * my has been under his hands since five o'clock — Oh, here he comes. " Is it not « charming?^ " exclaimed Miss Juliana. " I will with Miss Penderfaw you," added the happy mother. My pupil, lost in the labyrinth of curls, seemed to look about for himself. " What a powdered head " have we got here ? " cried Captain Winterbottom.— We all went to Mr Martin's to assist him in dressing Jemmy's hair. On our return^) Mrs Flint discovered that her son had got an inflammation in his right eye, by looking

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N<> 9^ . The Mirror . 22#

ing steadfastly on the painter. She ordered a poultice of bread and milk, and put him to bed; so there was no more talk of 'an Omnibus *^ in town *^ for that evening..

SATURDAY.

My pupil came down to breakfast in a complete suit of black, with waders and a long mourning-cavat. The Count de Provence^ curls were, all demolished, and there remained not a vestige of powder on his hair. " Brought me," cried I, " what is the matter ? " " Oh, * nothing," said Mrs Flint \ " a relation of * mine is to be interred at twelve, and Jemmy * has got a burial-letter. We ought to acquaint our friends on such melancholy * occasions. I mean to send Jemmy with the * coach and fix.. It will teach him how to behave, himself in public places."

At dinner, my pupil expressed a vehement desire to go to the play. " There is to be * farquhar's Highlander^ and the blowing up « of the St Domingo man of war/* said he \ << it will be vastly comical and curious." " Why, Jemmy^ " said Mrs Flint " since ^ this is Saturday, I suppose your tutor will

«« have

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** have no objeAton ; but be fure to put oa <« your great coat, and to take a chair in go** ming home.*' «« I thought,'* faid I» « that ** we might have made fome progrest at our •* books this evening." •* Books on Satur" day afternoon," cried the whole company, ** It was never heard of." I yielded to conviction \ for, indeed, it would have beea tery unreaonable to expeA, that he who bad fpent the whole week in idlenefs, (bould be« gin to apply himfelf to bis fiudies on the evening of Saturday.

I am^ Sir, &c.

HYPODIDASCALUS.

N^9^

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N°99. Tuesday, April i8. l'jio.

Juvat^ aut impelUt ad iram^ Aut ad humumt mcerore gravis deducit et angit*

HoR. *

CRITICISM, like every thing, elfe, is fub^ jeA to the prejudices of oar education or of our country. National prejudice, in** deed, is, of all deviations from juftice, the moft common, and themoft allo^vable^ it is a near, though perhaps an illegitimates relation of that patriotifm which has been ranked a« mong the firft virtues of charaders the moft eminent and illuftrious. To authors, however, of a rank fo ele^vated as to afpire to uni*! verfi^l fame, the paniality of their

countrymen has been sometimes prejudicial in proportion as they have unreasonably applauded, the criticisms of other countries, from a very common sort of feeling, have unreasonably censured; and there are few great writers, whom prejudice on either side may not, from a partial view of their works, find some ground for

estimating

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at 28 The Mirror. ^99.

estimating at a rate much above or much below the standard of justice.

No author, perhaps, ever existed, of whom opinion has been so various as Shakespeare, Endowed with all the sublimity and sublimity to all the irregularities of genius, his advocates have room for unbounded praise, and their opponents for frequent blame. His departure from all the common rules which criticism, somewhat arbitrarily, perhaps, has imposed leaves no legal code by which the decision can be regulated and, in the feelings of different readers, the same passage may appear simple, true, mean, natural or preposterous, may excite admiration, or create disgust.

But it is not, I apprehend, from particular passages or incidents that Shakespeare is to be judged. Though his admirers frequently contend for beauty in the most distorted of the former, and probability in the most unaccountable of the latter; yet, it must be owned, that, in both there are often gross defects, which criticism cannot justify, though the situation of the poet, and the times in which he wrote, may easily excuse. But we are to look for the superiority of Shakespeare in the astonishing, and almost supernatural,

powers

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power of his invention, his absolute command over the passions, and his wonderful knowledge of Nature. Of the structure of his stories, or the probability of his incidents, he is frequently careless; these he took, at random, from the legendary tale, or the extravagant romance; but his intimate acquaintance with the human mind seldom or never forsakes him, and, amidst the most fantastic and improbable situations, the persons of his drama speak in the language of the heart, and in the style of their characters.

Of all the characters of Shakspeare that of Hamlet has been generally thought the most difficult to be reduced to any fixed or settled principle. With the strongest purposes of revenge, he is irresolute and inactive; amidst the gloom of the deepest melancholy, he is gay and jocular; and, while he is described as a passionate lover, he seems indifferent about the object of his affections. It may be worth while to inquire whether any leading idea can be found, upon which these apparent contradictions may be reconciled, and a character so pleasing in the closet, and (so much applauded on the stage, rendered as unambiguous in the general as it is striking in ' Vol. III. U detail.

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z^o The Mirror. N^{pp},

detail. I will venture to lay before my readers some observations on this subject though with the diffidence due to a question of which the public has doubted* and much abler critics have already written.

The traits of Hamlet's character seem to be an extreme sensibility of mind, apt to be strongly impressed by its situation, and overpowered by the feelings which that situation excites. Naturally of the most virtuous and most amiable dispositions, the circumstances in which he was placed unhinged those principles of action which, in another situation, would have delighted mankind, and made himself happy. That kind of distress which he suffered was, beyond all others* calculated to produce this effect. His misfortunes were not the misfortunes of

accident, which, tho' they may overwhelm at first, the mind will soon call up reflections to alleviate, and hopes to cheer, as they were such as reflection only serves to irritate, such as rankle in the soul's tendered part, her sense of virtue, and kindlings of natural affection; they arose from an uncle's villany, a mother's guilt, a father's murder! — Tact, amidst the gloom of melancholy and the agitation of passion, in which

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N^o 11- The Mirror. 11

his calamities involve him, there are occasional breakings-out of a mind, richly endowed by nature, and cultivated by education. We perceive gentleness in his demeanour, wit in his conversation, taste in his amusements, and wisdom in his reflections.

That Hamlet's character, thus formed by Nature, and thus modelled by situation, is often variable and uncertain, I am not disposed to deny. I will content myself with the supposition, that this is the very character which Shakespeare meant to allot him. Finding such a character in real life, of a person endowed with feelings so delicate as to border on weakness, with flexibility too exquisite to allow of determined action, he has placed it where it could be best exhibited, in scenes of wonder, of terror, and of indignation, where its varying emotions might be most strongly marked amidst the workings of imagination, and the war of the passions.

This is the very management of the character by which, above all others, we could be interested in its behalf. Had Shakespeare made Hamlet pursue his vengeance with a steady determined purpose, had he led him through difficulties arising from accidental causes, and not

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not from the doubts and hesitation of his own; the anxiety of the spectator might have been highly raised; but it would have been anxiety for the event, not for the person. As it is, we feel not only the virtues, but the weaknesses of Hamlet as our own; we see a man who, in other circumstances, would have exercised all the moral and social virtues^a one whom Nature had formed to be

" The Expectancy and Role of the fair State, ■ " The Glance of Fafilon, and the Mold of Form, " The observed of all Observers/

placed in a situation in which even the amiable qualities of his mind serve but to aggravate his distresses, and to perplex his conduct. Our compassion for the first, and our anxiety for the latter, are excited in the strongest manner and hence arises that indefinable charm in Hamlet which attracts every reader and every spectator, which the more perfect characters of other tragedies never dispose us to feel.

The Orestes of the Greek poet, who, at his first appearance, lays down a plan of vengeance which he resolutely pursues, interests us for the accomplishment of his purpose

but

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N^{ap}. T H fi Si r R R 0' R. 233:

but of him we think only as the instrument of that justice which we wish to overtake the murderers of Agamemnon. We feel with ^areflex, (or rather with Sophocles^a for in such passages we always hear the poet in his hero), that ** it is fit that such gross infringements ** of the moral law should be punished with " death, in order to render wickedness less *' frequent;" but when Horatio exclaims on the death of his friend,

" Now crack'd a noble heart I 's'

we forget the murder of the King, the villainy of Claudius the guilt of Gertrude & our recollection dwells only on the memory of that sweet prince the delicacy of whose feelings a milder planet should have ruled, whose gentle virtues should have bloomed through a life of felicity and of usefulness.

Hamlet from the very opening of the piece, is delineated as one under the dominion of melancholy, whose spirits were overborn by his feelings. Grief for his father's death, and his displeasure at his mother's marriage, prey on his mind, and he feels, with the weakness natural to such a disposition, to yield to their influence

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234 The Mirror. N^o 1

control. He does not attempt to resist or combat these impressions, but is willing to fly from the contest, though it were to the grave

" Oh ! that this too tenuous fluid would melt,"

Even after his father's ghost has informed him of his murder, and commissioned him to avenge it, we find him complaining of that situation in which his fate had placed him.

" The time is out of joint; oh ! cursed be the time that ever I was born to fret it night!"

And afterwards, in the perplexity of his condition, meditating on the expediency of suicide,

" To be, or not to be, that is the question."

The account he gives of his own feelings to Horatio and Guildenstern which is evidently spoken in earnest, though somewhat covered with the mist of his affected diffraction, is exactly descriptive of a mind full of that weakness of life which is characteristic of low spirits

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N⁹⁹. The M i r r a & 235

** This goodly frame the earth, seems to me » " ftcril promontory,*
&c»

And^ indeed, he expressly delineates his owa charaAer as of the
kind above mentioned, vben, befitating on the evidence of his
uncie'a villany^ be fays^

" The fplrft that I have {ecu

*^ May be the Devil, and the Devil hath power

" T'affumc a plcaing fliapc ; yea, and pcrhapai.

•* Out of my njjeaknefs and my melancholy

" Abufes me to damn mc"

This doubt of the grounds on which our purpo(e is founded, is as
often the effek, as the caufe of irrefolmioni which firft bcrfitates^ and
then fees out ah excufe foF its heiita« tion.

It may, perhaps, be doing Siakefpeare no mjufiice to fuppofe, that he
fometimes began a play, without having fixed in his mind, in any
determined manner, the plan or eondu^ of his piece. The character
of fome principal perfon of the drama might fir ike his imagination
fttrongly in the opening fcenes; as he went on, this charaAer would
continue to hnprefs itfdf on the condud as well as tho

difcourfe

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Z3^ T H, E M I. R RiOiR. N^^pp.

difibourfe of that pcrfdn, and| it is po£b1e, might afFeA the £tu^tions
 and incidents, efpecially iti thofe romantic or legendary fubjefts^
 Where hiftory did nOt confine Kim to certain unchangeable events'.
 In the ftory o£ Amlethi the fon of Horwondil, told by Saxo-'Grammati-'
 cus, from which the tragedy of Hamlet is taken, the young prince,
 who is to, revenge the death of his father, murdered by his uncle
 Fengay counterfeits madnefs, that he may be allowed to remain
 about the court in.fafety and without fufpicion. He never forgets his
 purpofed vengeance, and aAs with much m9re cunning towards its
 accomplfhment t]^an the Hamkt of Shakefpeare. But Shakefpearey
 wifhing toelevate the hero of hi^ tragedy, and at the f^me tim.^ to
 intereft the audience in his behalf, throws around him, from the
 begin* Qiagi the majefty of melancholy, along, with that fort of
 weaknje& and irrefolution which frequently attends it* The incident pf
 the Chojiy which is entirely the poet^s own, and not to be found in
 the Daniih legend, not onn ly produces the happieft ftage-effekt, but is
 al* to of the greateft advantage in unfolding that charafter which is
 ftamped on the you^g prince at the opening of the play. In the

communications

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N°99. The Mirror. 237

communications of fuch a vifionary being, there is an uncertain kind
 of belief, and a dark unlimited horror, which are aptly fuitcd to difplay
 the wavering purpofe and varied emotions of a mind endowed with a
 delicacy of feeling that often fliakes its fortitude^ with feniibility that
 overpowers its ftrength.^

N« 100.

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-N^ioo. Saturday, April 22. 1780.

THE view of Hamlet's character exhibited in my last number, may, perhaps, serve to explain a difficulty which has always occurred both to the reader and the spectator, on perceiving his madness, at one time, put on the appearance, not of fiction, but of reality; a difficulty by which some have been induced to suppose the distraction of the prince a strange unaccountable mixture, throughout, of real insanity and counterfeit disorder.

The distraction of Hamlet^a however, is clearly affected through the whole play, always subject to the controul of his reason, and subservient to the accomplishment of his designs. At the grave of Ophelia indeed, it exhibits some temporary marks of a real disorder. His mind, subjugated from Nature to all the weakness of sensibility, agitated by the incidental misfortune of Ophelia's death, amidst the dark and permanent impression of his revenge, is thrown for a while off its poise, and, in the paroxysm of the moment, breaks forth

into

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N^a Job. The Mirror. i^{aa}

into that extravagant rhapsody which he utters to Laertes.

Counterfeited madness» in a person of the character I have ascribed to Hamlet^a could not be so uniformly kept up as not to allow the reigning impressions of his mind to show themselves in the midst of his affected extravagance. It turned chiefly on his love to Ophelia^a which he meant to hold forth as its great subject \ but it frequently glanced on the weakness of his uncle his knowledge of which it was certainly his business to conceal In two of Shakespeare's tragedies are introduced, at the same time, instances of counterfeit madness and of real distraction. In both plays the same distinction is observed, and the false distinguished from the true by similar appearances, hence imagination constantly runs on the ingratitude of his daughters, and the resignation of his crown & Ophelia^a 2X,* ter (he has wafted the first ebullience of her distraction in some wild and

incoherent fen* tet^ces, fixes on the death of her father for the subjeft of her fong :

" They bore him barc-fac'd on* the bier

** And will be not come again,

" And will he not come again \ '* &c.

But

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240 The. Mirror. N<^ ioo.

But Edgar puts on a femblance as oppofite as may be to his real fituatia and his ruling thoughts. He never ventures on any expreffion bordering on the fubjeAs of a father's cruehy or a fon's misfortune* Hamlety in the fame manner, were he ^s firm in mind as Eigar^ would never hint any thing in his a^ded diforder, that might lead to a fufpicion of his having difcovered the viiiany of his -uncle; but his feeling, too powerful for his prudence, often breaks through that difguiic which it feems to have been his original, and ought to have continued his invariable purpofe to. maintain, till an opportunity fhould prefent itfelf of accomplifhing the revenge which he meditated.

Of the reality of HamUtU love, doubts alfo have been fuggefted. But, if that delicacy of feeling, approaching to weaknefs, for which I contend, be allowed him, the afieAed abufe, which he fuffers at laft to grow into fcurrility, of his miftrefs, will, I think, be found not inconffitent with the truth of his affection for her. Feeling its real force, and defigning to play the madman on that ground, he would naturally go as far from the reality as poffiWe. Had he not loved her at all, or

flightly

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N^ioo. The M i r r o . r > 241

lightly loved her, he might have kept up. some appearance of passion amidst his feigned. Infamy \$ but really loving her, he would have been hurt by such a resemblance in the counterfeit. We can bear a downright caricature of our friend much easier than an unfavourable likeness.

It must be allowed, however,, that the most momentous scenes in which he is afterwards engaged, seem to have tainted, tainted, the feelings of his love. His total, forgetfulness of Ophelia soon after her death, cannot easily be justified. It is vain,, indeed, to attempt justifying Shakespeare in such particulars. " Time^^ says Dr Johnson, " I followed after him in vain.^^ He seems often to forget its rights, as well in the progress of the passions, as in the business of the stage. That change of feeling and of resolution which time only can effect, he brings forth within the limits of a single scene. Whether love is to be excited, or repentment allayed, guilt to be made penitent, or sorrow cheerful, the effect, is frequently produced in a space hardly sufficient for words to express it. • ' _

It has been remarked, that our great poet Vol. III. X was

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I

242 The Mirror, IP 100.

was not so happy in the delineation of love as of the other passions. Were it not treason against the majesty of Shakespeare^ one might observe, that though he looked with a sort of instinctive perception into the recesses of Nature, yet it was impossible for him to possess a knowledge of the refinements of delicacy, or to catch in his pictures the nicer shades of polished manners; and, without this knowledge, love can seldom be introduced on the stage but with a degree of coarseness which will offend an audience "of good taste. This observation is not meant to extend to Shakespeare's tragic scenes : in situations of deep distress or violent emotion, the manners are lost in the passions \ but if we examine his lovers in the lighter scenes of

ordinary life> we shall generally find them lreƿaiBng againtt the rules of decorum, and the feelings of delicacy. 'That gaiety and playfulness of deportment ^nd of converfation which Hamlet fometimcs hot only aflumesi but feems ai5lually difpofcd to, is, I apprehend, not cTjntradiftion to the general tonC of melancholy in his character. That fort of melancholy which is the moft genuiae as well as the moft amiable of any,

neither

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N^ioo. The Mirror*. ^43

neither arifing from natural fountains of tem«* per, nor prompted by accidental chagrin, but the effect of delicate fenfibiility, imprcfled with a fenfe of forrowi or a feeling of its own weaknefs, will, I believe, often be found indulging itfelf in a fportfulnefs of external behaviour, amidft the prefure of a fad, or cveja the anguiih of a broken heart. Slighter emotions afieA our ordinary difcourfc ; but deep diftreffs, fitting in the fecret gloom of the foul, cafts not its regard on the common occurrences of life, but fuSers them to trick them* felves out in the ufual garb of indifference, or of gaiety, according to the fafhion of the fociety around it, or the fituation in wliick they chance to arife. The melancholy mw f^els in himfclf (if I may be allowed the e3tprcfion) a fort of double perfon } one, which, covered with the darknefs of its imagination, looks not forth into the world, nor takes any concern in vulgar objects or frivolous purfuits ^ another, which he lends, as it were, to ordtl^ary men, which can accommodate itfelf to their tempers and manners, and indulge^ . Without feeling any degradation from the ia^ dulgence, a fmile with the chearful^ and a laugh, with the giddy.

X z The

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-244 The Mirror. N^iaa.

The conversation of Hamlet with the Grave-digger seems to me to be perfectly accounted for under this supposition ; and, instead of feeling it counteract the tragic effect of the story, I never see him in that scene, without receiving, from his transient jests with the clown before him, an idea of the deepest melancholy being rooted at his heart. The light point of view in which he places (trivial and important things, marks the power of that great impression, which swallows up every thing else in his mind, which makes Caesar and Alexander so indifferent to him, that he can trace their remains in the plaster of a cottage, or the stopper of a beer-barrel. It is from the same turn of mind, which, from the elevation of its sorrow, looks down on the bustle of ambition, and the pride of fame, that he breaks forth into the reflection in the 4th act, on the expedition of Fortinbras[^].

' It is with regret, as well as deference, that I accuse the judgement of Mr Garrick or the taste of his audience ; but I cannot help thinking, that the exclusion of the scene of the 'Grave-digger' in his alteration of the tragedy of Hamlet[^] was not only a needless, but an

« unnatural

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Nº 100* The KT i r r o r. 245:

unnatural violence done to the work of his favourite poet.

Shakespeare's genius attended him in all his extravagancies[^] In the licence he took of departing from the regularity of the drama, or in his ignorance of those critical rules which might have retrained him within it, there is this advantage, that it gives him an opportunity of delineating the passions and affections of the human mind, as they exist in reality, with all the various colourings which they receive in the mixed scenes of life \ not as they are accommodated, by the hand[^] of more artificial poets, to one great undivided impression[^] or an uninterrupted chain of congenial events. It seems, therefore, preposterous, to endeavour to regularize his plays, at the expense of depriving them of this peculiar excellence, especially as the

alteration can only produce a very partial and limited improvement, and can never bring his pieces to the standard of criticism, or the form of the Aristotelian drama* Within the bounds of a pleasure-garden, we may be allowed to smooth^ our terraces and trim our hedge-rows; but it were equally absurd as impracticable to* X 3 apply

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Z4<5* The Mirror. N^ root

^pply the minute labours of the roller and the pruning-knife to the noble irregularity of trackless mountains and impenetrable forest^

TS? i«r* i

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N^ loi. Tuesday, April^ . ryte * To the Author of the Mirror^.

S I Ry - . .

IN books, whether moral or amusing, there are no passages more captivating both to the writer and the reader, than those delicate strokes of sentimental morality which refer our affords to the determination of feeling. In these the poet, the novel-writer, and the essayist, have always delighted ^ you are not^ ^erefore, singular for having dedicated for much of the Mirror to sentiment and sensibility. I imagine, however. Sir, there is much danger' in pushing these qualities too far : the rules of our conduct should be founded on a basis more solid, if they are to guide us through the various situations of life 5 but the young enthusiasm of sentiment and feeling^ is apt to despise those elements of vulgar virtue and prudence, which would confine the movements of a soul formed to regulate itself by mere impulses. I speak from experience, Mr

Mirror I.

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3148' The Mirror. N^o 101.

Mirror j with what justice, you shall judge, when you have heard the little fEitnily-history I am going to relate.

My niece, Emilia > was left to my

^are by a brother whom I dearly loved', ^whea flie was^ a girl of about ten y^ars aM. The beauty of her countenance, and the elegance of her figure, had already attraAed uoiversal notice; as her mind opened^ it waa fbun^ not lefs worthy of admiration. To theiweeteA natural difpofitions» she united uncommon powers both of genius and of understanding: thcfe I spared no pains to cultivate and iidek prove \ and I think I fo far fucceeded,. that^ in her eighteenth year, Emilia was inferior to few women of her age, either in perfonal attraftions or in accompHQxments of the mind. My fond hopes (for she was a daughter to me^.. Mr Mirror) looked now for the reward of my labour, and I pifhired her future life as full of happincfs as of virtuCi

One feature of her-mind was firongly predominant; a certaia delicacy and finenefs of feeling, which she had inherited froix^fNatiire,. and which her earlieft.^ reading had tended to encourage and increafe. To this ftandardihe was apt to bring both^her own adions and the.

anions

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N^o 101. The Mirror. 249

afttons of others; and allowed more to its effects, both in praife and blame, than wa« confident either with justice or expediency. I fometimeis endeavoured gently to combat these notions. She was not always logical, but she was always eloquent in their defence; and I found her more confirmed on their side, the more I obliged her to be their advocate. I preferred, therefore, being filent oh the fub* je^t,

trusting that a little more experience and knowledge of -the world would necessarily ■weaken their influence*

At her age, and with her feelings, it is necessary to have a friend: Emilia had found one at a very early period. Harriet S. was the daughter of a neighbour of my brother's, a few years older than my niece. Several branches of their education the two young ladies had received together ; in these the superiority lay much on the side of Emilia^ Harriet was too wise remarkable for fine arts of genius or quickness of parts ; but though her acquirements were moderate, she knew how to manage them to advantage 5 and there was often a certain avowal of her inferiority, which conciliated affection the more, as it did not claim admiration. Her manners were*«

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256 The Mirror. N^oi.

(oft and winning) like those of Emilia^ her feelings as delicate and exalted} there seemed, however^ less of nature in both*

Emilia^ attachment to this young lady I found every day increase, till, at last, it so totally ingrossed her as rather to displease me. When together, their attention was confined almost entirely to each other ; or, what politeness forced them to bestow upon others, they considered as a tax which it was fair to elude as much as possible. The world a term which they applied indiscriminately to almost every one but themselves, they seemed to feel as much pride as happiness in being secluded from) and its laws of prudence and propriety they held the invention of cold and selfish minds^ inferrible to the delights of feeling, of contentment, and of friendship. These ideas were, I believe, much strengthened by a correspondence that occupied most of the hours (not many indeed) in which they were separated. Again: this I ventured (to remonstrate, in a jocular manner, with Emilia in answer) answered me in a strain so serious, as convinced me of the danger of

fo romantic an at^ tachment. Our difcourfe on the fubjeft grew
infeeniibly warm: fimilU^ at laft, burft into

tcai'Si

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N° loi. T H B Mirror. z^t

t^ars; and I apologized for having, I knew not how, oficnded h^r.
From that day fortb» diough I continued her advifer, I found I had
ceafed to be her friend.

That office was now HarrUfs alone ; the tie only wanted fome
difficulty to rivet it defer, fome fecret to be intruded with, fome diftreffs
to alleviate. Of this an opportunity foon after prefented itfelf. Harriet
became enamoured of a young gentleman of the name of Marloiv,
an officer of dragoons, who had come to the country on a vifit to her
brother, With whom he had been acquainted at college^ As fhe
inherited feveral thoufand pounds, in* dependent of her expe^ations
from her fa<« ther, fuch a match was a very favourable one for a
young man who poffeiled no revenue but his commiffion. But, for that
very rea*« fon, the confent of the young lady's relations was not to
be looked for. After fome time, therefore, of fecret and ardent
attachment, t>f which my niece was the confident, the young folks
married without it, and trufted to the common relentings of parental
affeC* tion, to forgive a fault which could not be remedied. But the
father of Harriet remained <iuite inexorable : nor was his refcntment

foftened

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a^x The Mirroil, N.® loi.

ibftened even by her hufband's leaving the army; a ftep, which,
it.was hoped, might have mitigated' his anger,' as he had oft,en
declared it principally to arife from his daughter's marrying a foldier*

After some fruitless attempts to reinstate themselves in the old gentleman's affections, they took up their residence in a provincial town, in a distant part of the kingdom ; where, as Harriet described their situation to Emilia^ they found every wish gratified in the increasing tendernefs of one another. Emilia^ soon after, went to see them in their new abode: her description of their happiness on her return, was warm to a degree of rapture. Her visit was repeated on occasion of Harriets lying-in of her first child. This incident was a new source of delight to Emilia's friends, and of pleasure to her in their society. Harriet^ whose recovery was slow, easily prevailed on her to stay till it was completed. She became ' a member of the family, and it was not without much regret on both sides, that she left, at the end of six months, a house, from which, as she told me, the world looked as secluded, where sentiment regulated the conduct, and happiness rewarded it. All this while I was not

without

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N^ 101, The Mirror of

without alarm, and could not conceal my uneasiness from Emilia ; I represented the situation in which her friend stood, whom prudent people would consider as having, at least^ made a bold step, if not a formidable one.— I was answered rather angrily, by a warm remonstrance against the inhumanity of parents, the unfeelingness of age, and the injustice of the world.

That happiness which my niece had described as the inmate of Harriett family, was not of long duration. Her husband, tired of the inactive scene into which his marriage had cast him, grew first discontented at home, and then sought for that pleasure abroad which his own house could not afford him. His wife felt this change warmly, and could not refrain herself from expressing her feelings. Her complaints grew into reproaches, and rivetted her husband's dislike to her society, and his relief for the society of others. Emilia, was^ as usual, the confidant of her friend's misfortunes; it was now increased by a

lingering illness which had succeeded the birth of her second girl. After informing me of those disagreeable circumstances in which her Harriet was situated, Emilia told me she had

Vol. III. Y formed

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254 The Minor. N^o 100.

I formed the resolution of participating, at least, if she could not alleviate her distress, by going directly to reside in her house. Though I had now lost the affection of my niece, she had not yet forced me into indifference for her. Against this proposal I demonstrated in the strongest manner. You will easily guess my arguments ; but Emilia would not allow them any force* In vain I cited the ties of duty, of prudence, and of honour. They only produced an eulogium on generosity, on friendship, and on sentiment. I could not so far command my temper as to forbear some observations, which my niece interpreted into reflections upon her Harriet. She grew warm on the subject ; my affection for her would not suffer me to be cool. At last, in the enthusiasm of her friendship, she told me I had cancelled every bond of relationship between us & that (she would instantly leave my house, and return to it no more. She left it accordingly, and set out for Bath' fields that very evenings

There, as I learned, she found that lady in a situation truly deplorable : Her health declined, her husband cruel, and the former &c had brought him wretched among his com

panion

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N^o 101. The Mirror. 2nd

panions at the tavern and the gaming-table* The last calamity the fortune of Emilia enabled her to relieve & but the two first she could not

cure, and her friend was fast sinking under them. She was at last seized with a disorder which her weak frame was unable to resist, and which, her physicians informed - Emilia, would soon put a period to her life. This intelligence she communicated to the husband in a manner suited to wiping his heart for the treatment he had given his wife. In effect, Marlow was touched with that remorse which the consequences of profligate folly will sometimes produce in men more weak than wicked. He too had been in use to talk of feeling and of repentment. He was willing to be impelled by the passions though not restrained by the principles of virtue, and to taste the pleasures of vice while he thought he abhorred its depravity. His conversion was now as violent as sudden. Emilia believed it sincere, because confidence was natural to her, and the effects of sudden emotion her favourite system. By her means a thorough reunion took place between Mr and Mrs Marlow and the moment while the latter furnished was passed in that luxury of reconciliation.

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256 The Master & Niece.

moment which more than reinstates the injurer in our affection. Harriet died in the arms of her husband and, by a solemn adjuration, left to Emilia the comfort of him, and the care of her children.

. There is in this communion of sorrow one of the strongest of all connections - and the charge which Emilia had received from her dying friend of her daughters, necessarily produced the freest and most frequent intercourse with their father. Debts which his former course of life had obliged him to contract, he was unable to pay; and the demands of his creditors were the most peremptory, as, by the death of his wife, the hopes of any pecuniary assistance from her father were cut off. In the extremity of this distress, he communicated it to Raimond. Her generosity relieved him from the embarrassment, and gave him that further tie which is formed by the gratitude of those we oblige. Meanwhile, from the exertions of that

generosity^ she suffered considerable inconvenience. The world was
loud, and sometimes scurrilous in its censure of her conduct. I tried,
once more, by a letter written with all the art^I was master of, to

^cat

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N^ loi. The M ^ r r O' r; 257

recall her from the labyrinth in which this false fort of virtue had
involved her. My endeavours were vain. I found that sentiment^ like
religion, had its superstition and its martyrdom. Every hard (ship
which she counted a trial, every censure she endured (she
considered as a testimony of her virtue, At^ last, my poor deluded
niece was so entangled in- the toils which her own imagination and
«the art of Marlow had spread for her, that she gave to the dying
charge of Harriet the romantic interpretation of becoming the wife of
her widower, and the mother of her children. My heart bleeds, Mr
Mirror, while I foresee the consequences 1 She will be wretched, with
feelings ill accommodated to her wretchedness. Her sensibility will
aggravate that ruin to which it has led her, and the world will not
even afford their pity to distresses which the prudent may blame, and
the selfish will deride.

Let me warn, at least, where I cannot remedy. Tell your readers this
story, Sir. Tell them there are bounds beyond which virtuous feelings
cease to be virtue ; that the decisions of sentiment are subject to the
control of Y 3 prudence^

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2s8 The M r r r o a. K^ to%.

prudence) and the ties of friendship subordjK Udic to the obligations
of duty*

I am Sec.

KKQNTIUS.

SP'102.

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TS^ioz. Saturday, Jpriet'29^ i7»>f

To the Author of the Mirror-.

S I K,

YO U have already obferved how difficult it i^ to reduce the fcience of manners to general denominations, and -have (hown how liable to mifapplication are fome of the terms which are ufcd in it. To your infiances of man of fajbion and good company^ you wiU give me leave to add another, of which, I think, the perversion is neither lefs common nor lefs dangerous : I mean the term applied to a certain fpecies of chara^ler^ which wc didinguilh by the appellation of a man (f fpi^ rit.

Lord Cheftcrfield fays fome where, that, to ipeak and a6l with fpirit, is to fpeak rudely and a£t foolifhly ;. and his Lordihip's definU tion is frequently right* At the fame time^ SPIRIT may be, and certainly is, often applied to that line of conduct and fentiment that dCf lerves it: A perfon of virtue^ dignity, and / prudence.

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a6o The M i^ r r o m^ N® 102;

prudence, is, with much propriety, denominated a " MAN OF SPIRIT \^ but, by the abufe I complain of, ** man of fpirit** is* for the fioft partj very differently applied.

In the various departments of bufinefs, the term fpirit is frequently applied to unprofitable projei^s and vifionary fpeculations. Let

* a man be bold enough to risk his own fortune, and the fortunes of other people, upon: themes brilliant but improbable ; let him go on, languine amidst repeated losses, and dreaming of wealth till he wakes in bankruptcy ; and it is ten to one, that, after he fails. the world will give a sort of fame to his folly, and hold him up to future trust and patronage, under the title of an unfortunate man (a spirit).

But these are not the most glaring instances of the monstrous perversion of the character of the airy adventurer, or the magnificent but ruined projector, may both be men of spirit, though it is not spirit, but want of judgement, and visionary impetuosity, that have procured them the character. They may, however, possess that dignity and independence of mind in which alone true spirit con

sists, and may have been ruined by whim and

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K 102. The Mirror. 26

want of foresight, not want of spirit. But there is one sort of men on whom the appellation is bestowed whose conduct for the most part, is, in every article, the reverse of dignity or spirit, and perfectly inconsistent with it.

The men I mean are those, who, by a train of intemperance and profusion, run out their fortunes, and reduce themselves to misery. — Such men are common, and will be so, while vice, folly, and want of foresight, prevail among mankind, — They have been frequently ridiculed and exposed by the ablest pens: and it is not the character itself that falls under my observation 5 it is the unaccountable absurdity of bestowing upon such characters the appellation of ** men of spirit,** which they uniformly acquire, whether the fortune they have squandered is new, or has been handed down to them through a long line of ancestors.

The misapplication of the term is so completely ridiculous, as to be beneath contempt were it not for the mischief that I am convinced

has been occasioned by it. Youths entering on the stage of life are caught with the engaging appellation, "a man of spirit:" they

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become ambitious of acquiring that epithet; and- perceiving it to be much generally bestowed on such men. as I have described, they look up to them as patterns of life and manner and begin to ape them at an age which thinks only of enjoyment, and despises consequences; nay, if they should look forward, and view the "man of spirit" reduced, by his own profusion, to the most abject state of servile dependence, it does not mend the matter. In the voice of the world, he is "a man of spirit" still.— It is said, that the engaging manners of Captain Macheath have induced many young men to go on the highway. I am convinced the character of a "man of spirit" tempts many a young man to enter upon a course of intemperance and prodigality, that most frequently ends in desperate vicissitudes and a broken constitution.

This perversion is the more provoking, that, of all human characters, the intemperate prodigal is, in every feature and every stage, the most diametrically opposite to a man of spirit. — True spirit is founded on a love and desire of independence, and the two are so wended together, that it is impossible, even in idea, to separate them. But the intemperate prodigal

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gal is the most dependent of all human beings. — He depends on others for amusement and company; and, however fashionable he

may be in the beginning, his decline in the article of companions is certain and rapid.—In the course of his profusion he becomes dependent on others for the means of supporting it and when his race of prodigality is run, he transfers a tolerable dependence for the support •even of that wretched life to which it has reduced him. After all, the world calls him a ^ man of spirit,** when he is really in a state of fervile indigence, with a broken constitution, without spirit, and without the power of exerting it; with the additional reflection of having himself been the cause of his distresses.

- Nor is it only in the affirmative use of the term that I have to complain of its perversion & the same injustice takes place when it is substituted in the negative. Calling an intemperate and ruined prodigal a •* man of spirit," may proceed sometimes from pity; but when you hear a man of moderation and virtue, especially if he happens also to be opulent, blamed as ** wanting spirit^ the accusation is generally the child of detraction and

malignity.

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malignity. —I do not apply my observation to the avaricious and niggardly, to men whose purses are shut against their friends, and whose doors are barred against every body & such men certainly want spirit, and are, for the most part, defective in every virtue \$ but I am afraid that it often happens, that a person, benevolent to his friends, hospitable to the deserving, kind to his servants, and indulgent to his children is blamed as ** ^wanting spirit^ for no reason but because he is proof against the abominations of fashion and vanity, because he guards against the tricks of the designing, disregards the opinions and disapprobation of the foolish, and persists in that train of moderate economy which he knows is best suited to his fortune and rational views.

Inftead of wanting ^^Spirit^ fuch a cha* rafter is the true idea of " a man of fpirit.*\a every par^ of his manners and condudj he pafles through life with an uniform fteadineft and dignity. His moderation fecures his independence, and his attention fupplies the means of hofpitality add benevolence. While the prodigal is running his feverous and dit tempered courfe, the man of moderation and Tirtwe proceeds in a train of quiet contentment

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mcnt and refpcctable induftry; and, at 4he end of their race, when the prodigal, with a {haltered conflicution, without fortune and without friends, is in abfohite wanti ot, at bed, become the mean flatterer of fomc infolent minion of wealth or power, the man of moderation and viitue, feeling his independence without pride, is happy in himfelf, ufeful to his family and friends, and beneficent to mankind, contributing, perhaps, from charity, not refpeft, his aflftance to that very decayed prodigal who had frequently characterifed him as a man of no fpirit.

But it was not my purpofe to delineate at length the charafter of a real '* man of fpirit." -7" I propofed only to explode a very abfurd and mifchievous abufe of an epithet, that too generally prevails. I (hall, therefore, conclude, with afluring thofe who are ambitious of -being '^ men of fpirit," by putting on the life and manners of an intemperate prodigal, that, though tfeey may attain the charafter^ and even preferve it, after their fortunes arc fpent, and their conftitutions broken; yet they wiin)e " men of fpirit" onlj»^ominally; and, in the mouths of the world, -in reality, and in their hearts, they wiU be the meaneft as well Vol. III. iz as

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1^6 The Mirror. N® 102.

as the most unhappy of mankind, lingering; out a useless and contemptible life, on which intemperance has entailed disease, and extravagance and profusion inflicted poverty and dependence,

lam, &c.

MODERATUS.

My correspondent has confined his observations to one half of the world, and remarked the abuse of the term fop when applied to the men only. Might he not have extended his remarks a little farther, and traced the application of the phrase to the conduct and behaviour of the other sex? Perhaps, indeed, the charadler is not so universally in repute, as to come within the line of Modestus's complaint; but the thing is more in vogue than it seems to have been at any period of which my predecessors, who are a sort of chroniclers of manners and fashions, have preserved the history.

In London, to which place we are always to

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look for the " Glaze of Fashion" the ladies are not satisfied with (hewing their fop in the bold look of the masculine air, and the manly garb). have made inroad into a province from which they were formerly considered as absolutely excluded; I mean that of public oratory. Half a dozen societies have started up this winter, in which female speakers exercise their powers of elocution before numerous audiences and canvass all manner of subjects with the freedom and spirit of the boldest male orators. We in Edinburgh have not yet attempted to rival the polite people of the metropolis in this respect: some of our ladies however, do all they can to put us on a

footing with them. There is ibldom a crouded play, or a full concert^ at which fome of our iublic fpeakers do not exert themfclves with a moft laudable fpirit to drown the declamation of the ftage or the mufic of the orchefttra.

Nor is the ambition of thofe fpirited ladies* fatified with fpcaking in public, and carrying off the attention of the audience from the voice of the aflor or the tones of the mu« fician. The public eye, as well as ear, is to be commanded ^ and, in the ilde-box of the theatre, or the front-bench of the concert71 % room^,

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2(58 The Mirror. N<^ lo^

room, there is often fuckK acolleAlon of beauty, animated with fo much fpirit of exhibitionf that it is impoiSble the male part of the company fhould look at the fcene, or think of the mufic. One of my predeceffors has mentioned the art which the ladies of hh day ufed m the unfurling of their fans, fo as to difplay certain little Cupids and Venufes which lurked in their folds. Had he ften fome of our ladies in the attitudes which modern fpirit has taught them to aflume —fuch unfurlings and unfoldings ! — his Venufes and Cupids were mere ice and' fnow to them.

It is but j'uftice to thofe ladies to remark, that this part of their behaviour feems calculated merely to fliew their accomplifhment m fafhibnable freedom of manner, without any motive of an interefted or felfifli kind. They are contented with the reputation of eafe and fpirit, without procuring much indulgence from the one or licence from the other. I • have fometimes, however, been inclined to think, that there was a degree of unfairnefs ' in this, and to doubt, if a lady wa& intitled ' thus to hang out falfe colours, and ta be in reality innocent and harmlefs, while flic was ^uite a di^ercflt fort of creature in appearance.

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N° X02. The Mirror; %6()'

ance. I could not help allowing some justice in the complaint of a girl whom I overheard some weeks ago, in the passage from the upper boxes thus addressing her companion: •* Did you observe that pert, giggling, naked •* thing, in the stage box ? There's not a •* man in the house who cares a farthing for j. •* and yet she has the assurance to look Uko-•* •* one of us. •*

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jr^ 1C3. Tuesday, May 2. ij8b)

To the Author of the Mirror..

S I R^

FROM my earliest infancy, I have been remarkable for good-humour, and a gentle, complying, insensible disposition, qualities, which, I am told, I inherit of my father, the late Mr Paul Softly^ an eminent Kne-drapcr. Though I myself soon recover any disappointment or contradiction I meet with; yet so tender is my regard to the feelings of others, that I am led to comply, conform, and almost against my reason, to comply with their requests, humour them in their foibles, and acquiesce in their opinions. I cannot bear, Mr Mirror, it hurts me more than you can imagine^ to disappoint the hopes, or withhold the solicitation of any human, being whatever. There is a sturdy, idle, impudent, merry looking dog of a failor, with a wooden leg, stationed at the corner of the street where I live^ which I do believe^ has e

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IT 103. The Works of 271,

ffablHhed himself as a penfioner upon me for Kfe, by the earneftnefs of his tones, and his conftant prayers to heaven for bleffings on my goodnefs. Often and often have I been engaged in midnight-riots, though fond of peace and good neighbourhood, and frequently, though I abhor it, have I been betrayed into intoxication, from a want of power to refift the hofpitable importunity of my land^ lord preffing me to fill a bumper.

From this, I would not have you imagine rfiatlam devoid of refolution, or a will of his own. On the contrary, I do afTure you, that, upon extraordinary occafions^ and, when it is^neceffary, I can refift and refent too* Nay, my wife (if you will believe her) frequently complains of my obftinacy and perverfenefs; and declares, that, of all the men fhe ever knew, Simon Softly (for that is my name) is the leaft fcnfible of indulgence. However, Sir, as for my wife, confidering that I married her, not fo much from any perfonal regard, as in order to pleafe her worthy family who had (civ^d^ me, though I dare fay without any expectation of reward, I thank God, I lead a pretty tolerable fort of life with her.— Ujjon the whole, Sir, this difpofition

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^^^ The * B T i r r o r. N° 1031

of mixc has always appeared to me more a* . miable as well as convenient, than that named firm and deci&vej which, I confefs to . yoU| I AfpeAy is at the bottom nothing elfe but conceit and ill-humour. Upon one oc. cafon in my Kfe> however^, (I think, it is the . <i7ery firft), which I am going to ky before you, I muft own that it has given me a good deal of ferious difturbanc«.

About fix months ago, I (ucceeded, by the death of an uncle, to a land-eflate of L. 100 a-year, which, unfortunately, lies contiguous to that of the greateft proprietor in the countf. Along with it/ I inherited a law-fuit kept ^alive, by various means, ever fince the year thirty-three- The fubjeft of it was a fourth part of the eftate, which, though it

had long been possessed by my predecessors, as part of the farm of Oxenford. Sir Ralph Holdencote, our ancestor and neighbour above mentioned, contended must belong to him, as included in his charters of the barony of Acredak.— But, before I go on, I must make you acquainted with Sir Ralph. He is descended from one of the oldest and most cholerick families in the kingdom. The stem of it, as appears from the tree drawn by the

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N^{*} 103. The Mirror. 273

hand of his great-grandfather, Sir Eufrase, was a Norman baron, who came over with the Conqueror. One of his posterity intermarried with a Welsh heiress; they were driven out of England for some act of rebellion, and, since their settlement in the north, their blood has been further heightened by alliance with the family of a Scots Peer and a Highland Chieftain. Their jealous pride, and the fudgements of their passion, have all along borne ample testimony to the purity of their lineage. Sir Eufrase himself fought four duels, and was twice run through the body. In Sir Ralph's veins, this spirit, though somewhat mitigated by his father's marriage with one, who, as it is whispered, had once served him in the capacity of dairy-maid, is far from being extinct. In his youth, he experienced the vengeance of the law, for beating a merchant of the same surname, who, without just title, claimed kindred with him, and assumed the arms of his family. I have heard too, that he himself was once soundly peppered by a gentleman of small fortune, whose gun Sir Ralph had attempted to seize, upon his own ground, under pretence of his being unqualified to carry one. Though now old, he is

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still noted for his tenacious adherence to all his pretensions, the ceremonious politeness with which he receives the great gentry, and his supercilious treatment of all those who are not intitled to that name, ■ But to go on with my story. Soon after my success, being on a visit to another neighbour, Mr B. I found him with his wife preparing to depart, in great form, for the feast of my adversary, to whom they are annually in debt of paying their respects. Being ignorant of my situation, they pressed me much to accompany them and I, desirous to please them, Sir, . and not knowing how to excuse myself, at the same time thinking it unreasonable that I should be at enmity with a man whom I did not know, merely because we were at law together, was prevailed on to comply.

In a long avenue of lofty elms, terminated at one end by a large iron gate, at the top of which the family arms are worked, and at the other, by the mansion-house, a large old-fashioned building, with a moat and turrets, we overtook the knight himself returning from a ride. He seemed to be about sixty, but retained a robust make and florid complexion. He was seated on a superb saddle with his

side.

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Nov. 3. The Mirror. 275

sters, and a housing of fur : he rode a longtailed horse, which had once been gray, but had now become white with age; and was attended, at due distance, by a fedate elderlylooking servant, in an ample livery turnout, mounted on a black <flock-tailed coach nag. No sooner had he perceived us, than he pushed on at a gallop, that he might be ready to present himself upon the platform of a large outer door, to pay his compliments upon our arrival. I was introduced to him as his new neighbour Mr Softly : but the moment the name reached his ears, the blood rushed into his face, and eyeing me with a look of indignation, he turned upon his heel and left me. At this I was a good deal nettled, (for I do not want spirit), and wished to retire : but, perceiving that my horse had been led into the stable, and

that I muft pafs through a crowd of fervants, who were laughing at my reception, I thought it might be juft as good to go on, and fo followed, them into the great hall. This was a large room, wainfcotted with oak, and decorated with feme portaits, a map of the eftate, a tree of the family-defcent, befide a fpear and acrofsbow, which had been borne, I fuppofe, by

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2y6 T fl E M I u R o R» N^ 103.

fame of the knight's progenitors. Here we were received by Mifs Primrofe Holdencourt^ his fifter, a maiden lady of fifty-five, who, ever fince the death of his wife^ has done the honours of his table. To her I made a profound bow, of which (he took no notice, unlefs by bridling up her head, and toiling a look of difdain at me.

Our prefent company, befide the perfons already mentioned, confifted of the Knight's agent or attorney, and the parfon of the parifh. The two latter, who, for fome reafon or other, had all along kept (landing together by one of the windows near the door, were banifhed, upon the appearance of dinner, to a by-table in a corner of the room where, I likewife, finding no place unoccupied at the other table, was obliged to take my feat. But, for this difgrace, I was foon comforted by the good-humour and facetiousnefs of the attorney, (who feemed to take a liking for me), as well as by fome excellent ale, in which we both, along with the parfon, participated pretty liberally. We had no communication with the other table, unlefs by an overture of mine towards a reconciliation with Mifs Primrofe by drinking her health, which met with a very

ungracious

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N^to3* The MiRRox. 277

ungracious reception. We had, however, no great cause to envy their conversation, as it consisted chiefly of some annotations by her upon the table-linen[^] in which the heads of the twelve apostles, and some worthies of this family, were woven; besides a history from the Knight, of some exploits performed by the latter. Dinner being removed, and the ladies retiring along with it, the other table was naturally compelled to an union with ours in which, however, did not take place without strong marks of repugnance on the part of the Knight. There became still more and more manifest, as the liquor elevated his pride: he pushed the bottle past me, neglected to require my toast, and every now and then eyed me over his shoulder with a look of the utmost jealousy and aversion. I did not value the looks, of him or any other man a farthing; so I kept my seat manfully. In a short time, my friend Mr B. having, for some purpose or other, left the room, the attorney, with an appearance of great candour[^] and cordiality, inquired of me, whether that unhappy contest relative to the farm of Oxentown were drawing to an issue? • Nothing ' ♦ that depends on my will for that fair play[^] halt Vol. III.' A a 'ht

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^^ be wanting[^] answered I. •• You allows •• then,[^] immediately interposed the Knight, •^ that the lands of Harrowfield make part of •• my barony of Acredale: you are at last be •• come sensible of the justice of my claims,[^] I •^ am glad of it, heartily glad of it[^] rejoined the attorney; •^ but[^] indeed, it is impossible to •• doubt of it for "— and here he began a long dissertation, so full of law-terms and bad Latin, that I did not understand a word on't, which he finished with, •• From all which, it •^ // luce clarius, that the lands belong to Sir •^ Ralph: Mojl assuredly[^] echoed the parson. •• And when, my dear Sir[^] do you mean to •^ renounce your claim[^] resumed the attorney? All this, Mr Mirror, passed with so much rapidity, that I had no time for recollection or reply. Nothing could be farther [^]from my intention, than totally to surrender my claim: an amicable accommodation was all that I meant to hint at. But what could I do, Mr Mirror? My friend, who might have

supported me, had left the room: I had no answer ready to the attorney's argument : the whole company concurred in regarding my claim as groundless ; my meaning had been misunderstood, and an explanation, being desired, was given.

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N^o 3 The Mirror. 275

...me to their repentment, (but that I did not value a straw), would have subjected me to the suspicion of infidelity and false dealing. Still, however, I was loath thus to play away a considerable part of my inheritance. After hesitating a little while, awkward and embarrassed, between these opposite motives, I did, at last, resolve to undeceive them, and had actually begun to meditate an address for that purpose, which, I do believe, I should have delivered, when the attorney, flapping me on the shoulder with one hand, and stretching out the other to me, with an air of the greatest cordiality, cut me short. "What say you Mr. Softly ? fail bind, fail find what say you to finishing the matter " immediately. " This proposal, being quite unexpected, utterly disconcerted me. In a twinkling, surprised, embarrassed, and the desire of relieving myself by a decision one way or other, feeling them, at the same time, full of expectation, I hastily, almost without knowing what I did, took him by the hand, and answered, yes, with all my heart. In short, Mr. Mirror, paper, pen, and ink, were called for, and a deed drawn out, which I instantly executed. The Knight, immediately after, A. a. coming,

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affo The Mirror a. N^o 10.

coming up to me, (took me by the hand, and commanding a bumper to my health, desired and invited to see me often at Castle Holdenr court*

Being naturally of an easy temper, and feeling that the matter could not be mended, touched at the same time with the satisfaction it had diffused, I soon^ in some degree, regained my good humour. More wine was called for repeatedly & next morning, I found myself at my friend Mr B.'s house, without knowing how or when I had been transported to it*

Upon serious deliberation^ however, and after some conversation upon the subject with my wife, I am really vexed and dispirited with this affair. In making application to you, I have three views; the first merely to disburden my mind by telling the story, (I fear it is a dull and tedious one) \ the second, to learn from any of your readers who is at the bar, whether my facility be a ground for reducing my content; the third, to warn persons of a similar disposition from going into company with their adversaries in a law-suit.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.

SIMON SOFTLY.

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N^o 10. The Mirror/ a Si?

As I sincerely sympathize with Mr Softly in his distress, I have published his letter for the first purpose mentioned in its conclusion, to disburden his mind of the story. -As to the second, I am afraid I can be of little use to him, as a law-opinion, delivered through the channel of the Mirror would be destitute of some of the pre-requisites, without which it would be dangerous to rely on it as the ground of legal proceedings. The third, which is a very disinterested motive, is, I believe, more charitable in him, that it will be useful to his readers. There is^ I fancy, very little occasion for warning people against: going into the company of those with whom they are at law,, lest they should be surprised into improper* concessions ; I have generally observed, that,, a person being in company with an adversary in a lawsuit, has a greater tendency to make a man too tenacious of his rights, than to dispose him to relinquish them.

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K*^i04. Saturday, -May 6. I^B^

IT has been remarked^ that the country-Itfiprevails more in Great Britaia than in any civilized nation in Europe. However true this obfervation may be in the general, thereis one fet o£ men among us^ to whom^ in the prefent times, it will by no means apply: I Qiean our great nobles, and. men of high fortune i It is indeed vaia to expcft,, that perfons in that i^nk of life ihoild be able to withftand:the attra£tions. of a courtj^ and the. fedu£tions of a luxurious capital.

It is, neverthelefs, a melancholy circumilance, in ti-aveliing through thh ifland, ta find fo many noble palaces deferted by their illuffrious owners, even in that feafon of the year when, to every man of tafte^ the country muft afford true pleafure. How mortifying is it to hear a great man tell you, that he cannot afford to live at his country-feat, and to. iie him, after pai&ng a winter in London, and lofing thoufands in a week, reduced ta ihfi neQqiTity of murdering the fummer, by

lounging

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lounging from watering-place to wateringw pfece, or retiring with two or three humblefriends to a villa in the environs of London,, kifthead of living with a becoming dignity ia the manfion of his anceftors i To fuch mca I would beg leave to recommend the advice o^ King James I. who, as Lord Bacon tells us,«• was worn to be very earneft with the coun** try-gentlcnaen to go from London to their " country-feats; and fometimes would fay to •^ them, Gentlemen^ at Londmi^you are like'^Jhips in the fea^ luhiclr Jbe-w like nothing t ^^ But^ in your

country villages you are like ^{**} 'Jbips in a river' -which look like great things.*^

It do not mean, however, to say, that a great man should live always in the country.. The duties of his station, and the rank he holds in society, require^ that he should pass part of the year in- the capital and, independent of those considerations, I- believe it will be allowed, that a man of high rank, who has passed his whole life immured within the walls of his- own chateau^ and constantly surrounded by a circle who look up to him, is, of all mortals the most insupportable.

Nay I will go farther & I am disposed to believe, that it is as improper and a hurtful

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2^4 T H z .Mirror. N^ 104.

thing* even for. a private gentleman of moderate fortune, to retire from the world, and betake himself altogether to a country life.

A remarkable instance of the bad consequences of abandoning society, I lately met with in a visit I had occasion to pay to a gentleman, with whom I had become acquainted at college, and whose real name I shall conceal wider than that of Acazio, Soon after he quitted the university, where he had been distinguished by an ardent love of literature, Acazio retired to his estate in the country, which, tho' not great, was fully sufficient for all his wants.. There he had resided ever since ; and, either from inclination or indolence* had remained a bachelor. I had not seen him for many years. Time had made some alteration on his figure; but that was little when compared, with the change I found in him in all other respects. In his dress and manners he was indeed completely rusticated; and, by living much alone, he had contracted an indiffer^ent taste to that decorum, and to those little attentions, without which no man can be agreeable in society. The

day I arrived at his house, I found him strolling in his garden,,
waiting a call to dinner^ dressed in an old

coat,.

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N^o 104. The Mirror. 2⁵

coat» which had once been black, a floured hat of the same
complexion, with a long pole in his hand, and with a beard that did
not appear to have felt a razor for many days.

After a hearty welcome, he carried me in to dinner. In his
conversation, I found as great a change as in his outward
appearance . and deportment. From living in a narrow circle, he had
contracted a peculiarity in his notions which sometimes amused, from
its oddity ; and, from conversing chiefly with persons rather of an
inferior station to himself, he had become as tenacious of his opinions,
as if they had been self-evident truths^ 2nd as impatient of
contradiction^ as if to differ from him had been a crime. .

From the same causes^ the veriest trifle^ particularly if it concerned
himself, had become to him an object of importance. A
country gentleman he considered as the most respectable character
in nature ; and he talked as if honour, truth, and sincerity, were con-
fined to them alone. Every man who lived in the world, he considered
as a villain; and every woman who passed much of her time in town,
he made no scruple to say, was no better^ than^ she should be. At
first, it astonished

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me to hear a man of his good sense and benevolent dispositions, talk of some of the most amiable characters of the age in the most distinguished terms. When I endeavoured to put him to rights, he at once cut me short, by saying, he could have no doubt of the truth of what he advanced, as he had been told such and such a thing by his friend and neighbour Mr Doivnright, who scorned to flatter any man, or to tell any thing but the truth. : I soon had an opportunity of judging how far the country-gentlemen were indebted to the high character my friend had given them for honour and integrity. The morning after V arrived, my host informed me he was obliged to attend a county-meeting, where there was to be business of considerable importance, into which he was deeply interested; and as he could not stay at home with me, I readily consented to accompany him. He had dressed himself for the occasion and that is, he had shaved his beard, and put on a clean shirt. It remained to determine how we should travel. At first, he proposed to go a horseback but the appearance of a black cloud made him think of the carriage. It then occurred, that taking the carriage would stop the plough

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If 104. The Mirror. 287

and it was determined we should ride. But, as we were going to mount, the recollection of a cold, attended with some threatenings of a sore throat he had had the week before, made him again resolve upon the carriage. In short, I found, that my poor friend, naturally of an undecided temper, and having no proper object to fill his mind, had accustomed himself to deliberate on every trifle, as if it had been an affair of the greatest consequence. At length, we set out in the carriage; but not till repeated instructions were given to John to drive only two miles the first hour, and not more than three, or three and a quarter, afterwards.

On the road, we met with some incidents that were amusing enough. In the midst of a serious conversation on the state of the nation in

which Acafto was propofing plans of reformation, and tracing all our prefent calamities to the prevalence of the mercantile intereft in parliament, and the (harmful neglect of the country-gentlemen, we happened to pafs the houfe of a cottager, who had laid down a load of coals rather too near the high-road ; Which Acafio no fooner perceived than he (lopped the carriage, and calling out the poor man.

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tSS T H fi M f R u 0 K. N^ 104.

man, began to rate him as if he had been guilty of the groffeft offence. Not fatisfied with ordering the nuifance to be removed, he thought it neceffary to reprefent, in Arong colours, all the poffible mifchiefs that might have enfued from it, " What might have ** happened," faid he, " if my horfes had " ftartled, God only knows ! — Had we been ** overturned, my carriage might have been ** broken, or my horfes killed, and even I *' myfelf might have been hurt."

This circumftance, trifling as it was, ruffled my friend fo much, that it was fome time before he could refume the thread of his converfation. Some other incidents of the fame kind gave him an opportunity of difplaying his attention to the police of the country, and of impreffing me with an idea of the obligations he had thereby conferred on his fellowcitizens. At length we arrived at the countytown, and immediately drove to the courthoufe, where we found a very numerous meeting.

I foon found, that the important bufinefs which had brought fo many gentlemen from their own houfes, was to determine whether a bridge fhould be built at one end of a village

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cyr the other. From the course of the argument it could be called plain* ly perceived, that, to the public, it was a matter of the most perfect indifference. But, if executed in one way, it would accommodate a gentleman who had acquired a large fortune in the course of trade, and had lately purchased an estate in the neighbourhood, on which he had built an elegant • house. Acajlo^a and his friend Mr Downright, strenuously opposed the plan of accommodating this novum ho' ntio, who had presumed to buy one of the best, . estates in the county, from the heir of an ancient family, at a higher price than any body . else would have given for it. For my own part, i was truly mortified to observe in both parties as much trick and chicanery as mighty , when properly varnished, have done honour to the most finished statesmen. In one thing only I discovered that open plainness on which country-gentlemen are so apt to value themselves, and that was in the language in which they, addressed each other. There, indeed, they were sufficiently plain; and no where did I ever observe a more total neglect of the favourite maxim of Lord Chellerfield, fortiter iit re, suaviter in modo^a Vol. III. B b Oa

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ft^ao The M I r & o a. N^oio4.

On our way home, Acafto entertained me with the characters of the gentlemen we had seen; but he might have saved himself the trouble ; for, by reflecting how they voted^a I should immediately have known which of them were honest and sincere, and which deans time-serving hypocrites.

I shall not trouble my readers with any reflexions on Jcaftis character. It is plain, that the little peculiarities which, with all his natural goodness and benevolence, expose him hourly to ridicule or to censure, have been occasioned by his retreat from the world, and by that solitude in which he has lived so long. Seldom, indeed, have I known any ^ane that did not, in some degree, suffer from it; that did not, more or less, become selfish and opinionative. I

never see a young heir fluttering about town in the circle of gaiety, without feeling an emotion of compassion. In a few years, when he comes to be supplanted in that circle by a younger set, no resource remains for him but a retreat to the country, where he must pass his days either in a state of listless inactivity, or in pursuits unworthy of a rational being. I would, therefore, earnestly recommend it to

every

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N^o 104. The Mirror. 291

every parent, to educate the heir of his fortune to some profession j to set before him some object that may fill his mind, may rouse him to action, and may make him at once » happy and respectable member of society.

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ft b 2 VP los[^]

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N^o 105« TuESDAT, May 9. 1780.

THE winter, which, like an untaught visitor, had prolonged its stay with us to a very unreasonable length, has, at length, given place to vernal breezes and a more indulgent sky and many of my readers will now leave the business or amusements of the town for the purer air and less tumultuous enjoyments of the country. As I have, now and then, ventured some observations on the manners and follies of the former, I could not forbear, from a friendly concern for those whom the season now calls into the latter, to offer a few remarks on certain errors which are more generally prevalent in the country* My last journal was intended for the serious perusal of country gentlemen. I mean, in this, to make a few lighter observations on some little failings, in point of manners, to which I have seen a propensity in

country-gentlemen, country-ladies, and in those who, though of the town for the greatest part of the year, make their appearance, like the cuckooiv^ (I mean

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Iff° lag. The M r k r o r ; , %yy

no offence by the cooiparifon), when the trees* have put on their leaves^ and the meadows * their yerdore.

In the/irfi place^, I would beg of those who> migrate from the city, not to carry too much^ . of the town.with-them into* the country, I will allow a-lady to exhibit theneweft-faflion* ed cut in her riding-habit, or to aftontih a^ country«congregation with the height of her' head-drefs; and a gentleman, in like manner^^ to fport^ as they term it, a grotesque pattera< of a waftcoat, or to fet the children agape by.' the enormous £2c of his buckles. Their atpc^ privileges to which gentlemen and ladies may. be thought to have intitled themselves by the expence and trouble of a winter's re&m^ dence in the capital. But there is a provo«king, .though a civil fort of confequence fudu people are apt to aillime in conver/atidUya which, I think, goes beyond the jiiift prero* gative of town/bip, and is a very unfair en-oroachment on the natural rights of thei^* friends and. relations in the country. They^/ (hould confider, that, though there are cer-*tain fubjefts of ton and fafbion, on which they^' may pronounce ex cathedra^ (if I may be allowed ib pedamica phrafc), yet that, even in,i B b J: the-

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the country, the fenfcs of hearing, feeling Caftingy and fmcUing, may be enjoyed toacer*tain extent, and that a perfon may like or di£Uke a new fong, a new lutftring-, a French difh, or an Italian perfume^

though such person has been unfortunate enough to pass, -last winter, at a hundred miles distance from the metropolis

. On the other hand,, it is but fair to inform the ladies and gentlemen of the country, that there is a certain debt here which ought to be paid, in those matters, to the enlightened judgement of their friends who are newly arrived from the seat of information and of knowledge. I have heard a lady in the country, when her cousin from Edinburgh had been very obligingly communicating some extraordinary piece of intelligence, or exhibiting some remarkable piece of dress or finery, cut her short, by saying, with all the coolness, in the world, " That is singular-enough, but « it is nothing to what I heard from Miss V B*—
^, with whom I have corresponded ^^ ever since (he went to London just or, " This ** is very pretty, to be sure, but not so

** compared to Mrs C ^s, which she had

>* sent her in a present from Paris.** This

for?

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No. 5y. The Mirror. 295

sort of brag playing in conversation I have sometimes heard carried to a very disagreeable length) which would be in a great measure prevented, if people were not to be allowed credit for what they may have heard, or have been told, but to take consequence only from what they have seen. If we townspeople are to be thus out-wondered on report, there is an end of all order and subordination in the matter. To borrow another allusion from the game above mentioned, I think it is but reasonable that the wonders of persons from town should take the same precedence of the wonders of the people in the country, that natural cards do of pack makers.

But it is sometimes from the opposite feeling, from too high an idea of the importance of their town-visitors, that the good people of the

country are apt to fall into improprieties. It is wonderful to see the confusion into which the appearance of the new-fashioned carriage of a gentleman just arrived from town throws the family, especially the female part of it, of his rural neighbour. Such a peeping from windows, such a running backwards and forwards of bare-headed boys, and girls to fetch their master from the field, and their

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19* T » B AT r ft a O' m. NP icj5^

mftrefi from the waft-house ! Then, after waiting for long while in the parlour» which the chamber-maid had but time to put half in order, comes the old lady with some awkward V^^Tf followed by a cold to die maid for leaving her rubber or hearth-brush in view of her company. By and by appears the master of the house, with another apology for appearing before ladies- in his farmer's dress. After a long series of common inquiries and frequent pulling out of watches on the part of the visitor(s) and two or three mel^gcs up stairs from the miftrefs of the family. do not come the young ladies, with their caps awry. their long pins but half stuck in, their hair powdered in patches, and their aprons stiff from the folds. Here follows a second course of the same questions and answers. which being cloied by an observation of the late hour from the one side, and some features on the fortunes of town-visits from the other, the company are suffered to depart, who, it is ten to one, laugh all the way home at the good, people who were at such pains to make themselves fit, as they thought, to be seen by them. Let these last remember, that there is a style as it is called, proper to every thing decent

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N® 105. The Mirror. 297

cy and cleanliness they owe to themselves ; an imitation of the fashionable fineries of the town they owe to nobody ; most of these, indeed, are quite preposterous in the country.; it is only when people get into crowds that they are at liberty to make fools of themselves>

As I have, in the beginning of this paper, desired the city-emigrants not to carry the town into the country, so I must intreat their country-friends not to forget that the others have but lately arrived there. Their relief for draining, ditching, hedging, horse-hoeing, liming, and marling, and such other branches of the fine arts as an afternoon's conversation at a gentleman farmer's frequent-ly runs into, has been a good deal blunted by seven months residence in the region of amusement and dissipation. The like caution will apply to those female orators who occupy the intervals of tea-drinking with dissertation on the cow-house, the dairy, and the poultryyard.

There are some topics which may be introduced at that season, in which both town and country ladies are qualified to join, though even of them I would recommend a sparing

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2nd moderate use \$ I mean those little left-ares on morality sometimes known by the name of scandal. In these the town ladies, however, have some advantage^ as their subjects are often such as may be reckoned fair game, persons of whom the world has a right to talk, and who seem to act as if they wished to be talked of. These notorious offenders against decency and decorum, of which there are always some instances in great towns, may be compared to certain atrocious criminals, whom the law has ordered to be sent, after execution, to Surgeons Hall: their characters, may be discussed at all tea-tables, without any danger of the crime of defamation. But the beauty of a country town or village is so rarely so unguarded, in her conduct as to give this licence to the tongues of her neighbours, who are, therefore, generally obliged to report to the whispering of little private anecdotes and family-secrets, which I very much doubt if

they be legally imitled to dOf at leaft except in cafes of great neceffity, as on a rainy Sunday, or where the party conr fifts but of two, who can neither play crib* bage, pici^uet, or backgammon.

Somewhat

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N« f o^ . ^The Mirror. 19^

Somewhat akin to the lovers of detraction are the effence-takers^ a fpecies of people I ftavc obfervcd more common in the country than in popular cities. They are deeply vcrftd in the fcience of precedency, in the etiquette of paying and returning vifits, in the ceremonial of drinking healths, and of ac« knowing bows and curtfies. I have been aftoniihed to find the cu'cle of my acquaint* ance (b circumfcribed as I have fometimes ex* perienced, when I have happened to take up. my head-quarters at a gentleman's who could , only accompany me to the houfes of one half the neighbourhood, having contrived to be totally eftranged from the other by negle^ of himfelf, affronts to his wife, fquabbles a* bout dancing at annual balls, or toafts at county-meetings after the fecond bottle.

This difeafe of offence* taking is particular* ly epidemic in fome places every feventh yea'r, or fometimes it returns a little fooner by royal proclamation. As this fummer may probably be the feafon of its recurring with violence, I take the prefent opportunity of warn* ing my readers againft the company of the infeAed ; and even to thefe a regimen of temper and good*manner2 may be found a very

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joo The Mirror. N® 105.

powerful and (klutary alterative. The feelings of an offence-taker are always very difagreeabki and, as to the external ede£ts of this

mental malady, whether it go off in oblique reflections, or break out into fcurrility and abuse, I need not, I fancy, enlarge on the danger of their consequences. To gentlemen concerned in politics and eleVione^ring, I would particularly observe, that the period of their canvass is not the proper time for indulging any such freedoms in conversation or behaviour. When the contest is determined, the losers have some sort of privilege for railing ; the successful candidates, as things go now-a-days, should keep all their foul language for that place to which the suffrages of their constituents are to send them.

N*io(5,

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.N^io6. Saturday, May ij. 1780V

4)i //ii divitias dederdntf ariemque fruendu

HOR.

THE importance of education to fit mtfk for the world, has been univcrfally seen and acknowledged ; but I think it has not been always sufficiently attended to as necessary to fit men for retiring from the world ; as qualifying them to aft their .pan with pro*^ priety when they retreat from the bufinefs of life, and to enjoy themfelves when enjoyment becomes their object. There is a certain time of life, when almost every man wishes to e^ foape from the hurry and bustle of the world) and to taste the sweets of retirement and re* pofe \ but how few are th&re, who^ when they have arrived at that period whi^h they fifted for this retreat, and have put their de«> \gas in execution, meet with that enjoyment which they looked for ! Inftead of pleafure, they find fatiety, wearinefs, and difgnft } time • becomes a heavy burden, upon them, and in Vol. III. C c what

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30^ The M i e e o e. N® io6«

what way they may kill the tedious hours, grows, at length their only
 object* But, had these men received a good education, they would
 never be at a loss how to fill up their time } rich fields of entertainment
 would open to them from various sources. Company and
 conversation would receive a finer relish; books would give perpetual
 enjoyment ; the gay prospects of the country, the romantic scenes
 which it affords, the adorning and beautifying those scenes, and the
 culture of all the elegant arts, would make that fortune, which many
 possess without knowing how to use, the minister of every thing that
 can afford delight.

I believe it may be true, that neither learning, nor a taste for the
 elegant arts, is requisite to enable a person engaged in the ordinary
 business of life, to succeed in his profession and, while so engaged,
 the occupations of that profession will prevent his feeling any vacuity,
 or suffering any inconvenience from his ignorance, and want of
 refinement. But when such a person has acquired a fortune, and
 given up business, I have often observed, that, from this uncultivated
 state of mind, he is at a loss how to enjoy himself or his riches.

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Nº 6. The Mirror* 303

He either becomes a prey to chagrin and ennui or he gives himself
 up to the coarsest intemperance ; or, should he wish to figure as a
 man of taste or fashion, he receives but little entertainment himself,
 and his attempts are so absurd and preposterous, as to make him the
 object of scoff and ridicule to others*

Daniel was put early to business: his whole learning consisted in
 being able to read English, to write and keep accounts* he got soon
 into a very good branch of trade; his attention was unremitting \ and
 his economy was equal to his attention. His labours, far from being
 a burden upon him, only gave him an exertion of mind, which kept
 him in an equal and unceasing flow of spirits. By the time he was fifty,

Drexelius had acquired [t fortune equal to that pf the richeft of hif feUow^citiaens. He now began to think fe* fioyfly of enjoying it* The refolution which he had early formed of retiring to the coun* try when be ihould have acquired a fortune*^ find which i^d fupported hiin during tb,e la<» ^xmrs of acquiring it» he now determined to put in praftice. He, therefore, wound up his bufinefs, fold off his dock, and purchafed ^ eftate in dn^ country. Tbe novelty of the C c a fituation^

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304 The M i r r o r. N* ioA.

fituation, and the flattering thought that he was proprietor of fo many acres, fupported bim for a while. Bt^t he fooa began to find, that the fields, and woods, and rivers, gave him no fort of pleafure. He could receive no amufement from farming, and books he was unable to enjoy. A volume of the Spe^atoPi recommended te him by the clergyman of the parifh, lay half-read upon the chimney*piece) and the propeds which he heard others admire, appeared to him. not more beautiful than the front of the Exchange, or Ac pavement of the ftreet on-which he ufed to treads Tired, rherefure, ©f the country, and weary of every thing, he began to long for the town which he had abandoned', and to become agaii> a frequenter of the Change. According^ ly he hired a houfe in town, and refolved to ipend in k the winter-mooths at leaft. But the town had now alfo kift its charms, and he found it impoifible to recover chem. H« had ho longer bufinefs'to occupy his mind: when he rofe in the morning he kn^w not what to do; he had no bargains to fettle^ and no fliips to infure. His acquaintance around him were bufy, while he was idle ; he found himfelf alone ia. the nudft of a crowds

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Ko f 06. The M i r r o ^ rv joy

an unkitereftcd/pedator of what ufed to em^t>lo7 him. Change of fituation,, therefore,, gave him no relief ^ for the town was now as dull as the countr]^ ^ The purchafe he had made was a dear one :

upon his estate[^] which had cost him more than at first he intended to^{*} give for it, he was obliged to build a house, and to make some other improvements, the expense of which, like that of all other buildings and improvements, greatly exceeded what their owner had made his account with. This, however, was little to one of Dr[^] Xelious's fortune. On former occasions, he had lost more upon one adventure in trade, without being much affected by the loss; but then he had different objects[^] to interest him, and he expiated to make up by other adventures what he had lost upon one; now he had nothing else to think of but the daily expenditure. This took possession of his imagination; he^{*} thought he saw poverty and ruin before him and his health began to sink under the vexation of his mind. In vain did his friends represent to him the greatness of his fortune \ that the money he was laying out was a trifle to what he possessed \ and that, after all his plans were finished[^] he would still have more than

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306 The Mirror of a Noble.

than he could expend. It is to no purpose^{*}

- reason with a diseased imagination is the only thing which can relieve it, is a change of objects, and a variety of amusements. But this method could not be followed by Dr[^] Xelious: there was no object to interest him; and his mind was incapable of amusement. His disease, therefore, increased upon him every day. The proprietor of a fine place, possessed of a

' great fortune, inheritance, with all the means of

- pleasure and enjoyment, he was haunted with the demon of poverty, and actually believed, that, if he lived many years, he would die of want[^]

Clavius was a partner in trade with Dr[^] Xelious) whose example he followed in the scheme of enjoying a retreat in the country. But his

mind was as empty and uneducated as th^{at} of Drexelius equally incapable of amusing itself in solitude, or of receiving pleasure from those enjoyments which a country-life is calculated to bestow. He was, however, a man of greater natural spirits, and was not, therefore, fit to become a prey to listlessness, or to the effect of gloomy avarice. Company was his resource and, that the hours might not lie heavy upon him he took care never to be alone.

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N^ote. »T H E M I R R O R. 3507

alone. But as he had no talent for conversation, every sort of company was equally welcome to him; and where conversation was not the object it became necessary to support the society by some adventitious aid. The talk, therefore, was directed to. This was the employment during the finest summer evenings; and the morning-fun often rose upon the same company on which it had gone down. Men flocked to Clavius's country-seat, not to enjoy the charms of the country, but the charms of society, and what they called

- good fellowship. Thus were Clavius's nights spent in getting intoxicated, and his mornings

- in sleeping off that intoxication. His constitution was not long able to support this course of life; he died, a few years after he had quitted business, a martyr to that fortune

' which his wishes had formerly represented as the certain source of felicity.

Pamponius took a different turn from the persons I have mentioned. He was equally ignorant and uneducated as they \ but, when he had acquired his fortune, as he had heard much of taste, of elegance, and of refinement, he resolved to be a man of taste. The estate he purchased had been the old hereditary

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308 T H B J M I R R O ^ ft. . N® IO fS.

ttxy pofieiSon of a man^ of cbnfidicfflibl ruok^ Pompbnius gave
ieveral years purchafe more tjian ks vature, that he might be poflefied
of ri&c demefne of an ancient family, and haTc ' the pleafure of
adding ta his name *^ Efijuire, •< of ■ ".**' When he came to live at
\$ilji» eftate, he found, the old' manfion-hpTtTe muib be pulled down,
and a new one ereAed^ fiut^ mftead of trufting to the ikill and tafte of
his^ architeA, the plan muft be his own. £q this he heaped ornament
upon oroameot,. and pillar upon pillaf. The columns are large e*
nough to have fupported a Gothic cathedral \ the infide is crowded
with painted compartments ; and every pannel and window \s
bedaubed with gilding*. His fields are laid out in the moft abfurd tafte.
A clay»coloured ditch, which he calls a canal^ made at an exorbitant
expencc, runs parallel with the froAt of his houfe ; at each end, is a
circular puddle, called a ha/on \ in which is a little bank of rubbifh,
dignified with die name of ijland. Not a walk but is fiuck full of
ftacues; and temples and grottoes appear in every field, in &ewing
you his grounds, he tells you the price of every ftatue; and every
temple is honoured with the account of what it cofi. . ^ Not

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N° lokJ. T » E M I R R a R. 309?

Not fatisfied with being a man of tafte out of doors, he pretends co
connoifTeurfhip and to literature withia. He fhews pidures, painted^
as he thinks, by maders, whofe names he has not learned to
pronounce. If doubts are ftartcd ei their originality, Pompdnius ftops
all further queftion by the mention of the fum he paid £or them. His
library has its ftatues like his fields; It is furnifhed with a profufion of
bronzes an4 tujis \ and the books are as liberally gilded as the reft of
his furniture. In talking of them (for he run^ail rifks to be thought a
man o£ learning) he gets into the moft ridiculous blun* ders. He
miftakes a Greek for a Roman aa*. thor; and, to fhew himfelf a
philofopher^ praifes a writer, in the belief that he is an iafidel, when,

in fact, his books are written in defence of religion. The other day, somebody happening to mention the Worlds, he asked if the author Mr Fitzadam was still alive^ and if he had written any other book.

Drexelius and Clavius were miserable in the midst of their wealth ; Pomponius is ridiculous in the enjoyment of his.

How much is it to be regretted, that these persons had not, in their earlier years, received the benefit of a liberal education ? Had

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J10 T H B M I R B. O H. N«» 10^

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their minds been cultivated in their youth» had they then acquired the first principles of elegance and taste they would have been enabled. After attaining a fortune, to have enjoyed it with propriety and dignity. While they were reaping the fruits of their honest industry and Ail^ceftB^ they might have been thankful to others who had improved ornaments to their country»

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N« 107.

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N^ 107. Tuesday, May 16. 1780.

And love and war take turns like day and night.

RowE.

IN every art and science, practitioners complain-how often they are deceived by false theories and delusive speculation. Learned

men, in the solitude of their studies, are apt to imagine that nothing which they can reconcile to their own ideas upon paper, can fail to be evinced by actual experiment or to be reduced into easy and constant practice. But those who are to apply the doctrine to the world, too often find, that what was infallible in the brain of the demonstrator, is sadly fallacious in the hands of him who is to execute it.

There is something, however, so delightful in this art of theory building, that the experience of a thousand disappointments will never be able to extinguish it. Nor, indeed, should any body wish for its extinction, when it is remembered that the person who builds

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via The Mitchell Library. N° 107.

is delighted with the expectation of success and that other people are often little less pleased with tracing the disappointment. The latter are flattered by seeing the superiority of science thus levelled and brought down ; the first solates himself by imputing the failure to errors in the execution, and, (shutting his closet door, returns to fresh theories and new speculation.

In the course of my reading, I have met with two theoretical descriptions, which pleased me so much by the appearance they exhibited of self-satisfaction in the pages who composed them, that I cannot resist the desire of laying them before my readers in this day's paper. The first I found in an obscure author of the age of Queen Elizabeth, who, in tracing the progress of certain affections of the mind, thus personifies his ideas of Honour and Love*

♦« When a young man,* says he, ** of illustrious descent, rarely gifted by Nature in mind and body, the which he hath, through the care of his noble parents and his own special industry, much helped by art, first conaeth from the, retired haunts of learning into

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N^{io}y. The Mirror* 313

the rcfort of the world, he is fuddenly fmitten bf the beauty and rare accomplifliments. of fome young damfel, of parentage no lefs honourable than his own, and of endowments no lefs precious than thofe wherewith himfelf is graced. He feeketh all opportunities of converfe with, and of courtefy towards her ^ which neverthelefs fhe» out of maiden {hyncfs,, whereof her lady-mother hath well inftiuted her^ doth, with a determined {latelinefs of afpe^i moft conftantly avoid , whereat the young man, being grieved in his mind^ but iK> wife damped in his love, he refteth not till by all means he render himfelf more worthy . of her regard, not only by excelling in all gentlemanlike exercifes, fuch as dancing, horfemanfhip, fkill in his rapier, and the like, but likewife in all becoming foftnefs of behaviour, and courtly nicenefs of fpeech, adding thereunto the ftudy of fweet poefy, wherewith, ia curious fotinets, he fpeaketh the praife of his miftrefs's manifold pcrfeftions. But fhe, no wife yielding to fuch flatteries, nor abating the rigour of her looks, he fomctimes complaineth of his thraldom in more bitter terms, and for a while, as feeking freedom from his fair tyrant, fhunneth her company, and reforteth Vol. III. D d to

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314 The Mirror. N*^ 107.

to tha't of jovial companions, much given to the fports of the field and the joys of wine, thinking thereby to efface her image quite from his mind.. But, after no great fpace, he groweth uneafy and unquiet, and, though ftoutly denying all allegiance to that domi« nion, whereof he hath fworn to be free. He gpeth fecretly where he can again fteal a glance of her lovely face, by one look of which being, as he deemeth, encouraged to better hope, he reneweth his fuit with frefli warmth, renouncmg l\is paf: rebellion as a grievous fio^ the which he

is to expiate by tenfold increased love. Nevertheless she, willing to
show her power thus miraculously confirmed and increased,
demeaneth herself as haughtily as before, and, haply, to punish his
late treacherous lapse and falling off, seemeth to cast upon others
more soft and favourable looks; whereat our lover, being stung with
envy and jealous wrath, doth encounter the chieft of his rivals with
fiery and angry words, which growing into keener and more deadly
rage, they agree to decide which is the worthier, by trial of arms; and
having met, in some retired place, either on horseback or on foot,
attended by their followers, a furious combat

ensues,

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Novel. The Merchant. 101

ensues, in Which the valour of both sheweth out Worthy of their noble
birth, and of that love wherewith it is more especially inflamed and
spurred on. After various turns of fortune and many wounds on both
sides our lover doth, with difficulty, smite his adversary, to whom he
showeth no less courtesy in defeat, than fierceness in fight. After a
time, having recovered of his wounds at hearing whereof the lady
hath shewed as much grief and pity as becometh a modest maiden
to show for man, he appears before her, his arm lacerated and his
cheeks yet pale from loss of blood, and, kneeling at her feet,
implores forgiveness for past faults, and vows constancy and love,
not shorter than he hath life to feel them, and breath to utter; while
she, without speaking a word, doth, by looks and silent blushes in
some sort confess herself propitious to his vows; whereof, having
passed a probation of years, one or more, he arriveth at the end of
his wishes, and obtaineth her consent to be his wedded wife. Lastly,
their noble parents being well satisfied with this union of their blood,
the marriage is celebrated with much ceremony and pomp, at the
call of the bride's princely father.

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2i6 The Mirror. N^a ia7.

at there is all manner of good cheer^a of dan>cingy and of oiaftrelfy,
for many days."

This theory of ancient love and courtfliip^a Inftead of fimplifying the matter, makes it much more difficult than, in modern pra^aice at leaft, it is actually found. The lover, nowa-days, finds but little of that ftately pride and maiden fhynefs above defcribed ; nor is he ob* ligcd to cultivate poetry to celebrate his mi« fireis, nor to meet any rival attended by his fquire, nor to fuffer wounds and lofs of blood for her fake, nor to go through a probation of years, one or more. All he has to do is, to dance with the lady at a ball, fay a few foft things to her in plain profe, then meet her father attended by his lawyer, go through a probation of deeds and fettlements, and fo proceed to the bridal ceremony, and to good cheer and jollity for as ihort or as long a time as he thinks proper.

The fcond theoretical defcription which I ihall lay before my readers, is fo far different from the firft, that it renders 2u very confufed and intricate bufincfs, as I have been told it is, perfe^aly clear and obvious to the meaneft

capacity.

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N^a 107. The KT i it a o r. jif

capacity. This, however, is by no meanr owiog to any waot in the theoretics^al fituatia of that incident or buiHe which occurs in thb real 5 on the contrary, the events are infinitely more pumeroas and aionihiing in the iirfl: than in the latter, though the art of the theo-xdft carries the imagination through them alk with wonderful didin^atnefs and reguiarity The inftance to which I allude is the dcfcRIPTION of a battle^a given by the^aingenious Mr Ai Boyer, in his Ftencb Di^aionary^a under th«(word BatfaiUe.

DescriptiOk of a Battle.

^^Ths two armies being in fight, the can-^ non roar on each fide; and the fignal of the fight being given, they both move, andbcgia* tike encounter. In the height of danger, the generals ihew their intrepidity, by prelerving their cool temper, and by giving their ordc:i'\$' without emotion and without hurry* In tho clofe engagement, the officers perform won-** ders,. and ihew extraordinary valour and> judgement \ and feconded by their men, who' fight like lions, they cut the enemy in pieces^, kill and overthrow all they meet in iheir wdy, D d 3 break

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3r8 The MiRxeit. 1^107.

break through battalions, and bear dowir i<|uadron\$. Upoi> the point of being overpowered by numbers, they refolutely fuftainthe effort of the enemy;. and the generals be* ing informed by their aids-de-camp of what pafles on that iide^ caufe fuccours to march thither with all fpeed, revive the ipirits of th& lbldiers by their prefence, rally the brokenr battalions, bring them again to the charge, Fepulfe the enemy, drive them before them, regain the ground they bad loft^ retrieve the whole affair, purfue the enemy clo(e, trample them Under foot or ride over them, entirely difable them, pu,t all that refift to the iword; and, after having fuftained continual difcharges of cannon and fmall fhot, and gamed'an entire arid complete viftory, caufe a retreat tobe founded, and lie on the field of battle^ while the air refounds.with the flourifhes of trumpets/*

The above dcfciptrion is contained in an edition of Mr Boyerh learned and ufeul work, now become exceedingly, fcarce. It is there given in French and Englijb \ but I chufe to publiih the tranflation only, as I mean it iot the fole ufe of our Britijb commanders^ from

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N[^] ray. The Mirror. 31[^]

whose practice at the time of its first publication (about the beginning of this century) the description was probably taken. Perhaps, in some late campaigns, our generals had consulted other Dictionaries, containing a much less animated and decisive definition of a battle than that which I have transcribed from the ingenious Mr Boyen [^]

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His vices fled by the rich and gay.

SITENSTONrf.

IF we examine impartially that initiate of pleasure, which the higher ranks of society are apt to form, we shall probably be surprised to find how little virtue is in it either of natural feeling or real satisfaction. Man]f a fashionable voluptuary, who has not totally blunted his taste or his judgement, will own,, in the intervals of recollection, how often he has suffered from the infidelity, or the pain of his enjoyments; and that, if it were not for the fear of being laughed at, it were some* times worth while, even on the score of pleasure, to be virtuous.

Sir Edward ——, to whom I had the pleasure of being introduced at Florence, was . a character much beyond that which distinguishes the generality of English travellers of fortune. His story was known to some of his countrymen who have resided in Italy; from

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N^{*^}io8[^]. The M i r r o r. 3[^]1

one of whom, who could now and then talk of something beside pictures and operas, I had » particular recital of it.

He had been first abroad at an early period in life; and after the death of his father had left him master of a very large estate, which he had the good fortune to inherit, and all the inclination natural to youth to enjoy. Though always sumptuous, however, and sometimes profuse, he was observed never to be ridiculous in his expences; and, though he was now and then talked of as a man of pleasure and dissipation, he always left behind him more instances of beneficence than of irregularity. For that respect and esteem in which his character, amidst all his little errors, was generally held, he was supposed a good deal indebted to the society of a gentleman, who had been his companion at the university, and now attended him rather as a friend than a tutor. This gentleman was unfortunately seized at Marfeilles with a lingering disorder, for which he was under the necessity of taking a sea-voyage, leaving Sir Edward to prosecute the remaining part of his intended tour alone.

Descending into one of the valleys of Provence, where, notwithstanding the ruggedness

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322 The Mirror. N^o 100.

of the road. Sir Edward, with a prejudice natural to his country, preferred the conveyance of an English hunter to that of an Italian mule, his horse, unluckily, made a false step, and fell with his rider to the ground, from which Sir Edward was lifted by his servants with scarce any signs of life. They conveyed him on a litter to the nearest house, which happened to be the dwelling of a peasant rather above the common rank, before whose door some of his neighbours were assembled at a scene of rural merriment, when the train of Sir Edward brought up their master in the condition I have described. The companion natural to his situation was excited in all but the owner of the mansion, whose name was Fenoni, was particularly moved with it. He applied himself immediately to the care of the stranger, and, with the assistance of his daughter, who had left the dance she was

engaged in, with great marks of agitation, soon restored Sir Edward to sense and life. Venom produced some little skill in surgery, and his daughter produced a book of receipts in medicine. Sir Edward after being blooded, was put to bed, and tended with every possible care by his host and his family. A considerable

degree

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N^o 8. The Mirror. 323

degree of fever was the consequence of his accident ; but after some days it abated, and, a little more than a week he was able to join in the society of Venoni and his daughter.

He could not help expressing some surprise at the appearance of refinement in the conversation of the latter, much beyond what her situation seemed likely to confer. Her father accounted for it. She had received her education in the house of a lady; who happened to pass through the valley, and to take shelter in Vimni's cottage, (for his house was but a better sort of cottage), the night of her birth, M When her mother died, he said, " the Signora, whose name, at her desire, we had given the child, took her home to her own house \ there she was taught many things of which there is no need here ; yet (he is not so proud of her learning as to wish to leave her father in his old age and I hope soon to have her settled near me for life."

But Sir Edward had now an opportunity of knowing Lonifa better than from the description of her father. Music and painting, in both of which arts she was a tolerable proficient, Sir Edward had studied with success. Lonifa felt a sort of pleasure from her drawings

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324 The Mirror. N^o 8

kigSi which they had never given her before, when they were praised by Sir Edward *, and the family-concerts of Venoni were very different from what they had formerly been, when once his gueft was fo far recovered as to be able to join in them. The flute of Venoni excelled all the other mufic of the valley \ his daughter's lute was much beyond it; Sir Ed'* ward\ violin was finer than either. But his converfation with Loid/a —it was that of a fuperior order of beings ! — fcience, tafte, fentiment! — it was long fince Louifa had heard, thefe founds ; amidft the ignorance of the valley it was luxury to hear them \ from Sir Edward^ who was one of the moft engaging figures I ever fa\i^, they were doubly delightful. In his countenance, there was always an expreffion, animated and interefting ; his ficknefs had overcome fomewhat of the firft, .but greatly added to the power of the latter.

Louifah was not lefs captivating — and Sir Edward had not been it fo long without emotion. During his illnefs, he thought this emotion but gratitude ; and, when it firft grew warmer, he checked it, from the thought of her fituation, and of the debt he owed her.

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N® 10«. The Mirror, ^jaj

.But the ftuggle was too mcffeftual to overcome and, of confequence, increafed his paf* ^on. There was but one way in which the pride of Sir Edward allowed of its being gratified. He fometimes thought of this as a bafe and unworthy one ; but he was the fool of words which he had often defpifed, the flave of manners he had often -condemned. He at laft compromifed matters with himfelf ; He refolved, if he could, to think no more of Ltmi/a •, at any rate, to think no more of the ties of gratitude, or the restraints of virtue.

Louifa^ who trufted to both, now communicated to Sir Edward an important fecreU ^ It was at the clofe of a piece of mufic which they

had been playing in the absence of her father. She took up her lute, and touched a little wild melancholy air, which flie had fiompofed to the memory of her mother. ** That,* faid (he, " nobody ever heard except my fa*^ ther; I play it fometims when I am alone, ** and in low fpirit?. I don't know how 1 « came to think of it now 4 yet I have fome -«< rcafon to be fad." Sir Edward profled to know the caufe ; after fome hefitation fhe .t©ld it all. Her father had fixed on thefoa .of a neighbour, richinpofleffions, but rude . Vol. III. E c j»

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326 The Mirror. N^ 108.

in manners, for her hufband. Againft this match (he had always protefted as ftrongly* as a fenfe of duty, and the mildneis of her nature, would allow ; but Venoni was obftinatc- ^ ly bent on the match, and ihe was wretched

from the thoughts of it. **To marry,

*** Where one cannot love, — to marry fuch a "' man. Sir Edward I ^-""^ It was an opportunity beyond his power of refiftance. Sir Ed" ivard prefied her hand ; faid it would be profanation to think of fuch a marriage ; praifed her beauty, extolled her virtues ; and concluded, by fwearing, that he adored her, . She heard him with unfufpefting placure, which her blufhes could ill conceal. Sir Edward ' improved the favourable moment; talked of the ardency of his paffion, the insignificancy of ceremonies and forms, the inefBcacy of legal engagements, the eternal duration of thofe dilated by love ; and, io fine, urged her going off with him, to crown both their days with happinefs. Loui/a ftarted at that propofal. She would have reproached him, but her heart was not made for it 5 fhe could only weep.

They were interrupted by the arrival of her father with his intended fon^in-law. He was

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N^o 108. The Mirror. 327

just such a man as Louifa had repented him^s coarse, vulgar, and ignorant. But F^onally though much above their neighbour in every thing but riches^s looked on him as poorer men often look on the wealthy, and discovered none of his imperfections* He took his daughter aside, told her- he had brought her future husband, and that he intended ' they should be married in a week at farthest.

Next morning Louifa was indisposed, and kept her chamber. Sir Edward was now^s perfectly recovered. He was engaged to go out with Venoni\ but, before his departure, he took up his violin, and touched a few plaintive notes on it. They were heard by Louifa. In the evening she wandered forth to indulge her sorrows alone. She had reached a sequestered spot, where some poplars formed a thicket on the banks of a little stream that watered the valley. A nightingale was perched on one of them, and had already begun its accustomed song. Louifa sat down on a withered stump, leaning her cheek upon her hand. After a little while, the bird was scared from its perch, and flitted from the thicket. Louifa rose from the ground, and: E e %. burst

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528 The Mirror. N^o 108

burst into tears. She turned—and beheld* Sir Edward, His countenance had much of its former languor; and^s when he took her hand he cast on the earth a melancholy look, and seemed unable to speak his feelings. " Are^s you not well, Sir Edward?" said Louifa^s with a voice faint and broken* — " I am ill; " indeed/" said he, " but my illness is of the^s " mind. Louifa cannot cure me of that, I am wretched \ but I deserve to be so. I ' ^s have broken every law of hospitality, and ^s every obligation of gratitude* I have dared* ^s—to wish for happiness, and to speak what I ^s wished, though it wounded the heart of my ^s dearest benefactors — but I will make a ^s—venerable expiation. This moment I leave you, ^s Louisa ? I go to be wretched ;

but you may •"be happy, happy in your duty to a father^ *' happy^ it may be, in the arms of a husband. **whom the possessor of a wife may•^ teach refinement and sensibility. — I go to" my native country, to hurry through scenes, <^^of irksome business or tasteless amusement ;. •that I may, if possible, procure a sort^of ^ half-oblivion of that happiness which I have "left behind^ a life's endurance of that life

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N° 108. The Mirror; j^i

" which I once dream'd might be made de«*• lightful with Louisa^

Tears were the only answer {he could give; Sir Edward*% servants appeared, with a carriage, ready for his departure. He took from his pocket two pictures ; one he had drawn> of Louisa^ he fastened round his neck, and kissing it with rapture, hid it in his bosom. The other he held out in a hesitating manner* ** This,** said he, ** if Louisa will accept of it,, ** may sometimes put her in mind of him who* •• once offended, who can never cease to adore •* her. She may look on it, perhaps, after '• the original is no more; when this heart" shall have forgot to love, and ceased to be ** wretched.**

Louisa was at last overcome. Her face was first pale as death ; then suddenly it was crossed with a crimson blush. " Oh ! Sir Ed«* ward* said she, •* What — what would«* you have me do !" — He eagerly seized her hand, and led her, reluctant, to the carriage. They entered it, and, driving off with furious speed, were soon out of sight of those hills^ which captured the flocks of the unfortunate Venoni, V

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THE virtue of Louisa was vanquished ; but her sense of virtue was not overcome. Neither the vows of eternal fidelity of her seducer, nor the constant and respectful attention which he paid her during a hurried journey to England; could allay that anguish which flared at the recollection of her past, and the thoughts of her present situation. Sir Edw^{ard} felt strongly the power of her beauty and of her grief. His heart was not made for that part which, it is probable; He thought it could have performed : it, was fit subject to remorse, to compassion, and to love. Their emotions, perhaps, he might have overcome, had they been met by vulgar violence or reproaches ; but the quieter and unupbraiding sorrows of Louisa nourished those feelings of tenderness and attachment. She never mentioned her wrongs in words : sometimes a few starting tears would speak them and, when time had given her

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HP 109. T' H- B M r R R a* %\ 334?

little more composed her late discomfited melancholy music

On their arrival in England Sir Edward carried Louisa to his seat in the country. There she was treated with all the observance of a wife ; and had she chosen it, might have commanded more than the ordinary splendor of one. But she would not allow the indulgence of Sir Edward to blazon with equipage, and how that state which she wished always to hide and, if possible, to forget. Her books and her music were her only pleasures ; if pleasures they could be called, that served but to alleviate misery, and to blunt, for a while, the pangs of contrition.

These were deeply aggravated by the recollection of her father : a father left in his age to feel his own misfortunes and his daughter's disgrace. Sir Edw^{ard} was too generous not to think of providing for Vaioni, He meant to make some atonement for the injury he had done him, by that cruel bounty which is reparation only to the body, but to

the honest is infult. He had not, however, an opportunity of accomplishing his purpose. He learned that Venoni[^] soon after his[^] daughter's [^]opement, removed from his[^] former place of residence.

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yz' The Mirror. N[^] 109[^]

peidence, and as his neighbours reported,, had died in one of (he villag/es of Savoy, His* daughter felt this with anguish the most poignant and her affliction, for a while refused* consolation. Sir Edward[^] whole tenderness and attention w[^]re called forth to mitigate her grief [^] and» after its first transports had subsided, he carried her to London. in hope that objects new to her and commonly attractive to all might contribute to remove it.

With a man possessed of feelings like Sir Edward% the affliction of Louisa gave a certain relief to his attentions. He hired her lodgings separate from his own[^] and treated, her with all the delicacy of the purest attachment But his solicitude to comfort and amuse her was not attended with success* She felt the horrors of that guilt which she now considered» as not only the ruin of her^{<^} self, but the murderer of her father.

In London Sir Edward found his sister, who had married a man of great fortune and high fashion. He had married her, because she was a fine woman, and admired by fine men \ (he had married him, because he was the wealthiest of her suitors. They lived, as is[^] common to people in such a situation[^] necessary

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N[®] it)9- The Mirror. 3[^]3?

fitous with a princely revenue, and very wretched amidst perpetual gaiety. This scene was so foreign from the idea Sir Edward had formed of the reception his country and friends were to accord him, that he found a constant source of disgust in the society of his equals. In their conversation fantastic, not refined, their ideas were frivolous, and their knowledge shallow; and with all the pride of birth and influence of station their principles were mean, and their minds, ignoble. In their pretended attachments, he discovered only designs of selfishness; and their pleasures, he experienced, were as fallacious, as their friendships. In the society of Louisa he found sincerity and truth; hers was the only heart that seemed interested in his welfare:—he saw the return of virtue in Sir Edward, and felt the friendship which he showed her. Sometimes when she perceived him sorrowful, her love would leave its melancholy for more lively airs, and her countenance assume a gaiety it was not formed to wear. But his heart was breaking with that anguish—which her generosity endeavoured to conceal, from him; her frame, too delicate for the struggle with her feelings, seemed to yield..to

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their force; her rest forsook her; the colour faded in her cheeks, the lustre of her eyes grew dim. Sir Edward saw these symptoms of decay with the deepest remorse. Often did he curse those false ideas of pleasure which had led him to consider the ruin of an artless girl, who loved and trusted him, as an object which it was necessary to attain and pride to accomplish. Often did he wish to blot out from his life a few guilty months, to be again restored to an opportunity of giving happiness to that family, whose unsuspecting kindness he had repaid with the treachery of a robber, and the cruelty of an assassin.

One evening, while he sat in a little parlour with Louisa, his mind alternately agitated and softened with this impression, a hand-organ, of a remarkably sweet tone, was heard in the street. Louisa laid aside

her lute, and liileo!-' cd : the airs it played were thofe of her native country ; and a few tears, which fhe en.^ deavoured to hide, dale from her on hearing them. Sir Edward ordered a fcrvant to fetch the organift into the room : he was brought in accordingly, and feated at the door of the apartment. '

He played one or two fprightly tunes, to

which

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N^ 109. The Mirror. 335

which Lſuifa had ofun danced in her infancy: ihe gave herfelf up to the recoUeftion, and her tears jQlowed without controul. Suddenly the muician changing the ftopi introduced a little melancholy air of a wild and plaintive kind.— Louifa ftarted from her feat, and rufhed up to the ftranger.— He threw off a tattered coat, and black patch.—«|- It was her father! — She would have fprung to embrace him ſ he turned afide for a few moments, and would not receive her into his'arms. Fut Nature at laft: overcame his repentment; he burft into tears, and preiled to his bofom his long-loft ^ daughter.

Sir Edward flood fixed in aftonifhment and confufion. — ** I come not to upbraid you," faid Venani; ** I am a poor, weak, old man, ** unable for upbraidings ; I am come but to •' find my child, to forgive her, and to die ! ** When you faw us. firft, Sir Edward^ we ** were not thus. You found us virtuous *' and happy; we danced and we fung, and •* there was not a bad heart in the valley ** where we dwelt. Yet we left our dancing, ** our fongs, and our chearfulnefs ; you were " diftreffed, and we pitied you. Since that ^* day the pipe has never been heard in Veno

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J36 The M i a h o h. N® rop.

** nPs fields : grief and fickncfs. have almoft -*' brought him to the grave 5 and his neigk^* hours, who loved and pitied him, have been ** chearful no more. Yet, methinks, though •* you robbed us ,of happipefs, you are not ** happy 4 — clfe why that dejected look which, ** amidft all the grandeur around you, I " faw you wear, and thofe tears which, un^^ der all the gaudinefs of her apparel, I faw ** that poor deluded girl flied ?"— " But flic ^< fhall ihcd no more/* cried Sir Edward i ^* you fhall be happy, and I fhall be juft. For^*give, my venerable friend, the injuries ** which I have done thee ; forgive me^ my ** Louifaj for rating your excellence at a price ** fo mean. I have feen thofe high-born fc^' males to which my rauk might have allied ^' me ; I am aflamed of their vices, and ilck ** of their follies. Profligate in their hearts, ** amidft affeOed purity, they are Haves to '* pleafuEC without the finceritylof paffion \ and, •** with'the name of honouii^ arc infeniible to •*' ^he feelings of virtue. You,, my Louifa / **—but I will not call up recoUeftions that *• might render me lefs worthy of your future ** efteem.— Continue to love your Edward; -** but a fewiours, and you (hall add the title V <« to

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N^ibp. The Mirror. 337

*** to the affeftions of a wife; let the Qarc ^^* and tendernefs of a kufband bring back its •* peace to your ftiind, and its bloom to yout •* chieck. We will leave for a while the won^ " der and the envy of the fafhionable circle ■** here* We will reftore your father to his '*** native home; under that roof I fkall once •* 'more be happy ; happy withoiit allay, be^ caufe I (hall deferue my happinefs. Again "^^hall the pipe and the dance gladden the ^ valley, and innocence and peace beam on ** the cottage of FMoniJ*

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N^o. Saturday, 27th 1780.

. Extrémum concede lahrenu Virg.

AS, at the clofe of lifci people confefs the fecrets and ezplaia the myfteries of their conduft, endeavour to do juftice to thofe with whom they have had dealings, and to die in peace with all the world ; (b, in the /concluding number of a periodical publication^ it is ufual to lay afide the aiTumed name, or ££litiou5 charaAer> to afcribe the different papers to their true authors, and to wind up the whole with a modeft appeal to the candour or indulgence of the public.

In the courfc of thefe papers, the author has not often ventured to introduce himfelf, or to give an account of his own fituation ; ia this, therefore, which is to be the laft^ he has not much to unravel on that fcore. From the narrowne& of the place of its appearance, the MiRBOR did not admit of much periboification of its editor j the little di/guife he has

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N^o 110. The MrRR^R. ^ yjj^

lafed has been rather to conceal what he was^ than to give himfelf out for what he was not

The idea of publifhing a periodical paper in Edinburgh took its rife in a company of gen^llemen, whom particular circumftances of connexion brought frequently together. Their* difcourfc often turned upon fubjefts of manners, of taft, and of literature. By one of thofe accidental cofcisions, of which the ori^gin cannot eafily be traced, it was determined to put their thoughts into writing, and to read them for the entertainment of each other. Their effays aflumed the form, and^ fbon after, lbme one gave them the name of a periodical publication : The writers of it were naturally affociated ; and their meetings in* created the importance, as well as the number of their

productions. Cultivating letters in the midst of business, composition was to them, an amusement only ; that amusement was heightened by the audience which this society afforded & the idea of publication suggested itself as productive of still higher entertainment.

It was not, however, without diffidence

that such a resolution was taken. From that,

and several other circumstances, it was thought.

proper to observe the trifling fecrccy with re

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gard to the authors ^ a purpose in which they have been so successful, that^ at this moment^ the very publisher of the work knows only one of their number to whom the conduct of it was entrusted

The assistance received from correspondents has been considerable. To them the Mirror is indebted for the following papers; the 5th, the note from Ignoramus in the 9th, the letter in the 17th, the 18th, the 24th, the 29th, (except the first letter at the end), the first letter in the 35th, the 37th, the letter in the 46th, the 50th, the letter in the 56th, the 59th, 62d, 66th, 73d, 74th, and 75th, the first letter in the 79th, the 82d, 86th, the first letter in the 94th, the letter in the 94th, the 95th, 96th, 97th, and 98th, the letter in the 102d, and the letter in the 103d. Of some of these correspondents* were they at liberty to disclose them^ the names would do credit to their work; of others they are entirely ignorant, and can only return this general acknowledgement for their favours. To many of them they have to apologize for several abridgements, additions, and alterations, which sometimes the composition of the essays themselves and sometimes the nature of the

work

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N^o 341; The Mⁱ r k ok. 341^{*}

work in which they were to appear, seemed to render necessary.

The situation of the authors of the Mⁱ r k ok was such as neither to prompt much ambition of literary success, nor to create much dependence on it. -Without this advantage,, they had scarcely ventured to send abroad into the world a performance, the reception of which was liable to so much uncertainty. They forefaw many difficulties, which a publication like the Mirror, even in hands much abler than theirs, must necessarily encounter

The state of the time when they were written, was very unpropitious to a work of this sort. In a conjuncture so critical as the present, at a period so big with national danger and public solicitude, it was not to be expected that much attention should be paid to speculation or to sentiment, to minute investigations of character, or pictures of private manners. A volume which we can lay aside and resume at pleasure, may suffer less materially from the interruption of national concerns; but a single sheet, that measures its daily importance with the vehicles of public intelligence and political discussion, can hardly fail to be neglected.,

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But, exclusive of this general disadvantage^ there were particular circumstances which its authors knew must be unfavourable to the Mⁱ r k ok. That society which they thought it necessary to keep, prevented all the aids of patronage and friendship; it even damped those common exertions to which other works are indebted^ if not for

fame, »t least for kf troduftibn to the world. We cannot expect to create an interest in those whom we have not ventured to trust ^ and the claims even of merit are often little regarded, if that merit be anonymous and unknown^

The face of its publication was* in several respects, disadvantageous. There is a certain * distance at which writings, as well as men^ should be placed, in order to command our attention and respect. We do not easily allow a title to intrude into the public in our neighbour, with whom we have been in the use of comparing our own abilities. Hence the diffidence with which, in a place (so narrow as Edinburgh, home productions are commonly received) which, if they are grave, are pronounced dull; if pathetic, are called unnatural; if ludicrous, are termed low. In the circle around him^ the man of business

fees

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V^ria. The M x r r o «^ . 2^T

few who should be willing, and the man of genius, few who are able, to be authors of and a work that comes out unsupported by established names is liable alike to the censure of the grave, and the sneer of the witty. Even Folly herself acquires some merit from being displeased when name or fashion has not sanctioned a work from her displeasure.

This defect of levelling the pride of authorship is in none more prevalent than in those who themselves have written. Of these the unsuccessful have a prescriptive title, to criticism and, though established literary reputation commonly sets men above the necessity of detracting from the merit of other candidates for fame, yet there are not wanting instances of monopoly of public favour, who will not only to enjoy, but to guide it, and are willing to confine its influence within the pale of their own circle, or their own patronage* General censure is of all things the easiest to from such men

it pass unexamined,^ and its sentence is decisive j nay, even a
fridied fi« lence will go far to smother a production, which, if they
have not the means to envy, they want the candour to appreciate
with justice.

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344 The Mirror. N° 110

the point of subject, as well as of reception^ the place where it
appeared was unfavourable to the Mirror. Whoever will examine the
works of a similar kind that have preceded it, will easily perceive for
how many topics they were indebted to local characters and tempo-
rary follies, to places of public amusement^ and circumstances of
reigning fashion. But^ with us besides the danger of personal appli-
cation, these are hardly^ various enough for the subject« or
important enough for the dignity of writing. There is a sort of classic
priority in the very names of places in London, which does not
extend to those of Edinburgh. The Canongate is almost as long as the
Strand^ but it will not bear the comparison upon paper; and Black-
friars^wynd cannot vie with Drury-lane in point of sound,
however they may rank in the article of chaftity. In the department of
humour^ these circumstances^ must necessarily have great weight j
and, for papers of humour, the bulk of readers will, generally call,
because the number is much greater of those who can laugh than of
those who can think. To add to the difficulty, people are too proud to
laugh upon easy terms with one^ of whose title to make them

laugh

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NPmo. The Mirror. 145:

though they are not apprised. A joke in writing is like a joke in
conversation; much of its wit depends upon the rank of its author.

How far the authors of this paper have been able to overcome these difficulties, it is not for them to determine. Of its merits with the public, the public will judge; as to themselves, they may be allowed to say, that they have found it an amusement of an elegant, and, they are inclined to believe, of a useful kind. They imagine, that by tracing the manners and sentiments of others, they have performed a sort of exercise which may have some tendency to cultivate and refine their own; and, in that society which was formed by this publication, they have drawn somewhat closer the ties of a friendship, which they flatter themselves they may long enjoy, with a recollection, not unpleasing, of the literary adventure by which it was lengthened and improved.

The disadvantages attending their publication they have not enumerated, by way of plea, for favour, or apology for faults. They will, give their volumes as they gave their papers to the world, not meanly dependent on its favour, nor coldly indifferent to it. There is

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54* The Mirror. No.

BO idea; perhaps, more pleasing to an ingenuous mind, than that the sentences which delineate in nature and obscurity, may give pleasure and entertainment to those by whom the writer has never been seen, to whom even his name is unknown. There is something peculiarly interesting in the hope of this intercourse of sentiment, this invisible sort of friendship with the virtuous and the good; and the visionary warmth of an author may be allowed to extend it to distant places, and to future times. If, in this hope, the authors of the *Mirror* may indulge, they trust, that, whatever may be thought of the execution, the motive of their publication will do them no dishonour; that, if they have failed in wit, they have been faultless in sentiment; and that, if they shall not be allowed the praise of genius, they have, at least, not forfeited the "commendation of virtue"

THE END

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