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## **Digitalisierung von Drucken**

### **Frailties of fashion, or, the adventures of an Irish smock**

interspersed with whimsical anecdotes of a Nankeen pair of breeches

Illustrated with some of the most striking and humorous descriptions in high and low life, that fancy can suggest ...

**London, 1783**

Chap. XIII.

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vase, or urn, on which was inscribed

*Son cœur est en ces lieux—son esprit  
est par tout.*

This encloses his heart—his wit and genius are diffused throughout the universe.

### C H A P. XIII.

*Portraits of French cleanliness, illustrated with an anecdote, which may serve as cautions to English Travelers, who visit Paris—A tour through Flanders—A just description of Brussels, compared with Paris, over which its superiority is clearly proved.*

**B**EFORE we take our leave of Paris, we cannot help remarking some aukward and disagreeable customs, that prevail in this nominal *Emporium* of taste and politeness. Edinburgh,

burgh, and other parts of Scotland, have long been stigmatized for want of cleanliness, particularly with respect to the devotions they pay to the goddess Cloacina; but comparisons, though not *oderiferous*, are *odious* upon this occasion, when they are drawn between Scotland and France. These temples, if such they must be called; are only calculated to sacrifice all delicacy in; decorum is entirely set at nought; and almost incredible to believe, male and female votaries, *sans facon*, indeed, make no ceremony of uniting in a chorus upon the occasion — keeping at a proper distance from the *altar*, which is spread with perfumes, too potent for the greatest admirers of musk to endure.

Some whimsical mistakes have happened upon such occasions, as these

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retreats are upon the attick story, a chevalier de St. Louis' apartment, which has been contiguous, has often been occupied, *au lieu du lieu*; and some disagreeable *eclaircissemens* have ensued, that could only be made up by the plea of real innocent ignorance.

To descend into a less contaminated sphere and visit the dining-room, where we might suppose, that with the greatest refinement of the culinary art, the greatest delicacy prevailed—yet a traveller, in this respect would be much mistaken. Take the following real anecdote as a voucher:

At the hotel D'Espagne, where the best and most polite ordinary is held in all Paris; if you do not carry your own fork and knife, dirty ones, which would disgrace a soup seller in St. Giles's, are placed by your plate, and  
though

though different dishes fish and flesh are served, the waiters never offer to change your knives and forks, or even to wipe them; the usual method of cleaning them upon these occasions being to thrust them into a *brick loaf*, which you are afterwards to eat—or go without bread. An English gentleman disgusted at such a filthy practice, which almost turned his stomach, in seeing it performed by others, used his napkin, instead of his bread, which being perceived by the master of the hotel, he remonstrated in very impertinent terms;—“*Vous frottés votre couteau et fourchette sur la nappe.*” to which the English gentleman replied with great *sang froid*—*a la bonheur, c'est bien vrai*—but never returned again to the same ordinary.

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These pictures of French cleanliness, may, perhaps, appear a little out of the line to some of our readers; but as many of our countrymen, will, probably, make a trip to Paris this summer, they were judged necessary cautions, that they may not be taken by surprize, either in the attic story, or in the dining-room.

The connubial party, accompanied by Mademoiselle, set off from Paris, and took the route of Lisse, Spa, Aix-la-Chapelle and Bruffels, at each of which they sojourned some days; particularly at the last, where they were most agreeably and politely entertained, and at a very moderate expence. Probably, Bruffels is a place the most congenial to the ideas of an Englishman, upon the Continent. The inhabitants live nearly in the same

same manner as we do in London; and though fricasees and made dishes are introduced to gratify the vicious tastes of other foreigners, as their beef and mutton are excellent, and far beyond what are met with in Paris, they always provide such substantial dishes of both, as put a ragout of frogs out of countenance, and were they alive, would most probably have such an effect as to make them skip from the table, and hop out of sight. The malt liquors here are also very excellent; and London porter, with Burton ale, are not only in great estimation, but are to be met with in high perfection. The *Comedie* has some of the best French performers that can be procured; and as they have higher salaries than they can obtain in France, they of course give  
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this place the preference to any part of their own country. It was generally spoken, at the time of our party's residence at Bruffels, that the Emperor had been solicited to permit a company of English performers to exhibit there; in this case it would certainly become one of the most favourite spots in Europe for English travellers, or residents; and there can be no doubt, that notwithstanding our present peace with France, Austrian Flanders will attract more of our countrymen and ladies, than the frivolous, flighty, filthy city of Paris, which has such an *air sombre*, on account of the narrowness of the streets and the height of the houses, that the sun scarce ever meets your eye, or affords your shadow, unless it be in Thuileries or the Palais Royal, where you  
walk.



walk in dust over the shoes, instead of being upon a gravel walk.

C H A P. XIV.

*A revolution in a domestic line—Mademoiselle Convert's new pursuit—An idea of Bob, the capital waiter at an hotel—Deep-laid scheme of Lord Lostgrace—A bargain purchased by M. Bridon, the French agent and Eccuyer—Bargain upon bargain, cum multis aliis.*

UPON the nuptial party returning from the Continent, affairs took a very extraordinary turn in the domestic line. Monsieur Cabriole, who had been obliged to borrow money at very usurious interest, found his matrimonial scheme did not answer his expectations. Lady Brilliant would not disburse a farthing of her daughter's patrimony, and he made a *cabri-*

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