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A Sentimental Journey Through France And Italy

Yorick, ...

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SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY

THROUGH

FRANCE AND ITALY.

BY

MR. YORICK.

VOL. II.

L O N D O N :

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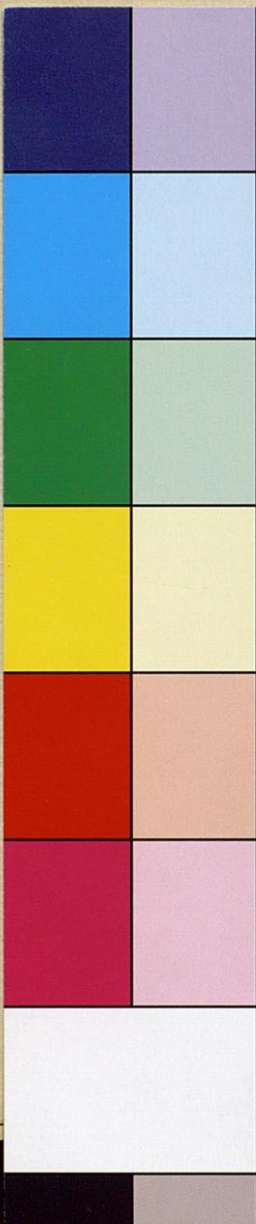
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3



T H E
FILLE DE CHAMBRE
P A R I S.

39
WHAT the old French officer
had deliver'd upon travel-
ling, bringing Polonius's advice to
his son upon the same subject into my
head—and that bringing in Hamlet;
and Hamlet, the rest of Shakespear's
works, I stopp'd at the Quai de
Conti in my return home, to pur-
chase the whole set.

VOL. II.

B

The



The bookfeller faid he had not a fet in the world—*Comment!* faid I; taking one up out of a fet which lay upon the counter betwixt us. — He faid, they were sent him only to be got bound, and were to be sent back to Versailles in the morning to the Count de B****.

—And does the Count de B**** faid I, read Shakespear? *C'est un Esprit fort*; replied the bookfeller. — He loves English books; and what is more to his honour, Monsieur, he love the English too. You speak this fo civilly, faid I, that 'tis enough to oblige an Englishman to lay out a Louis d'or or two at your shop—the bookfeller made a bow, and was going

going to say something, when a young decent girl of about twenty, who by her air and dress, seemed to be *filie de chambre* to some devout woman of fashion, came into the shop and asked for *Les Egarements du Cœur & de l'Esprit*: the bookseller gave her the book directly; she pulled out a little green fatten purse run round with a ribband of the same colour, and putting her finger and thumb into it, she took out the money, and paid for it. As I had nothing more to stay me in the shop, we both walked out at the door together.

— And what have you to do, my dear, said I, with *The Wanderings of the Heart*, who scarce know yet you have one? nor till love has



first told you it, or some faithless shepherd has made it ache, can't thou ever be sure it is so. — *Le Dieu m'en garde!* said the girl. — With reason, said I — for it^{is} a good one, 'tis pity it should be stolen: 'tis a little treasure to thee, and gives a better air to your face, than if it was dress'd out with pearls.

The young girl listened with a submissive attention, holding her satten purse by its ribband in her hand all the time — 'Tis a very small one, said I, taking hold of the bottom of it — she held it towards me — and there is very little in it, my dear, said I; but be but as good as thou art handsome, and heaven will fill it: I had a
parcel

parcel of crowns in my hand to pay for Shakespear; and as she had let go the purse intirely, I put a single one in; and tying up the ribband in a bow-knot, returned it to her.

The young girl made me more a humble courtesy than a low one — 'twas one ~~one~~ of those quiet, thankful sinkings where the spirit bows itself down — the body does no more than tell it. I never gave a girl a crown in my life which gave me half the pleasure.

My advice, my dear, would not have been worth a pin to you, said I, if I had not given this along with it: but now, when you see the crown,

B 3

you'll



you'll remember it—so don't, my dear, lay it out in ribbands.

Upon my word, Sir, said the girl, earnestly, I am incapable—in saying which, as is usual in little bargains of honour, she gave me her hand—*En vérité, Monsieur, je mettrai cet argent apart*, said she.

When a virtuous convention is made betwixt man and woman, it sanctifies their most private walks: so notwithstanding it was dusky, yet as both our roads lay the same way, we made no scruple of walking along the Quai de Conti together.

She

She made me a second courtesy in setting off, and before we got twenty yards from the door, as if she had not done enough before, she made a sort of a little stop to tell me again, —she thank'd me.

It was a small tribute, I told her, which I could not avoid paying to virtue, and would not be mistaken in the person I had been rendering it to for the world—but I see innocence, my dear, in your face—and foul be-fal the man who ever lays a snare in its way!

The girl seem'd affected some way or other with what I said—she gave a low sigh—I found I was not im-

B 4

powered



powered to enquire at all after it—so
said nothing more till I got to the
corner of the Rue de Nevers, where we
were to part.

—But is this the way, my dear, said I,
to the hotel de Modene? she told me it
was—or, that I might go by the Rue
de Guineygaude, which was the next
turn,—Then I'll go, my dear, by the
Rue de Guineygaude, said I, for two
reasons; first I shall please myself, and
next I shall give you the protection of
my company as far on your way as I
can. The girl was sensible I was civil
—and said, she wish'd the hotel de
Modene was in the Rue de St. Pierre—
—You live there? said I.—She told
me she was *filie de chambre* to Madame

R * * * *

R****—Good God! said I, 'tis the very lady for whom I have brought a letter from Amiens—The girl told me that Madame R****, she believed expected a stranger with a letter, and was impatient to see him—so I desired the girl to present my compliments to Madame R****, and say I would certainly wait upon her in the morning.

We stood still at the corner of the Rue de Nevers whilst this pass'd—We then stopp'd a moment whilst she disposed of her *Egarments de Cœur*, &c. more commodiously than carrying them in her hand—they were two volumes; so I held the second for her whilst she put the first into her pocket; and then
she



she held her pocket, and I put in the other after it.

'Tis sweet to feel by what fine-spun threads our affections are drawn together.

We set off a-fresh, and as she took her third step, the girl put her hand within my arm—I was just bidding her—but she did it of herself with that undeliberating simplicity, which shew'd it was out of her head that she had never seen me before. For my own part, I felt the conviction of consanguinity so strongly, that I could not help turning half round to look in her face, and see if I could trace out any

any thing in it of a family likeness—
Tut! said I, are we not all relations?

When we arrived at the turning up
of the Rue de Guineygaude, I stopp'd
to bid her adieu for good an all: the
girl would thank me again for my
company and kindness—She bid me
adieu twice—I repeated it as often;
and so cordial was the parting between
us, that had it happen'd any where
else, I'm not sure but I should have
signed it with a kiss of charity, as
warm and holy as an apostle.

But in Paris, as none kiss each other
but the men—I did, what amounted
to the same thing——

——I bid God blefs her.



THE PASSPORT,
PARIS.

40 **W**HEN I got home to my hotel, La Fleur told me I had been enquired after by the Lieutenant de Police—The duce take it! said I——I know the reason. It is time the reader should know it, for in the order of things in which it happened, it was omitted; not that it was out of my head; but that had I told it then, it might have been forgot now—and now is the time I want it.

I had left London with so much precipitation, that it never enter'd my
mind

mind that we were at war with France; and had reach'd Dover, and look'd through my glass at the hills beyond Boulogne, before the idea presented itself; and with this in its train, that there was no getting there without a passport. Go but to the end of a street, I have a mortal aversion for returning back no wiser than I sat out; and as this was one of the greatest efforts I had ever made for knowledge, I could less bear the thoughts of it: so hearing the Count de ***** had hired the packet, I begg'd he would take me in his *suite*. The Count had some little knowledge of me, so made little or no difficulty—only said, his inclination to serve me could reach no further than Calais;



as he was to return by way of Bruffels to Paris : however, when I had once pass'd there, I might get to Paris without interruption ; but that in Paris I must make friends and shift for myself.—Let me get to Paris, Monsieur le Count, said I—and I shall do very well. So I embark'd, and never thought more of the matter.

When La Fleur told me the Lieutenant de Police had been enquiring after me—the thing instantly recurred—and by the time La Fleur had well told me, the master of the hotel came into my room to tell me the same thing, with this addition to it, that my passport had been particularly

larly ask'd after: the master of the hotel concluded with saying, He hoped I had one.—Not I, faith! said I.

The master of the hotel retired three steps from me, as from an infected person, as I declared this—and poor La Fleur advanced three steps towards me, and with that sort of movement which a good soul makes to succour a distress'd one—the fellow won my heart by it; and from that single *trait*, I knew his character as perfectly, and could rely upon it as firmly, as if he had served me with fidelity for seven years.

Mon



Mon seignior! cried the master of the hotel—but recollecting himself as he made the exclamation, he instantly changed the tone of it—If Monsieur, said he, has not a passport (*apparament*) in all likelihood he has friends in Paris who can procure him one.—Not that I know of, quoth I, with an air of indifference.—Then *certes*, replied he, you'll be sent to the Bastile or the Chatelet, *au moins*. Poo! said I, the king of France is a good natured soul—he'll hurt no body.—*Cela n'empeche pas*, said he—you will certainly be sent to the Bastile to-morrow morning.—But I've taken your lodgings for a month, answer'd I, and I'll not quit them a day before the time for all the kings of France in the world.

world. La Fleur whisper'd in my
ear, That no body could oppose the
king of France.

Pardi! said my host, *ces Messieurs*
Anglois sont des gens très extraordi-
naires—and having both said and
sworn it—he went out.

VOL. II.

C

THE



THE PASSPORT.

The Hotel at Paris,

I COULD not find in my heart to torture Là Fleur's with a serious look upon the subject of my embarrassment, which was the reason I had treated it so cavalierly : and to shew him how light it lay upon my mind, I dropt the subject entirely ; and whilst he waited upon me at supper, talk'd to him with more than usual gaiety about Paris, and of the opera comique.—Là Fleur had been there himself, and had followed me through the streets as far as the bookseller's shop ; but seeing me come

out with the young *filie de chambre*, and that we walk'd down the Quai de Conti together, Là Fleur deem'd it unnecessary to follow me a step further—so making his own reflections upon it, he took a shorter cut—and got to the hotel in time to be inform'd of the affair of the Police against my arrival.

As soon as the honest creature had taken away, and gone down to sup himself, I then began to think a little seriously about my situation.—

—And here, I know, Eugenius, thou wilt smile at the remembrance of a short dialogue which pass'd be-

C 2

twixt



twixt us the moment I was going to set out—I must tell it here.

Eugenius, knowing that I was as little subject to be overburthen'd with money as thought, had drawn me aside to interrogate me how much I had taken care for; upon telling him the exact sum, Eugenius shook his head, and said it would not do; so pull'd out his purse in order to empty it into mine.—I've enough in conscience, Eugenius, said I.—Indeed, Yorick, you have not, replied Eugenius—I know France and Italy better than you.—But you don't confider, Eugenius, said I, refusing his offer, that before I have been three days in Paris, I shall take care
to

to say or do something or other for which I shall get clapp'd up into the Bastile, and that I shall live there a couple of months entirely at the king of France's expence.—I beg pardon, said Eugenius, drily: really, I had forgot that resource.

Now the event I treated gaily came seriously to my door.

Is it folly, or nonchalance, or philosophy, or pertinacity—or what is it in me, that, after all, when La Fleur had gone down stairs, and I was quite alone, that I could not bring down my mind to think of it otherwise than I had then spoken of it to Eugenius?

C 3

—And



— And as for the Bastile! the terror is in the word—Make the most of it you can, said I to myself, the Bastile is but another word for a tower—and a tower is but another word for a house you can't get out of—Mercy on the gouty! for they are in it twice a year—but with nine livres a day, and pen and ink and paper and patience, albeit a man can't get out, he may do very well within—at least for a month or six weeks; at the end of which, if he is a harmless fellow his innocence appears, and he comes out a better and wiser man than he went in.

I had some occasion (I forget what) to step into the court-yard, as I settled
this

this account; and remember I walk'd
 down stairs in no small triumph with
 the conceit of my reasoning — Be-
 shrew the *sombre* pencil! said I vaunt-
 ingly—for I envy not its powers,
 which paints the evils of life with so
 hard and deadly a colouring. The
 mind sits terrified at the objects she
 has magnified herself, and blackened:
 reduce them to their proper size and
 hue she overlooks them — 'Tis true,
 said I, correcting the proposition —
 the Bastile is not an evil to be de-
 spised—but strip it of its towers—fill
 up the fossè—unbarricade the doors—
 call it simply a confinement, and sup-
 pose 'tis some tyrant of a distemper—
 and not of a man which holds you in



it—the evil vanishes, and you bear the other half without complaint.

I was interrupted in the hey-day of this soliloquy, with a voice which I took to be of a child, which complained “it could not get out.”—I look’d up and down the passage, and seeing neither man, woman, or child, I went out without further attention.

In my return back through the passage, I heard the same words repeated twice over; and looking up, I saw it was a starling hung in a little cage.—“I can’t get out—I can’t get out,” said the starling.

I stood

I stood looking at the bird : and to every person who came through the passage it ran fluttering to the side towards which they approach'd it, with the same lamentation of its captivity—
 “ I can't get out”, said the starling—
 God help thee! said I, but I'll let thee out, cost what it will; so I turn'd about the cage to get to the door; it was twisted and double twisted so fast with wire, there was no getting it open without pulling the cage to pieces—I took both hands to it.

The bird flew to the place where I was attempting his deliverance, and thrusting his head through the trellis, press'd his breast against it, as if impatient—I fear, poor creature! said I,



I cannot set thee at liberty—"No," said the starling—"I can't get out"—"I can't get out," said the starling.

I vow, I never had my affections more tenderly awakened; or do I remember an incident in my life, where the dissipated spirits, to which my reason had been a bubble, were so suddenly call'd home. Mechanical as the notes were, yet so true in tune to nature were they chanted, that in one moment they overthrew all my systematic reasonings upon the Bastille; and I heavily walk'd up stairs, unsaying every word I had said in going down them.

Disguise

Disguise thyself as thou wilt, still
 slavery! said I—still thou art a bitter
 draught; and though thousands
 in all ages have been made to drink
 of thee, thou art no less bitter on
 that account.—'tis thou, thrice sweet
 and gracious goddess, addressing my-
 self to LIBERTY, whom all in pub-
 lic or in private worship, whose taste
 is grateful, and ever wilt be so, till
 NATURE herself shall change—no *tint*
 of words can spot thy snowy mantle,
 or chymic power turn thy sceptre
 into iron—with thee to smile upon
 him as he eats his crust, the swain
 is happier than his monarch, from
 whose court thou art exiled—Gracious
 heaven! cried I, kneeling down upon
 the last step but one in my ascent—
 grant

grant me but health, thou great Be-
flower of it, and give me but this
fair goddess as my companion —
and shower down thy mitres, if it
seems good unto thy divine provi-
dence, upon those heads which are
aching for them.

THE

THE CAPTIVE.

P A R I S.

THE bird in his cage pursued me into my room; I sat down close to my table, and leaning my head upon my hand, I began to figure to myself the miseries of confinement. I was in a right frame for it, and so I gave full scope to my imagination.

I was going to begin with the millions of my fellow creatures born to no inheritance but slavery; but finding, however affecting the picture was, that I could not bring it
near



near me, and that the multitude of
of sad groups in it did but distract
me. —

—I took a single captive, and hav-
ing first shut him up in his dungeon,
I then look'd through the twilight of
his grated door to take his picture.

I beheld his body half wasted away
with long expectation and confine-
ment, and felt what kind of sickness of
the heart it was which arises from hope
deferr'd. Upon looking nearer I saw
him pale and feverish: in thirty years
the western breeze had not once fann'd
his blood—he had seen no sun, no
moon in all that time—nor had the
voice

voice of friend or kinsman breathed
through his lattice—his children—

—But here my heart began to bleed
—and I was forced to go on with
another part of the portrait.

He was sitting upon the ground
upon a little straw, in the furthest
corner of his dungeon, which was
alternately his chair and bed : a little
calender of small sticks were laid at the
head notch'd all over with the dismal
days and nights he had pass'd there—
he had one of these little sticks in his
hand, and with a rusty nail he was
etching another day of misery to add
to the heap. As I darkened the little
light he had, he lifted up a hopeless
eye



eye towards the door, then cast it down—shook his head, and went on with his work of affliction. I heard his chains upon his legs, as he turn'd his body to lay his little stick upon the bundle—He gave a deep sigh—I saw the iron enter into his soul—I burst into tears—I could not sustain the picture of confinement which my fancy had drawn—I startled up from my chair, and calling La Fleur, I bid him bespeak me a *remise*, and have it ready at the door of the hotel by nine in the morning.

—I'll go directly, said I, myself to Monsieur Le Duke de Choiseul.

La

La Fleur would have put me to bed; but not willing he should see any thing upon my cheek, which would cost the honest fellow a heart ache—I told him I would go to bed by himself—and bid him go do the same.



THE STARLING.

ROAD TO VERSAILLES.

I GOT into my *remise* the hour I proposed: La Fleur got up behind, and I bid the coachman make the best of his way to Versailles.

As there was nothing in this road, or rather nothing which I look for in travelling, I cannot fill up the blank better than with a short history of this self-same bird, which became the subject of the last chapter.

Whilst the Honourable Mr. **** was waiting for a wind at Dover it had been caught upon the cliffs before it could well fly, by an English lad who was his groom; who not caring to destroy it, had taken it in his breast into the packet—and by course of feeding it, and taking it once under his protection, in a day or two grew fond of it, and got it safe along with him to Paris.

At Paris the lad had laid out a livre in a little cage for the starling, and as he had little to do better the five months his master stay'd there, he taught it in his mother's tongue the four simple words—(and no more)—

D 2



to which I own'd myself so much
it's debtor.

Upon his master's going on for
Italy—the lad had given it to the
master of the hotel—But his little
song for liberty, being in an *unknown*
language at Paris—the bird had little
or no store set by him—so La Fleur
bought both him and his cage for
me for a bottle of Burgundy.

In my return from Italy I brought
him with me to the country in whose
language he had learn'd his notes—
and telling the story of him to Lord
A—Lord A begg'd the bird of me—
in a week Lord A gave him to
Lord B—Lord B made a present
of him to Lord C—and Lord's C's
gentle.

gentleman sold him to Lord D's for a shilling—Lord D gave him to Lord E—and so on—half round the alphabet—From that rank he pass'd into the lower house, and pass'd the hands of as many commoners——But as all these wanted to *get in*—and my bird wanted to get out—he had almost as little store set by him in London as in Paris.

It is impossible but many of my readers must have heard of him; and if any by mere chance have ever seen him—I beg leave to inform them, that that bird was my bird—or some vile copy set up to represent him.

I have nothing further to add upon him, but that from that time to this,

D 3

I have



[38]

I have borne this poor starling as the
crest to my arms.—Thus :



—— And let the heralds officers
twist his neck about if they dare.

THE

THE ADDRESS.

VERSAILLES.

I SHOULD not like to have my enemy take a view of my mind, when I am going to ask protection of any man : for which reason I generally endeavour to protect myself ; but this going to Monsieur Le Duc de C***** was an act of compulsion—had it been an act of choice, I should have done it, I suppose, like other people.

How many mean plans of dirty
address, as I went along, did my

D 4 fervile



servile heart form! I deserved the Bastile for every one of them.

Then nothing would serve me, when I got within sight of Versailles, but putting words and sentences together, and conceiving attitudes and tones to wreath myself into Monsieur LeDuc de C*****'s good graces— This will do —— said I— Just as well, retorted I again, as a coat carried up to him by an adventurous taylor, without taking his measure— Fool! continued I—see Monsieur Le Duc's face first—observe what character is written in it; take notice in what posture he stands to hear you —mark the turns and expressions of his

his body and limbs—And for the tone—the first found which comes from his lips will give it you; and from all these together you'll compound an address at once upon the spot, which cannot disgust the Duke—the ingredients are his own, and most likely to go down.

Well! said I, I wish it well over—Coward again! as if man to man was not equal, throughout the whole surface of the globe; and if in the field—why not face to face in the cabinet too? And trust me, Yorick, whenever it is not so, man is false to himself; and betrays his own succours ten times, where nature does it once.

Go



Go to the Duc de C***** with the
Bastile in thy looks—My life for it,
thou wilt be sent back to Paris in half
an hour, with an escort.

I believe so, said I—Then I'll go
to the Duke, by heaven! with all the
gaity and debonairness in the world.—

—And there you are wrong again,
replied I—A heart at ease, Yorick,
flies into no extremes—'tis ever on
its center.—Well! well! cried I, as
the coachman turn'd in at the gates
—I find I shall do very well: and by
the time he had wheel'd round the
court, and brought me up to the
door, I found myself so much the
better for my own lecture, that I
neither

neither ascended the steps like a victim to justice, who was to part with life upon the topmost,—nor did I mount them with a skip and a couple of strides, as I do when I fly up, Eliza! to thee, to meet it.

As I enter'd the door of the saloon, I was met by a person who possibly might be the maitre d'hotel, but had more the air of one of the under secretaries, who told me the Duc de C**** was busy—I am utterly ignorant, said I, of the forms of obtaining an audience, being an absolute stranger, and what is worse in the present conjuncture of affairs, being an Englishman too.—He replied, that did not increase the difficulty.—I made him



him a slight bow, and told him, I had something of importance to say to Monsieur Le Duc. The secretary look'd towards the stairs, as if he was about to leave me to carry up this account to some one—But I must not mislead you, said I—for what I have to say is of no manner of importance to Monsieur Le Duc de C**** — but of great importance to myself.—*C'est une autre affaire*, replied he——Not at all, said I, to a man of gallantry.—But pray, good sir, continued I, when can a stranger hope to have *accesse*? In not less than two hours, said he, looking at his watch. The number of equipages in the court-yard seem'd to justify the calculation, that I could have

have no nearer a prospect—and as walking backwards and forwards in the saloon, without a soul to commune with, was for the time as bad as being in the Bastille itself, I instantly went back to my *remise*, and bid the coachman drive me to the *cordon bleu*, which was the nearest hotel.

I think there is a fatality in it—I seldom go to the place I set out for.

LE



L E P A T I S S I E R.

V E R S A I L L E S.

BEFORE I had got half-way down the street, I changed my mind: as I am at Versailles, thought I, I might as well take a view of the town; so I pull'd the cord, and ordered the coachman to drive round some of the principal streets—I suppose the town is not very large, said I.—The coachmen begg'd pardon for setting me right, and told me it was very superb, and that numbers of the first dukes and marquises and counts had hotels—The Count de B****, of whom

whom the bookseller at the Quai de Conti had spoke so handsomely the night before, came instantly into my mind.—And why should I not go, thought I, to the Count de B****, who has so high an idea of English books, and Englishmen—and tell him my story? so I changed my mind a second time—In truth it was the third; for I had intended that day for Madame de R**** in the Rue St. Pierre, and had devoutly sent her word by her *fille de chambre* that I would assuredly wait upon her—but I am govern'd by circumstances—I cannot govern them: so seeing a man standing with a basket on the other side of the street, as if he had something to sell, I bid La Fleur go up

to



to him and enquire for the Count's hotel.

La Fleur return'd a little pale ; and told me it was a Chevalier de St. Louis selling *patès*—It is impossible, La Fleur ! said I.—La Fleur could no more account for the phenomenon than myself ; but persisted in his story : he had seen the croix set in gold, with its red ribband, he said, tied to his button-hole—and had look'd into the basket and seen the *patès* which the Chevalier was selling ; so could not be mistaken in that.

Such a reverse in man's life awakens a better principle than curiosity : I could not help looking for some time
at

at him as I sat in the *remise*—the more I look'd at him—his *croix* and his basket, the stronger they wove themselves into my brain—I got out of the *remise* and went towards him.

He was begirt with a clean linen apron which fell below his knees, and with a sort of a bib went half way up his breast; upon the top of this, but a little below the hem, hung his *croix*. His basket of little *patès* was cover'd over with a white damask napkin; another of the same kind was spread at the bottom; and there was a look of *propreté* and neatness throughout; that one might have bought his *patès* of him, as much from appetite as sentiment.

VOL. II.

E

He



He made an offer of them to neither ; but stood still with them at the corner of a hotel, for those to buy who chose it, without sollicitation.

He was about forty-eight—of a sedate look, something approaching to gravity. I did not wonder.—I went up rather to the basket than him, and having lifted up the napkin and taken one of his *patès* into my hand—I begg'd he would explain the appearance which affected me.

He told me in a few words, that the best part of his life had pass'd in the service, in which, after spending a small patrimony, he had obtain'd a company and the croix with it ;
but

but that at the conclusion of the last peace, his regiment being reformed, and the whole corps, with those of some other regiments, left without any provision—he found himself in a wide world without friends, without a livre—and indeed, said he, without any thing but this—(pointing, as he said it, to his croix)—The poor chevalier won my pity, and he finish'd the scene, with winning my esteem too.

The king, he said, was the most generous of princes, but his generosity could neither relieve or reward every one, and it was only his misfortune to be amongst the number. He had a little wife, he said, whom

E 2 he



he loved, who did the *patisserie*; and added, he felt no dishonour in defending her and himself from want in this way—unless Providence had offer'd him a better.

It would be wicked to with-hold a pleasure from the good, in passing over what happen'd to this poor Chevalier of St. Louis about nine months after.

It seems he usually took his stand near the iron gates which lead up to the palace, and as his croix had caught the eye of numbers, numbers had made the same enquiry which I had done—He had told them the same story, and always with

so much modesty and good sense, that it had reach'd at last the king's ears—who hearing the Chevalier had been a gallant officer, and respected by the whole regiment as a man of honour and integrity—he broke up his little trade by a pension of fifteen hundred livres a year.

As I have told this to please the reader, I beg he will allow me to relate another out of its order, to please myself—the two stories reflect light upon each other,—and 'tis a pity they should be parted.



THE SWORD.

R E N N E S.

WHEN states and empires have
 their periods of declension,
 and feel in their turns what distress
 and poverty is—I stop not to tell
 the causes which gradually brought
 the house d'E**** in Britany
 into decay. The Marquis d'E****
 had fought up against his condition
 with great firmness; wishing to pre-
 serve, and still shew to the world
 some little fragments of what his an-
 cestors had been—their indiscretions
 had put it out of his power. There
 was

was enough left for the little exigencies of *obscurity*—But he had two boys who look'd up to him for *light*—he thought they deserved it. He had tried his sword—it could not open the way—the *mounting* was too expensive—and simple œconomy was not a match for it—there was no resource but commerce.

In any other province in France, save Britany, this was smiting the root for ever of the little tree his pride and affection wish'd to see reblossom—But in Britany, there being a provision for this, he avail'd himself of it; and taking an occasion when the states were assembled at Rennes,

E 4

the



the Marquis, attended with his two boys, enter'd the court ; and having pleaded the right of an ancient law of the duchy, which, though seldom claim'd, he said, was no less in force ; he took his sword from his side—Here—said he—take it ; and be trusty guardians of it, till better times put me in condition to reclaim it.

The president accepted the Marquis's sword—he stay'd a few minutes to see it deposited in the archives of his house—and departed.

The Marquis and his whole family embarked the next day for Martinico, and in about nineteen or twenty years of successful application to business,

finess, with some unlook'd for be-
quests from distant branches of his
house—return'd home to reclaim his
nobility and to support it.

It was an incident of good for-
tune which will never happen to any
traveller, but a sentimental one, that
I should be at Rennes at the very
time of this solemn requisition: I
call it solemn—it was so to me.

The Marquis enter'd the court with
his whole family: he supported his
lady—his eldest son supported his
sister, and his youngest was at the other
extreme of the line next his mother.
—he put his handkerchief to his
face twice—

—There



—There was a dead silence. When the Marquis had approach'd within six paces of the tribunal, he gave the Marchioness to his youngest son, and advancing three steps before his family—he reclaim'd his sword. His sword was given him, and the moment he got it into his hand he drew it almost out of the scabbard—'twas the shining face of a friend he had once given up—he look'd attentively along it, beginning at the hilt, as if to see whether it was the same—when observing a little rust which it had contracted near the point, he brought it near his eye, and bending his head down over it—I think I saw a tear fall upon the place: I could not be deceived by what followed.

“ I shall

“ I shall find, said he, some *other*
“ *way*, to get it off.”

When the Marquis had said this,
he return'd his sword into its scabbard,
made a bow to the guardians of it—
and, with his wife and daughter and
his two sons following him, walk'd
out.

O how I envied him his feelings!

THE



THE PASSPORT.

VERSAILLES.

I FOUND no difficulty in getting admittance to Monsieur Le Count de B****. The set of Shakespears was laid upon the table, and he was tumbling them over. I walk'd up close to the table, and giving first such a look at the books as to make him conceive I knew what they were—I told him I had come without any one to present me, knowing I should meet with a friend in his apartment who, I trusted, would do it for me—it is my countryman
the



the great Shakespear, said I, pointing to his works—*et ayez la bontè, mon cher ami*, apostrophizing his spirit, added I, *de me faire cet honneur la.*——

The Count smil'd at the singularity of the introduction; and seeing I look'd a little pale and sickly, insisted upon my taking an arm-chair: so I sat down; and to save him conjectures upon a visit so out of all rule, I told him simply of the incident in the bookseller's shop, and how that had impell'd me rather to go to him with the story of a little embarrassment I was under, than to any other man in France—And what
is



is your embarrassment? let me hear it, said the Count. So I told him the story just as I have told it the reader—

—And the master of my hotel, said I, as I concluded it, will needs have it, Monsieur le Count, that I shall be sent to the Bastile—but I have no apprehensions, continued I—for in falling into the hands of the most polish'd people in the world, and being conscious I was a true man, and not come to spy the nakedness of the land, I scarce thought I laid at their mercy.—It does not suit the gallantry of the French, Monsieur le Count, said I, to shew it against invalids.

An

An animated blush came into the Count de B****'s cheeks, as I spoke this — *Ne craignez rien*—Don't fear, said he—Indeed I don't, replied I again—besides, continued I a little sportingly—I have come laughing all the way from London to Paris, and I do not think Monsieur le Duc de Choiseul is such an enemy to mirth, as to send me back crying for my pains.

—My application to you, Monsieur le Comte de B**** (making him a low bow) is to desire he will not.

The Count heard me with great good nature, or I had not said half



as much—and once or twice said—
C'est bien dit. So I rested my cause
 there — and determined to say no
 more about it.

The Count led the discourse: we
 talk'd of indifferent things;—of books
 and politicks, and men—and then of
 women—God bless them all! said I,
 after much discourse about them—
 there is not a man upon earth who
 loves them so much as I do: after
 all the foibles I have seen, and all the
 satires I have read against them, still
 I love them; being firmly persuaded
 that a man who has not a sort of an
 affection for the whole sex, is incapa-
 ble of ever loving a single one as he
 ought.

Heb



Héb bien! Monsieur l'Anglois, said the Count, gaily — You are not come to spy the nakedness of the land — I believe you — *ni encore*, I dare say, *that* of our women — But permit me to conjecture — if, *par hazard*, they fell in your way — that the prospect would not affect you.

I have something within me which cannot bear the shock of the least indecent insinuation: in the sportability of chit-chat I have often endeavoured to conquer it, and with infinite pain have hazarded a thousand things to a dozen of the sex together — the least of which I could not venture to a single one, to gain heaven.



Excuse me, Monsieur Le Count, said I—as for the nakedness of your land, if I saw it, I should cast my eyes over it with tears in them—and for that of your women (blushing at the idea he had excited in me) I am so evangelical in this, and have such a fellow-feeling for what ever is *weak* about them, that I would cover it with a garment, if I knew how to throw it on—But I could wish, continued I, to spy the *nakedness* of their hearts, and through the different disguises of customs, climates, and religion, find out what is good in them, to fashion my own by—and therefore am I come.

It

It is for this reason, Monsieur le Comte, continued I, that I have not seen the Palais royal—nor the Luxembourg—nor the Façade of the Louvre—nor have attempted to swell the catalogues we have of pictures, statues, and churches—I conceive every fair being as a temple, and would rather enter in, and see the original drawings and loose sketches hung up in it, than the transfiguration of Raphael itself.

The thirst of this, continued I, as impatient as that which inflames the breast of the connoisseur, has led me from my own home into France—and from France will lead me through Italy—'tis a quiet journey

F 2

of



of the heart in pursuit of NATURE,
and those affections which rise out of
her, which make us love each other
—and the world, better than we do.

The Count said a great many civil
things to me upon the occasion ; and
added very politely how much he
stood obliged to Shakespear for
making me known to him—but,
a-propos, said he—Shakespear is full
of great things—He forgot a small
punctillio of announcing your name
—it puts you under a necessity of
doing it yourself.

THE



THE PASSPORT.

VERSAILLES.

THERE is not a more perplexing affair in life to me, than to set about telling any one who I am—for there is scarce any body I cannot give a better account of than of myself; and I have often wish'd I could do it in a single word—and have an end of it. It was the only time and occasion in my life, I could accomplish this to any purpose—for Shakespear lying upon the table, and recollecting I was in his books, I took up Hamlet, and turning immediately to the grave-diggers scene in
the



the fifth act, I lay'd my finger upon YORICK, and advancing the book to the Count, with my finger all the way over the name — *Me, Voici!* said I.

Now whether the idea of poor Yorick's skull was put out of the Count's mind, by the reality of my own, or by what magic he could drop a period of seven or eight hundred years, makes nothing in this account—'tis certain the French conceive better than they combine—I wonder at nothing in this world, and the less at this; inasmuch as one of the first of our own church, for whose candour and paternal sentiments I have the highest veneration, fell into



into the same mistake in the very same case.—“ He could not bear, he said, to look into sermons wrote by the king of Denmark’s jester.” —Good, my lord! said I—but there are two Yorick’s. The Yorick your lordship thinks of, has been dead and buried eight hundred years ago; he flourish’d in Horwendillus’s court—the other Yorick is myself, who have flourish’d my lord in no court—He shook his head—Good God! said I, you might as well confound Alexander the Great, with Alexander the Copper-smith, my lord—’T was all one, he replied—

—If Alexander king of Macedon could have translated your lordship,

F 4

said



faid I—I'm sure your Lordship
would not have faid fo.

The poor Count de B**** fell
but into the fame error—

—*Et, Monsieur, est il Yorick?*
cried the Count.—*Je le suis*, faid I.
—*Vous?—Moi—moi qui ai l'honneur*
de vous parler, Monsieur le Comte—
Mon Dieu! faid he, embracing me—
Vous etes Yorick.

The Count instantly put the Shake-
spear into his pocket—and left me
alone in his room.

THE

THE PASSPORT.

VERSAILLES.

I COULD not conceive why the Count de B***** had gone so abruptly out of the room, any more than I could conceive why he had put the Shakespear into his pocket—*Mysteries which must explain themselves, are not worth the loss of time, which a conjecture about them takes up:* 'twas better to read Shakespear; so taking up, "*Much Ado about Nothing*," I transported myself instantly from the chair I sat in to Messina in Sicily, and got so busy with Don Pedro and Benedick



nedick and Beatrice, that I thought
not of Versailles, the Count, or the
Passport.

Sweet pliability of man's spirit,
that can at once surrender itself to
illusions, which cheat expectation and
sorrow of their weary moments!—
—long—long since had ye number'd
out my days, had I not trod so great
a part of them upon this enchanted
ground: when my way is too rough
for my feet, or too steep for my
strength, I get off it, to some smooth
velvet path which fancy has scattered
over with rose-buds of delights; and
having taken a few turns in it, come
back strengthen'd and refresh'd—
When evils press sore upon me, and
there

there is no retreat from them in this world, then I take a new course—I leave it—and as I have a clearer idea of the elysian fields than I have of heaven, I force myself, like Eneas, into them—I see him meet the pensive shade of his forsaken Dido—and wish to recognize it—I see the injured spirit wave her head, and turn off silent from the author of her miseries and dishonours—I lose the feelings for myself in hers—and in those affections which were wont to make me mourn for her when I was at school.

Surely this is not walking in a vain shadow—nor does man disquiet himself in vain, by it—he oftener does so in trusting



trusting the issue of his commotions to reason only.—I can safely say for myself, I was never able to conquer any one single bad sensation in my heart so decisively, as by beating up as fast as I could for some kindly and gentle sensation, to fight it upon its own ground.

When I had got to the end of the third act, the Count de B**** entered with my Passport in his hand. Monf. le Duc de C****, said the Count, is as good a prophet, I dare say, as he is a statesman—*Un homme qui rit*, said the duke, *ne sera jamais dangereux*.—Had it been for any one but the king's jester, added the Count, I
could

could not have got it these two hours.—*Pardonnez moi*, Monf. Le Compte, said I—I am not the king's jester.—But you are Yorick?—Yes.—*Et vous plaisantez?*—I answered, Indeed I did jest—but was not paid for it—'twas entirely at my own expence.

We have no jester at court, Monf. Le Compte, said I, the last we had was in the licentious reign of Charles the II^d—since which time our manners have been so gradually refining, that our court at present is so full of patriots, who wish for *nothing* but the honours and wealth of their country—and our ladies are all so chaste, so spotless, so good, so devout
—there



[78]

—there is nothing for a jester to make
a jest of—

Voila un persflage! cried the
Count.

THE



THE PASSPORT.

VERSAILLES.

AS the Passport was directed to all lieutenant governors, governors, and commandants of cities, generals of armies, justiciaries, and all officers of justice, to let Mr. Yorick, the king's jester, and his baggage, travel quietly along—I own the triumph of obtaining the Passport was not a little tarnish'd by the figure I cut in it—But there is nothing unmixt in this world; and some of the graveſt of our divines have carried it ſo far as to affirm, that enjoyment it-
 ſelf



self was attended even with a sigh — and that the greatest *they know of*, terminated *in a general way*, in little better than a convulsion.

I remember the grave and learned Bevoriskius, in his commentary upon the generations from Adam, very naturally breaks off in the middle of a note to give an account to the world of a couple of sparrows upon the out-edge of his window, which had incommoded him all the time he wrote, and at last had entirely taken him off from his genealogy.

—'Tis strange ! writes Bevoriskius ; but the facts are certain, for I have had



had the curiosity to mark them down one by one with my pen—but the cock-sparrow during the little time that I could have finished the other half this note, has actually interrupted me with the reiteration of his careffes three and twenty times and a half.

How merciful, adds Bevoriskius, is heaven to his creatures !

Ill fated Yorick! that the graveft of thy brethren should be able to write that to the world, which stains thy face with crimson, to copy in even thy ftudy.

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But



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But this is nothing to my travels
—So I twice—twice beg pardon
for it.

CHA-



C H A R A C T E R.

V E R S A I L L E S.

AND how do you find the French? said the Count de B****, after he had given me the Pafsport.

The reader may fuppose that after fo obliging a proof of courtefy, I could not be at a lofs to fay something handsome to the enquiry.

—*Mais paffe, pour cela*—Speak frankly, said he; do you find all the urbanity in the French which the

G 2

world



world give us the honour of?—I had found every thing, I said, which confirmed it—*Vraiment*, said the count.—*Les Francois sont polis*—To an excess, replied I.

The count took notice of the word *excesse*; and would have it I meant more than I said. I defended myself a long time as well as I could against it—he insisted I had a reserve, and that I would speak my opinion frankly.

I believe, *Monf. Le Comte*, said I, that man has a certain compass, as well as an instrument; and that the social and other calls have occasion by turns for every key in him; so
 2 that

that if you begin a note too high or too low, there must be a want either in the upper or under part, to fill up the system of harmony.—

The Count de B***** did not understand music, so desired me to explain it some other way. A polish'd nation, my dear Count, said I, makes every one its debtor; and besides urbanity itself, like the fair sex, has so many charms; it goes against ~~the~~ the heart to say it can do ill; and yet, I believe, there is but a certain line of perfection, that man, take him altogether, is empower'd to arrive at —if he gets beyond, he rather exchanges qualities, than gets them. I must not presume to say, how far this has affected the French in the sub-



ject we are speaking of—but should it ever be the case of the English, in the progress of their resentments, to arrive at the same polish which distinguishes the French, if we did not lose the *politesse de cœur*, which inclines men more to human actions, than courteous ones—we should at least lose that distinct variety and originality of character, which distinguishes them, not only from each other, but from all the world besides.

I had a few king William's shillings as smooth as glass in my pocket; and foreseeing they would be of use in the illustration of my hypothesis,

I had

I had got them into my hand, when
I had proceeded so far—

See, *Monf. Le Compté*, said I,
rising up, and laying them before
him upon the table—by jingling and
ribbing one against another for seventy
years together in one body's pocket
or another's, they are become so
much alike, you can scarce distin-
guish one shilling from another.

The English, like antient medals,
kept more apart, and passing but few
peoples hands, preserve the first
sharpnesses which the fine hand of na-
ture has given them—they are not
so pleasant to feel—but in return,

G 4

the



the legend is so visible, that at the first look you see whose image and superscription they bear. —But the French, *Monf. Le Comte*, added I, wishing to soften what I had said, have so many excellencies, they can the better spare this—they are a loyal, a gallant, a generous, an ingenious, and good temper'd people as is under heaven—if they have a fault—they are too *serious*.

Mon Dieu! cried the Count, rising out of his chair.

Mais vous plaïsantez, said he, correcting his exclamation.—I laid my hand upon my breast, and with earnest

nest gravity assured him, it was my most settled opinion.

The Count said he was mortified, he could not stay to hear my reasons, being engaged to go that moment to dine with the Duc de C****.

But if it is not too far to come to Versailles to eat your soup with me, I beg, before you leave France, I may have the pleasure of knowing you retract your opinion—or, in what manner you support it.—But if you do support it, Mons.^r L'Anglois, said he, you must do it with all your powers, because you have the whole world

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world against you.—I promised the
Count I would do myself the honour
of dining with him before I set out
for Italy—so took my leave.

THE



THE TEMPTATION.

P A R I S.

WHEN I alighted at the hotel, the porter told me a young woman with a band-box had been that moment enquiring for me.—I do not know, said the porter, whether she is gone away or no. I took the key of my chamber of him, and went up stairs; and when I had got within ten steps of the top of the landing before my door, I met her coming easily down.

It was the fair *fille de chambre* I had walked along the Quai de Conti
with :



with: Madame de R**** had sent her upon some commissions to a *mar-
chande de modes* within a step or two of the hotel de Modene; and as I had fail'd in waiting upon her, had bid her enquire if I had left Paris; and if so, whether I had not left a letter address'd to her.

As the fair *fille de chambre* was so near my door she turned back, and went into the room with me for a moment or two whilst I wrote a card.

It was a fine still evening in the latter end of the month of May—the crimson window curtains (which were of the same colour of those of
the



the bed) were drawn close—the sun was setting and reflected through them so warm a tint into the fair *fille de chambre*'s face—I thought she blush'd—the idea of it made me blush myself—we were quite alone; and that super-induced a second blush before the first could get off.

There is a sort of a pleasing half guilty blush, where the blood is more in fault than the man—'tis sent impetuous from the heart, and virtue flies after it—not to call it back, but to make the sensation of it more delicious to the nerves—'tis associated,—

But



But I'll not describe it.—I felt something at first within me which was not in strict unison with the lesson of virtue I had given her the night before—I fought five minutes for a card—I knew I had not one.—I took up a pen—I laid it down again—my hand trembled—the devil was in me.

I know as well as any one, he is an adversary, whom if we resist, he will fly from us—but I seldom resist him at all; from a terror, that though I may conquer, I may still get a hurt in the combat—so I give up the triumph, for security; and instead of thinking to make him fly, I generally fly myself.

The

The fair *fille de chambre* came close up to the bureau where I was looking for a card—took up first the pen I cast down, then offered to hold me the ink: she offer'd it so sweetly, I was going to accept it—but I durst not—I have nothing, my dear, said I, to write upon.—Write it, said she, simply, upon any thing.—

I was just going to cry out, Then I will write it, fair girl! upon thy lips.—

If I do, said I, I shall perish—so I took her by the hand, and led her to the door, and begg'd she would not forget the lesson I had given her—She said, Indeed she would not—
and



and as she utter'd it with some earnestness, she turned about, and gave me both her hands, closed together, into mine—it was impossible not to compress them in that situation—I wish'd to let them go; and all the time I held them, I kept arguing within myself against it—and still I held them on. — In two minutes I found I had all the battle to fight over again—and I felt my legs and every limb about me tremble at the idea.

The foot of the bed was within a yard and a half of the place where we were standing—I had still hold of her hands—and how it happened I can give no account, but I neither
ask'd

ask'd her—nor drew her—nor did I think of the bed—but so it did happen, we both sat down.

I'll just shew you, said the fair *fille de chambre*, the little purse I have been making to-day to hold your crown. So she put her hand into her right pocket, which was next me, and felt for it for sometime—then into ~~into~~ the left—"She had lost it."—I never bore expectation more quietly—it was in her right pocket at last—she pulled it out; it was of green taffeta, lined with a little bit of white quilted sattin, and just big enough to hold the crown—she put it into my hand—it was pretty; and I held it ten minutes with the back of my hand

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H

resting



resting upon her lap—looking sometimes at the purse, sometimes on one side of it.

A stitch or two had broke out in the gathers of my stock—the fair *fille de chambre*, without saying a word, took out her little huffive, threaded a small needle, and sew'd it up—I foresaw it would hazard the glory of the day ; and as she pass'd her hand in silence across and across my neck in the manœuvre, I felt the laurels shake which fancy had wreath'd about my head.

A strap had given way in her walk, and the buckle of her shoe was just falling off—See, said the *fille de chambre*,

chambre, holding up her foot—I could not for my soul but fasten the buckle in return, and putting in the strap—and lifting up the other foot with it, when I had done, to see both were right—in doing it too suddenly—it unavoidably threw the fair *fille de chambre* off her center—and then—

H 2

THE



THE CONQUEST.

YES—and then—Ye whose
 clay-cold heads and luke-warm
 hearts can argue down or mask your
 passions—tell me, what trespass is it
 that man should have them? or how
 his spirit stands answerable, to the
 father of spirits, but for his conduct
 under them?

If nature has so wove her web of
 kindness, that some threads of love
 and desire are entangled with the
 piece—must the whole web be rent
 in drawing them out?—Whip me such
 stoics, great governor of nature!
 said

said I to myself—Wherever thy providence shall place me for the trials of my virtue—whatever is my danger—whatever is my situation—let me feel the movements which rise out of it, and which belong to me as a man—and if I govern them as a good one—I will trust the issues to thy justice, for thou hast made us—and not we ourselves.

As I finish'd my address, I raised the fair *fille de chambre* up by the hand, and led her out of the room—she stood by me till I lock'd the door and put the key in my pocket—*and then*—the victory being quite decisive—and not till then, I

H 3 press'd



press'd my lips to her cheek, and,
taking her by the hand again,
led her safe to the gate of the
hotel.

THE



THE MYSTERY.

PARIS.

IF a man knows the heart, he will know it was impossible to go back instantly to my chamber—it was touching a cold key with a flat third to it, upon the close of a piece of musick, which had call'd forth my affections—therefore, when I let go the hand of the *fille de chambre*, I remain'd at the gate of the hotel for some time, looking at every one who pass'd by, and forming conjectures upon them, till my attention got fix'd

H 4 upon



upon a single object which confounded all kind of reasoning upon him.

It was a tall figure of a philosophic serious, adust look, which pass'd and repass'd sedately along the street, making a turn of about sixty paces on each side of the gate of the hotel—the man was about fifty-two—had a small cane under his arm—was dress'd in a dark drab-colour'd coat, waistcoat, and breeches, which seem'd to have seen some years service—they were still clean, and there was a little air of frugal *propreté* throughout him. By his pulling off his hat, and his attitude of accosting a good many in his way, I saw he was asking charity; so I got a sous or
two

two out of my pocket ready to give him, as he took me in his turn—he pass'd by me without asking any thing—and yet did not go five steps further before he ask'd charity of a little woman—I was much more likely to have given of the two—He had scarce done with the woman, when he pull'd off his hat to another who was coming the same way.—An ancient gentleman came slowly—and, after him, a young smart one—He let them both pass, and ask'd nothing: I stood observing him half an hour, in which time he had made a dozen turns backwards and forwards, and found that he invariably pursued the same plan.

There



There were two things very singular in this, which set my brain to work, and to no purpose—the first was, why the man should *only* tell his story to the sex—and secondly—what kind of story it was, and what species of eloquence it could be, which soften'd the hearts of the women, which he knew 'twas to no purpose to practise upon the men.

There were two other circumstances which entangled this mystery—the one was, he told every woman what he had to say in her ear, and in a way which had much more the air of a secret than a petition—the other was, it was always successful—he never stopp'd a woman, but she pull'd

pull'd out her purse, and immediately gave him something.

I could form no system to explain the phenomenon.

I had got a riddle to amuse me for the rest of the evening, so I walk'd up stairs to my chamber.

THE



THE CASE OF CONSCIENCE.

P A R I S.

I WAS immediately followed up by the master of the hotel, who came into my room to tell me I must provide lodgings else where.—How so, friend? said I.—He answer'd, I had had a young woman lock'd up with me two hours that evening in my bed-chamber, and 'twas against the rules of his house.—Very well, said I, we'll all part friends then—for the girl is no worse—and I am no worse—and you will be just as I found you.—It was enough, he said, to overthrow

overthrow the credit of his hotel.—
Voyez vous, Monsieur, said he, pointing to the foot of the bed we had been sitting upon.—I own it had something of the appearance of an evidence; but my pride not suffering me to enter into any detail of the case, I exhorted him to let his soul sleep in peace, as I resolved to let mine do that night, and that I would discharge what I owed him at breakfast.

I should not have minded, *Monsieur*, said he, if you had had twenty girls — 'Tis a score more, replied I, interrupting him, than I ever reckon'd upon — Provided, added he, it had
 6 been



been but in a morning.—And does the difference of the time of the day at Paris make a difference in the sin? —It made a difference, he said, in the scandal.—I like a good distinction in my heart; and cannot say I was intolerably out of temper with the man.—I own it is necessary, re-assumed the master of the hotel, that a stranger at Paris should have the opportunities presented to him of buying lace and silk stockings and ruffles, *et tout cela*—and 'tis nothing if a woman comes with a band box.—O' my conscience, said I, she had one; but I never look'd into it.—Then, *Monsieur*, said he, has bought nothing.—Not one earthly thing, replied I.—Because, said he, I could recommend



mend one to you who would use you
en conscience.—But I must see her this
 night, said I.—He made me a low
 bow and walk'd down.

Now shall I triumph over this
maitre d'hotel, cried I—and what
 then?—Then I shall let him see I
 know he is a dirty fellow.—And
 what then?—What then!—I was
 too near myself to say it was for
 the sake of others.—I had no good
 answer left—there was more of spleen
 than principle in my project, and I
 was sick of it before the execution.

In a few minutes the Grisset came
 in with her box of lace—I'll buy
 nothing.



nothing however, said I, within myself.

The Griffet would shew me every thing—I was hard to please: she would not seem to see it; she open'd her little magazine, laid all her laces one after another before me — unfolded and folded them up again one by one with the most patient sweetness — I might buy—or not — she would let me have every thing at my own price — the poor creature seem'd anxious to get a penny; and laid herself out to win me, and not so much in a manner which seem'd artful, as in one I felt simple and caressing.

If

If there is not a fund of honest
cullibility in man, so much the worse
—my heart relented, and I gave up
my second resolution as quietly as the
first—Why should I chastise one for
the trespass of another? if thou
art tributary to this tyrant of an
host, thought I, looking up in her
face, so much harder is thy bread.

If I had not had more than four
Louis d'ors in my purse, there was no
such thing as rising up and shewing
her the door, till I had first laid
three of them out in a pair of ruffles.

—The master of the hotel will
share the profit with her—no mat-

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I

ter



ter—then I have only paid as many
 a poor soul has *paid* before me for
 an act he *could* not do, or think
 of.

THE



THE RIDDLE.

P A R I S.

WHEN La Fleur came up to wait upon me at supper, he told me how sorry the master of the hotel was for his affront to me in bidding me change my lodgings.

A man who values a good night's rest will not lay down with enmity in his heart if he can help it—So I bid La Fleur tell the master of the hotel, that I was sorry on my side for the occasion I had given him—

I 2

and



and you may tell him, if you will, La Fleur, added I, that if the young woman should call again, I shall not see her.

This was a sacrifice not to him, but myself, having resolved, after so narrow an escape, to run no more risks, but to leave Paris, if it was possible, with all the virtue I enter'd in.

C'est déroger à la noblesse, Monsieur, said La Fleur, making me a bow down to the ground as he said it—*Et encore Monsieur,* said he, may change his sentiments—and if (*par hazard*) he should like to amuse himself—

I find

I find no amusement in it, said I, interrupting him—

Mon Dieu! said La Fleur—and took away.

In an hour's time he came to put me to bed, and was more than commonly officious—something hung upon his lips to say to me, or ask me, which he could not get off: I could not conceive what it was; and indeed gave myself little trouble to find it out, as I had another riddle so much more interesting upon my mind, which was that of the man's asking charity before the door of the hotel—I would have given any thing to have got to the bottom of it; and



that, not out of curiosity—'tis so low a principle of enquiry, in general, I would not purchase the gratification of it with a two-sous piece—but a secret, I thought, which so soon and so certainly soften'd the heart of every woman you came near, was a secret at least equal to the philosopher's stone: had I had both the Indies, I would have given up one to have been master of it.

I tofs'd and turn'd it almost all night long in my brains to no manner of purpose; and when I awoke in the morning, I found my spirit as much troubled with my *dreams*, as ever the king of Babylon had been

2

with

[119]

with his ; and I will not hesitate to affirm, it would have puzzled all the wise men of Paris, as much as those of Chaldea, to have given its interpretation.

I 4

THE



LE DIMANCHE.

PARIS.

IT was Sunday ; and when La Fleur came in, in the morning, with my coffee and role and butter, he had got himself so gallantly array'd, I scarce knew him.

I had covenanted at Montreal to give him a new hat with a silver button and loop, and four Louis d'ors *pour s'adoniser*, when we got to Paris ; and the poor fellow, to do him justice, had done wonders with it.

He

He had bought a bright, clean, good scarlet coat and a pair of breeches of the same—They were not a crown worse, he said, for the wearing—I wish'd him hang'd for telling me—they look'd so fresh, that tho' I knew the thing could not be done, yet I would rather have imposed upon my fancy with thinking I had bought them new for the fellow, than that they had come out of the *Rue de friperie*.

This is a nicety which makes not the heart sore at Paris.

He had purchased moreover a handsome blue sattin waistcoat, fancifully enough embroidered — this
was



was indeed something the worse for the services it had done, but 'twas clean scour'd — the gold had been touch'd up, and upon the whole was rather showy than otherwise — and as the blue was not violent, it suited with the coat and breeches very well: he had squeez'd out of the money, moreover, a new bag and a solitaire; and had insisted with the *fripier*, upon a gold pair of garters to his breeches knees — He had purchased muslin ruffles, *bien brodées*, with four livres of his own money — and a pair of white silk stockings for five more — and, to top all, nature had given him a handsome figure, without costing him a sou.

He

He enter'd the room thus set off, with his hair dress'd in the first stile, and with a handsome *bouquet* in his breast—in a word, there was that look of festivity in every thing about him, which at once put me in mind it was Sunday — and by combining both together, it instantly struck me, that the favour he wish'd to ask of me the night before, was to spend the day, as every body in Paris spent it, besides. I had scarce made the conjecture, when La Fleur, with infinite humility, but with a look of trust, as if I should not refuse him, begg'd I would grant him the day, *pour faire le galant vis à vis de sa maitresse*.

Now



Now it was the very thing I intended to do myself *vis à vis* Madame de R * * * * — I had retain'd the *remise* on purpose for it, and it would not have mortified my vanity to have had a servant so well dress'd as La Fleur was to have got up behind it: I never could have worse spared him.

But we must *feel*, not argue in these embarrassments—the sons and daughters of service part with liberty, but not with Nature in their contracts; they are flesh and blood, and have their little vanities and wishes in the midst of the house of bondage, as well as their task-masters

—no



—no doubt, they have set their self-denials at a price — and their expectations are so unreasonable, that I would often disappoint them, but that their condition puts it so much in my power to do it.

Behold! — Behold, I am thy servant—disarms me at once of the powers of a master—

—Thou shalt go, La Fleur!
said I.

—And what mistress, La Fleur, said I, canst thou have pick'd up in so little a time at Paris? La Fleur laid his hand upon his breast, and said 'twas
a petite

a *petite demoiselle* at Monsieur Le Compté de B*****'s. — La Fleur had a heart made for society; and, to speak the truth of him let as few occasions slip him as his master—so that some how or other; but how—heaven knows—he had connected himself with the *demoiselle* upon the landing of the stair-case, during the time I was taken up with my Passport; and as there was time enough for me to win the Count to my interest, La Fleur had contrived to make it do to win the maid to his—the family, it seems, was to be at Paris that day, and he had made a party with her, and two or three more of the Count's household, upon the *boulevards*.

Happy

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Happy people ! that once a week
at least are sure to lay down all your
cares together ; and dance and sing
and sport away the weights of
grievance, which bow down the spi-
rit of other nations to the earth.

THE



THE FRAGMENT.

P A R I S.

LA Fleur had left me something to amuse myself with for the day more than I had bargain'd for, or could have enter'd either into his head or mine.

He had brought the little print of butter upon a currant leaf; and as the morning was warm, and he had a good step to bring it, he had begg'd a sheet of waste paper to put betwixt the currant leaf and his hand — As that was plate sufficient, I bad him lay it upon the table as it was,

and as I resolv'd to stay within all day I order'd him to call upon the *traiteur* to bespeak my dinner, and leave me to breakfast by myself.

When I had finish'd the butter, I threw the currant leaf out of the window, and was going to do the same by the waste paper—but stopping to read a line first, and that drawing me on to a second and third—I thought it better worth ; so I shut the window, and drawing a chair up to it, I sat down to read it.

It was in the old French of Rabelais's time, and for ought I know might have been wrote by him— it was moreover in a Gothic letter, and that

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so



so faded and gone off by damps and length of time, it cost me infinite trouble to make any thing of it—I threw it down; and then wrote a letter to Eugenius—then I took it up again, and embroiled my patience with it afresh—and then to cure that, I wrote a letter to Eliza.—Still it kept hold of me; and the difficulty of understanding it increased but the desire.

I got my dinner; and after I had enlightened my mind with a bottle of Burgundy, I at it again—and after two or three hours poring upon it, with almost as deep attention as ever Gruter or Jacob Spon did upon a nonsensical inscription, I thought I
made

made sense of it; but to make sure of it, the best way, I imagined, was to turn it into English, and see how it would look then—so I went on leisurely, as a trifling man does, sometimes writing a sentence—then taking a turn or two—and then looking how the world went, out of the window; so that it was nine o'clock at night before I had done it—I then begun and read it as follows.

K 2 THE



THE FRAGMENT.

P A R I S.

—Now as the notary's wife disputed the point with the notary with too much heat—I wish, said the notary, throwing down the parchment, that there was another notary here only to set down and attest all this—

—And what would you do then, Monsieur? said she, rising hastily up—the notary's wife was a little fume of a woman, and the notary thought it well

well to avoid a hurricane by a mild reply—I would go, answer'd he, to bed.—You may go to the devil, answer'd the notary's wife.

Now there happening to be but one bed in the house, the other two rooms being unfurnish'd, as is the custom at Paris, and the notary not caring to lie in the same bed with a woman who had but that moment sent him pell-mell to the devil, went forth with his hat and cane and short cloak, the night being very windy, and walk'd out ill at ease towards the *pont neuf*.

Of all the bridges which ever were built, the whole world who have

K 3

pass'd



pass'd over the *pont neuf*, must own,
 that it is the noblest—the finest—the
 grandest—the lightest—the longest—
 the broadest that ever conjoin'd land
 and land together upon the face of
 the terraqueous globe——

*By this, it seems, as if the author of
 the fragment had not been a French-
 man.*

The worst fault which divines and
 the doctors of the Sorbonne can al-
 lege against it, is, that if there is
 but a cap-full of wind in or about
 Paris, 'tis more blasphemously *sacre*
Dieu'd there than in any other aper-
 ture of the whole city—and with rea-
 son,

son, good and cogent Messieurs; for it comes against you without crying *garde d'eau*, and with such unpremeditable puffs, that of the few who cross it with their hats on, not one in fifty but hazards two livres and a half, which is its full worth.

The poor notary, just as he was passing by the sentry, instinctively clapp'd his cane to the side of it, but in raising it up the point of his cane catching hold of the loop of the sentinel's hat hoisted it over the spikes of the ballustrade clear into the Seine—



—'Tis *an ill wind*, said a boatf-
man, who catch'd it, *which blows no
body any good.*

The sentry being a gascon incon-
tinently twirl'd up his whiskers, and
levell'd his harquebuss.

Harquebusses in those days went
off with matches; and an old wo-
man's paper lanthorn at the end of
the bridge happening to be blown
out, she had borrow'd the sentry's
match to light it—it gave a moment's
time for the gascon's blood to run
cool, and turn the accident better to
his advantage—'Tis *an ill wind*, said he,
catching off the notary's castor, and
legi-

legitimizing the capture with the
boatman's adage.

The poor notary cross'd the
bridge, and passing along the rue
de Dauphine into the fauxbourgs of
St. Germain, lamented himself as
he walk'd along in this manner:

Lucklefs man! that I am, said
the notary, to be the sport of hurri-
canes all my days—to be born to
have the storm of ill language le-
vell'd against me and my profession
wherever I go—to be forced into
marriage by the thunder of the
church to a tempest of a woman—to
be driven forth out of my house by
domestic



domestic winds, and despoil'd of my
 castor by pontific ones—to be here,
 bare-headed, in a windy night at the
 mercy of the ebbs and flows of acci-
 dents—where I am to lay my head?—
 miserable man! what wind in the two-
 and-thirty points of the whole com-
 pass can blow unto thee, as it does
 to the rest of thy fellow creatures,
 good!

As the notary was passing on by a
 dark passage, complaining in this
 sort, a voice call'd out to a girl, to
 bid her run for the next notary—now
 the notary being the next, and avail-
 ing himself of his situation, walk'd
 up the passage to the door, and pass-
 ing

ing through an old sort of a saloon, was usher'd into a large chamber dismantled of every thing but a long military pike—a breast plate—a rusty old sword, and bandoleer, hung up equi-distant in four different places against the wall.

An old personage, who had heretofore been a gentleman, and unless decay of fortune taints the blood along with it was a gentleman at that time, lay supporting his head upon his hand in his bed; a little table with a taper burning was set close beside it, and close by the table was placed a chair—the notary sat him down in it; and pulling out his ink-horn and a sheet or two of paper which he had in his pocket,



pocket, he placed them before him, and dipping his pen in his ink, and leaning his breast over the table, he disposed every thing to make the gentleman's last will and testament.

Alas! Monsieur le Notaire, said the gentleman, raising himself up a little, I have nothing to bequeath which will pay the expence of bequeathing, except the history of myself, which, I could not die in peace unless I left it as a legacy to the world; the profits arising out of it, I bequeath to you for the pains of taking it from me—it is a story so uncommon, it must be read by all
 4 man-

mankind—it will make the fortunes of your house—the notary dipp'd his pen into his ink-horn—Almighty director of every event in my life! said the old gentleman, looking up earnestly and raising his hands towards heaven — thou whose hand has led me on through such a labyrinth of strange passages down into this scene of desolation, assist the decaying memory of an old, infirm, and broken-hearted man—direct my tongue, by the spirit of thy eternal truth, that this stranger may set down naught but what is written in that Book, from whose records, said he, clasping his hands together, I am to be condemn'd or acquitted!—the notary held up the



the point of his pen betwixt the taper
and his eye—

—It is a story, Monsieur le No-
taire, said the gentleman, which will
rouse up every affection in nature—
it will kill the humane, and touch
the heart of cruelty herself with
pity—

—The notary was inflamed with
a desire to begin, and put his pen
a third time into his ink-horn—
and the old gentleman turning a
little more towards the notary,
began to dictate his story in these
words—

— And

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— And where is the rest of it,
La Fleur? said I, as he just then en-
ter'd the room.

THE



THE FRAGMENT
AND THE *BOUQUET.

P A R I S.

WHEN La Fleur came up close to the table, and was made to comprehend what I wanted, he told me there were only two other sheets of it which he had wrapt round the stalks of a *bouquet* to keep it together, which he had presented to the *demoiselle* upon the *boulevards*—Then,

* Nofegay.

prithee,

prithee, La Fleur, said I, step back to her to the Count de B****'s hotel, and *see if you canst get*—There is no doubt of it, said La Fleur—and away he flew.

In a very little time the poor fellow came back quite out of breath, with deeper marks of disappointment in his looks than could arise from the simple irreparability of the fragment—*Juste ciel!* in less than two minutes that the poor fellow had taken his last tender farewell of her—his faithless mistress had given his *gage d'amour* to one of the Count's footmen—the footman to a young sempstress—and the sempstress to a fiddler, with my fragment at the end of it—

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Our



Our misfortunes were involved together—I gave a sigh—and La Fleur echo'd it back again to my ear—

— How perfidious ! cried La Fleur
— How unlucky ! said I.—

— I should not have been mortified, Monsieur, quoth La Fleur, if she had lost it—Nor I, La Fleur, said I, had I found it.

Whether I did or no, will be seen hereafter.

THE

THE ACT OF CHARITY.

P A R I S.

THE man who either disdains or fears to walk up a dark entry may be an excellent good man, and fit for a hundred things; but he will not do to make a good sentimental traveller. I count little of the many things I see pass at broad noon day, in large and open streets.—Nature is shy, and hates to act before spectators; but in such an unobserved corner, you sometimes see a single short scene of her's worth all the sentiments of a dozen French plays compounded together—and yet

L 2

they



they are *absolutely* fine;—and whenever I have a more brilliant affair upon my hands than common, as they suit a preacher just as well as a hero, I generally make my sermon out of 'em—and for the text—“Ca-
 “ padofia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia
 “ and Pamphilia”—is as good as any one in the Bible.

There is a long dark passage issuing out from the opera comique into a narrow street; 'tis trod by a few who humbly wait for a *fiacre* *, or wish to get off quietly o'foot when the opera is done. At the end of it, towards the theatre, 'tis lighted by a small candle,

* Hackney-coach.

the

the light of which is almost lost before you get half-way down, but near the door—'tis more for ornament than use: you see it as a fix'd star of the least magnitude; it burns—but does little good to the world, that we know of.

In returning along this passage, I discern'd, as I approach'd within five or six paces of the door, two ladies standing arm in arm, with their backs against the wall, waiting, as I imagined, for a *fiacre*—as they were next the door, I thought they had a prior right; so edged myself up within a yard or little more of them, and quietly took my stand—I was in black, and scarce seen.

L 3

The



The lady next me was a tall lean figure of a woman of about thirty-six; the other of the same size and make, of about forty; there was no mark of wife or widow in any one part of either of them—they seem'd to be two upright vestal sisters, unsapp'd by careffes, unbroke in upon by tender salutations: I could have wish'd to have made them happy—their happiness was destin'd, that night, to come from another quarter.

A low voice, with a good turn of expression, and sweet cadence at the end of it, begg'd for a twelve-sous piece betwixt them, for the love of heaven. I thought it singular, that
a beggar

a beggar should fix the quota of an alms—and that the sum should be twelve times as much as what is usually given in the dark. They both seemed astonish'd at it as much as myself.— Twelve sous! said one—a twelve-sous piece! said the other—and made no reply.

The poor man said, He knew not how to ask less of ladies of their rank; and bow'd down his head to the ground.

Poo! said they—we have no money.

The beggar remained silent for a moment or two, and renew'd his supplication.

L 4

Do



Do not, my fair young ladies, said he, stop your good ears against me—Upon my word, honest man! said the younger, we have no change—Then God blefs you, said the poor man, and multiply those joys which you can give to others without change!—I observed the elder sister put her hand into her pocket—I'll see, said she, if I have a fous.—A fous! give twelve, said the suppliant; Nature has been bountiful to you, be bountiful to a poor man.

I would, friend, with all my heart, said the younger, if I had it.

My fair charitable! said he, addressing himself to the elder—
What

What is it but your goodness and humanity which makes your bright eyes so sweet, that they outshine the morning even in this dark passage? and what was it which made the Marquis de Santerre and his brother say so much of you both as they just pass'd by?

The two ladies seem'd much affected; and impulsively at the same time they both put their hands into their pocket, and each took out a twelve-sous piece.

The contest betwixt them and the poor suppliant was no more—it was continued betwixt themselves, which
of



of the two should give the twelve-
sous piece in charity—and to end the
dispute, they both gave it together,
and the man went away.

THE



THE RIDDLE EXPLAINED.

P A R I S.

I Stepp'd hastily after him: it was the very man whose success in asking charity of the women before the door of the hotel had so puzzled me—and I found at once his secret, or at least the basis of it—'twas flattery.

Delicious essence! how refreshing art thou to nature! how strongly are all its powers and all its weaknesses on thy side! how sweetly dost thou mix with the blood, and help it through the most difficult and tortuous passages to the heart!

5

The



The poor man, as he was not
 straighten'd for time, had given it
 here in a larger dose: 'tis certain
 he had a way of bringing it into less
 form, for the many sudden cases he
 had to do with in the streets; but
 how he contrived to correct, sweeten,
 concentrate, and qualify it—I vex not
 my spirit with the inquiry—it is
 enough, the beggar gain'd two twelve-
 fous pieces—and they can best tell
 the rest, who have gain'd much
 greater matters by it.

P A R I S.

P A R I S.

WE get forwards in the world not so much by doing services, as receiving them: you take a withering twig, and put it in the ground; and then you water it, because you have planted it.

Monf. Le Compté de B****, merely because he had done me one kindness in the affair of my passport, would go on and do me another, the few days he was at Paris, in making me known to a few people of rank; and they were to present me to others, and so on.



I had got master of my *secret*, just in time to turn these honours to some little account; otherwise, as is commonly the case, I should have din'd or supp'd a single time or two round, and then by *translating* French looks and attitudes into plain English, I should presently have seen, that I had got hold of the *couvert* * of some more entertaining guest; and in course, should have resigned all my places one after another, merely upon the principle that I could not keep them.—As it was, things did not go much amiss.

I had the honour of being introduced to the old Marquis de B**** :

* Plate, napkin, knife, fork, and spoon.

in

in days of yore he had signaliz'd himself by some small feats of chivalry in the *Cour d'amour*, and had dress'd himself out to the idea of tilts and tournaments ever since—the Marquis de B**** wish'd to have it thought the affair was somewhere else than in his brain. “He could like to take a trip to England,” and ask'd much of the English ladies. Stay where you are, I beseech you, *Monf. le Marquis*, said I—*Les Messrs. Anglois* can scarce get a kind look from them as it is.—The Marquis invited me to supper.

Monf. P**** the farmer-general was just as inquisitive about our taxes.—They were very considerable,
he



he heard—If we knew but how to collect them, said I, making him a low bow.

I could never have been invited to Monf. P****'s concerts upon any other terms.

I had been misrepresented to Madame de Q**** as an *esprit*—Madam de Q**** was an *esprit* herself; she burnt with impatience to see me, and hear me talk. I had not taken my seat, before I saw she did not care a sou whether I had any wit or no—I was let in, to be convinced she had.—I call heaven to witness I never once open'd the door of my lips.

Madame

Madame de Q*** vow'd to every creature she met, "She had never
 "had a more improving conver-
 "sation with a man in her life."

There are three epochas in the empire of a French-woman — She is coquette — then deist — then *devôte*: the empire during these is never lost — she only changes her subjects: when thirty-five years and more have unpeopled her dominions of the slaves of love, she re-peoples it with slaves of infidelity — and then with the slaves of the Church.

Madame de V*** was vibrating betwixt the first of these epochas: the colour of the rose was shading

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M

fast



fast away—she ought to have been a deist five years before the time I had the honour to pay my first visit.

She placed me upon the same sofa with her, for the sake of disputing the point of religion more closely.—In short, Madame de V*** told me she believed nothing.

I told Madame de V*** it might be her principle; but I was sure it could not be her interest to level the outworks, without which I could not conceive how such a citadel as hers could be defended—that there was not a more dangerous thing in the world, than for a beauty to be a deist—that it was a debt I owed my
creed,

creed, not to conceal it from her—that I had not been five minutes sat upon the sopha besides her, but I had begun to form designs—and what is it, but the sentiments of religion, and the persuasion they had existed in her breast, which could have check'd them as they rose up.

We are not adamant, said I, taking hold of her hand—and there is need of all restraints, till age in her own time steals in and lays them on us—but, my dear lady, said I, kissing her hand—'tis too—too soon—

I declare I had the credit all over Paris of unpervverting Madame de V***.—She affirmed to Monf.

M 2

D ***



D*** and the Abbe M***, that in one half hour I had said more for revealed religion, than all their Encyclopedia had said against it—I was lifted directly into Madame de V***'s *Coterie*—and she put off the epocha of deism for two years.

I remember it was in this *Coterie*, in the middle of a discourse, in which I was shewing the necessity of a *first cause*, that the young Count de Fainnant took me by the hand to the furthest corner of the room, to tell me my *solitaire* was pinn'd too strait about my neck—It should be *plus badinant*, said the Count, looking down upon his own—but a word, Monf. Yorick, to *the wise*—



— And from the wife, Monsf. Le Comptre, replied I, making him a bow—*is enough.*

The Count de Faineant embraced me with more ardour than ever I was embraced by mortal man.

For three weeks together, I was of every man's opinion I met. — *Pardi! ce Monsf. Yorick a autant d'esprit que nous autres.* — *Il raisonne bien,* said another. — *C'est un bon enfant,* said a third. — And at this price I could have eaten and drank and been merry all the days of my life at Paris; but 'twas a dishonest *reckoning*—I grew ashamed of it—it was the gain of a slave—



every sentiment of honour revolted against it—the higher I got, the more was I forced upon my *beggarly system*—the better the *Coterie*—the more children of Art—I languish'd for those of Nature: and one night, after a most vile prostitution of myself to half a dozen different people, I grew sick—went to bed—order'd La Fleur to get me horses in the morning to set out for Italy.

M A R I A

M A R I A.

M O U L I N E S

I NEVER felt what the distress of plenty was in any one shape till now—to travel it through the Bourbonnois, the sweetest part of France—in the hey-day of the vintage, when Nature is pouring her abundance into every one's lap, and every eye is lifted up—a journey through each step of which music beats time to *Labour*, and all her children are rejoicing as they carry in their clusters—to pass through this with my affections flying out, and kindling at every

M 4

group



group before me—and every one of 'em was pregnant with adventures.

Just heaven! — it would fill up twenty volumes—and alas! I have but a few small pages left of this to crowd it into—and half of these must be taken up with the poor Maria my friend, Mr. Shandy, met with near Moulines.

The story he had told of that disorder'd maid affect'd me not a little in the reading; but when I got within the neighbourhood where she lived, it returned so strong into my mind, that I could not resist an impulse which prompted me to go half a league out of the road to the village where

where her parents dwelt to enquire after her.

'Tis going, I own, like the Knight of the Woeful Countenance, in quest of melancholy adventures — but I know not how it is, but I am never so perfectly conscious of the existence of a soul within me, as when I am entangled in them.

The old mother came to the door, her looks told me the story before she open'd her mouth—She had lost her husband; he had died, she said, of anguish, for the loss of Maria's senses about a month before. — She had feared at first, she added, that it would have plunder'd her poor girl
of



of what little understanding was left—but, on the contrary, it had brought her more to herself—still she could not rest—her poor daughter, she said, crying, was wandering somewhere about the road—

—Why does my pulse beat languid as I write this? and what made La Fleur, whose heart seem'd only to be tuned to joy, to pass the back of his hand twice across his eyes, as the woman stood and told it? I beckon'd to the postilion to turn back into the road.

When we had got within half a league of Moulines, at a little opening in the road leading to a thicket, I discovered

discovered poor Maria sitting under a poplar—she was sitting with her elbow in her lap, and her head leaning on one side within her hand—a small brook ran at the foot of the tree.

I bid the postilion go on with the chaise to Moulines—and La Fleur to bespeak my supper—and that I would walk after him.

She was dress'd in white, and much as my friend described her, except that her hair hung loose, which before was twisted within a silk net.—She had, superadded likewise to her jacket, a pale green ribband which fell across her shoulder to the waist; at the end
of



of which hung her pipe. — Her goat had been as faithless as her lover ; and she had got a little dog in lieu of him, which she had kept tied by a string to her girdle ; as I look'd at her dog, she drew him towards her with the string. — “ Thou shalt not leave me, Sylvio,” said she. I look'd in Maria's eyes, and saw she was thinking more of her father than of her lover or her little goat ; for as she utter'd them the tears trickled down her cheeks.

I sat down close by her ; and Maria let me wipe them away as they fell with my handkerchief. — I then steep'd it in my own — and then in hers — and then in mine — and then I wip'd

I wip'd hers again — and as I did it, I felt such undescribable emotions within me, as I am sure could not be accounted for from any combinations of matter and motion.

I am positive I have a soul; nor can all the books with which materialists have pester'd the world ever convince me of the contrary.

M A R I A.



M A R I A.

WHEN Maria had come a little to herself, I ask'd her if she remember'd a pale thin person of a man who had sat down betwixt her and her goat about two years before? She said, she was unsettled much at that time, but remember'd it upon two accounts—that ill as she was she saw the person pitied her; and next, that her goat had stolen his handkerchief, and she had beat him for the theft—she had wash'd it, she said, in the brook, and kept it ever since in her pocket to restore it to him in case she should ever see him again, which, she

she added, he had half promised her. As she told me this, she took the handkerchief out of her pocket to let me see it; she had folded it up neatly in a couple of vine leaves, tied round with a tendril—on opening it, I saw an S mark'd in one of the corners.

She had since that, she told me, stray'd as far as Rome, and walk'd round St Peter's once—and return'd back—that she found her way alone across the Apennines—had travell'd over all Lombardy without money—and through the flinty roads of Savoy without shoes—how she had borne it, and how she had got supported, she could not tell—but *God*
tempers



tempers the wind, said Maria, to the shorn lamb.

Shorn indeed! and to the quick, said I; and wast thou in my own land, where I have a cottage, I would take thee to it and shelter thee: thou shouldst eat of my own bread, and drink of my own cup—I would be kind to thy Sylvio—in all thy weaknesses and wanderings I would seek after thee and bring thee back—when the sun went down I would say my prayers, and when I had done thou shouldst play thy evening song upon thy pipe, nor would the incense of my sacrifice be worse accepted for entering heaven along with that of a broken heart.

Nature

Nature melted within me, as I utter'd this ; and Maria observing, as I took out my handkerchief, that it was steep'd to much already to be of use, would needs go wash it in the stream.—And where will you dry it, Maria ? said I—I'll dry it in my bosom, said she—'twill do me good.

And is your heart still so warm,
Maria ? said I.

I touch'd upon the string on which hung all her sorrows—she look'd with wistful disorder for some time in my face ; and then, without saying any thing, took her pipe, and play'd her service to the Virgin — The string I had touch'd ceased to vibrate—in a

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moment or two Maria returned to herself—let her pipe fall—and rose up.

And where are you going, Maria? said I.—She said to Moulines.—Let us go, said I, together.—Maria put her arm within mine, and lengthening the string, to let the dog follow—in that order we entered Moulines.

M A R I A.

M A R I A.

M O U L I N E S.

TH O' I hate salutations and
 greetings in the market-place,
 yet when we got into the middle of
 this, I stopp'd to take my last look
 and last farewell of Maria.

Maria, tho' not tall, was never-
 theless of the first order of fine forms
 —affliction had touch'd her looks
 with something that was scarce earthly
 —still she was feminine—and so much
 was there about her of all that the

N 2 heart



heart wishes, or the eye looks for in woman, that could the traces be ever worn out of her brain, and those of Eliza's out of mine, she should *not only eat of my bread and drink of my own cup*, but Maria should lay in my bosom, and be unto me as a daughter.

Adieu, poor luckless maiden!—imbibe the oil and wine which the compassion of a stranger, as he journieth on his way, now pours into thy wounds—the being who has twice bruised thee can only bind them up for ever.

THE

THE BOURBONNOIS.

THERE was nothing from which I had painted out for myself so joyous a riot of the affections, as in this journey in the vintage, through this part of France; but pressing through this gate of sorrow to it, my sufferings has totally unfitted me: in every scene of festivity I saw Maria in the back-ground of the piece, sitting pensive under her poplar; and I had got almost to Lyons before I was able to cast a shade across her—

N. 3

Dear



—Dear sensibility! source inexhausted of all that's precious in our joys, or costly in our sorrows! thou chainest thy martyr down upon his bed of straw—and 'tis thou who lifts him up to HEAVEN—eternal fountain of our feelings!—'tis here I trace thee—and this is thy divinity which stirs within me—not, that in some sad and sickening moments, “ *my soul shrinks back upon herself, and startles at destruction* ” — mere pomp of words!—but that I feel some generous joys and generous cares beyond myself—all comes from thee, great—great SENSORIUM of the world! which vibrates, if a hair of our heads but falls upon the ground, in the remotest



desert of thy creation. — Touch'd
 with thee, Eugenius draws my curtain
 when I languish—hears my tale
 of symptoms, and blames the weather
 for the disorder of his nerves. Thou
 giv'st a portion of it sometimes to
 the roughest peasant who traverses the
 bleakest mountains—he finds the lacerated
 lamb of another's flock—
 This moment I beheld him leaning
 with his head against his crook, with
 piteous inclination looking down upon
 it—Oh! had I come one moment
 sooner!—it bleeds to death—his gentle
 heart bleeds with it—

Peace to thee, generous swain!—
 I see thou walkest off with anguish

N 4

—but



—but thy joys shall balance it—for
happy is thy cottage—and happy is
the sharer of it—and happy are the
lambs which sport about you.

THE

THE SUPPER.

A SHOE coming loose from the fore-foot of the thill-horse, at the beginning of the ascent of mount Taurira, the postilion dismounted, twisted the shoe off, and put it in his pocket; as the ascent was of five or six miles, and that horse our main dependence, I made a point of having the shoe fasten'd on again, as well as we could; but the postilion had thrown away the nails, and the hammer in the chaise-box, being of no great use without them, I submitted to go on.

He



He had not mounted half a mile higher, when coming to a flinty piece of road, the poor devil lost a second shoe, and from off his other fore-foot; I then got out of the chaise in good earnest; and seeing a house about a quarter of a mile to the left-hand, with a great deal to do, I prevailed upon the postilion to turn up to it. The look of the house, and of every thing about it, as we drew nearer, soon reconciled me to the disaster.—It was a little farm-house surrounded with about twenty acres of vineyard, about as much corn—and close to the house, on one side, was a *potagerie* of an acre and a half, full of every thing which

which could make plenty in a French peasant's house — and on the other side was a little wood which furnished wherewithal to dress it. It was about eight in the evening when I got to the house—so I left the postilion to manage his point as he could—and for mine, I walk'd directly into the house.

The family consisted of an old grey-headed man and his wife, with five or six sons and sons-in-law and their several wives, and a joyous genealogy out of 'em.

They were all sitting down together to their lentil-soup; a large wheaten loaf was in the middle of the table;



table ; and a flaggon of wine at each end of it promised joy thro' the stages of the repast—'twas a feast of love.

The old man rose up to meet me, and with a respectful cordiality would have me sit down at the table ; my heart was sat down the moment I enter'd the room ; so I sat down at once like a son of the family ; and to invest myself in the character as speedily as I could, I instantly borrowed the old man's knife, and taking up the loaf cut myself a hearty luncheon ; and as I did it I saw a testimony in every eye, not only of an honest welcome, but of a welcome mix'd with thanks that I had not seem'd to doubt it.



Was it this; or tell me, Nature,
 what else it was which made this mor-
 fel so sweet—and to what magick I
 owe it, that the draught I took of
 their flaggon was so delicious with
 it, that they remain upon my palate
 to this hour?

If the supper was to my taste—
 the grace which follow'd it was much
 more so.

THE



THE GRACE.

WHEN supper was over, the old man gave a knock upon the table with the haft of his knife—to bid them prepare for the dance: the moment the signal was given, the women and girls ran all together into a back apartment to tye up their hair—and the young men to the door to wash their faces, and change their fabots; and in three minutes every foul was ready upon a little esplanade before the house to begin—The old man and his wife came out last, and, placing me betwixt them, sat down upon a fopha of turf by the door,

The



The old man had some fifty years ago been no mean performer upon the vielle—and at the age he was then of, touch'd it well enough for the purpose. His wife fung now-and-then a little to the tune—then intermitted—and joined her old man again as their children and grand-children danced before them.

It was not till the middle of the second dance, when, from some pauses in the movement wherein they all seemed to look up, I fancied I could distinguish an elevation of spirit different from that which is the cause or the effect of simple jollity.—In a word, I thought I beheld *Religion* mixing in the dance—but as I had never seen
her



her so engaged, I should have look'd upon it now, as one of the illusions of an imagination which is eternally misleading me, had not the old man, as soon as the dance ended, said, that this was their constant way ; and that all his life long he had made it a rule, after supper was over, to call out his family to dance and rejoice ; believing, he said, that a chearful and contented mind was the best sort of thanks to heaven that an illiterate peasant could pay—

——Or a learned prelate either, said I.

THE

THE CASE OF DELICACY.

WHEN you have gained the top of mount Taurira, you run presently down to Lyons—adieu then to all rapid movements! 'Tis a journey of caution; and it fares better with sentiments, not to be in a hurry with them; so I contracted with a Voiturin to take his time with a couple of mules, and convey me in my own chaise safe to Turin through Savoy.

Poor, patient, quiet, honest people! fear not; your poverty, the treasury of your simple virtues, will

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O

not



not be envied you by the world,
 nor will your vallies be invaded by
 it.—Nature ! in the midst of thy dis-
 orders, thou art still friendly to the
 scantiness thou hast created—with
 all thy great works about thee, little
 hast thou left to give, either to the
 scithe or to the sickle—but to that
 little, thou grantest safety and protec-
 tion ; and sweet are the dwellings
 which stand so shelter'd.

Let the way-worn traveller vent his
 complaints upon the sudden turns and
 dangers of your roads—your rocks
 —your precipices—the difficulties of
 getting up—the horrors of getting
 down—mountains impracticable—
 and cataracts, which roll down great
 stones

stones from their summits, and block his up road.—The peasants had been all day at work in removing a fragment of this kind between St. Michael and Madane; and by the time my Voiturin got to the place, it wanted full two hours of compleating before a passage could any how be gain'd: there was nothing but to wait with patience—'twas a wet and tempestuous night; so that by the delay, and that together, the Voiturin found himself obliged to take up five miles short of his stage at a little decent kind of an inn by the road side.

I forthwith took possession of my bed-chamber—got a good fire—order'd



der'd supper; and was thanking heaven it was no worse—when a voiture arrived with a lady in it and her servant-maid.

As there was no other bed-chamber in the house, the hostess, without much nicety, led them into mine, telling them, as she usher'd them in, that there was no body in it but an English gentleman—that there were two good beds, in it and a closet within the room which held another—the accent in which she spoke of this third bed did not say much for it—however, she said, there were three beds, and but three people—and she durst say, the gentleman would do
any

any thing to accommodate matters.—
I left not the lady a moment to make
a conjecture about it—so instantly
made a declaration I would do any
thing in my power.

As this did not amount to an absolute surrender of my bed-chamber, I still felt myself so much the proprietor, as to have a right to do the honours of it—so I desired the lady to sit down—pressed her into the warmest seat—call'd for more wood—desired the hostess to enlarge the plan of the supper, and to favour us with the very best wine.

The lady had scarce warm'd herself five minutes at the fire, before



she began to turn her head back, and give alook at the beds; and the oftener she cast her eyes that way, the more they return'd perplex'd—I felt for her—and for myself; for in a few minutes, what by her looks, and the case itself, I found myself as much embarrassed as it was possible the lady could be herself.

That the beds we were to lay in were in one and the same room, was enough simply by itself to have excited all this—but the position of them, for they stood parallel, and so very close to each other as only to allow space for a small wicker chair betwixt them, render'd the affair still

still more oppressive to us—they were fixed up moreover near the fire, and the projection of the chimney on one side, and a large beam which cross'd the room on the other, form'd a kind of recess for them that was no way favourable to the nicety of our sensations — if any thing could have added to it, it was, that the two beds were both of 'em so very small, as to cut us off from every idea of the lady and the maid lying together; which in either of them, could it have been feasible, my lying besides them, tho' a thing not to be wish'd, yet there was nothing in it so terrible which the imagination might not have pass'd over without torment.



As for the little room within, it offer'd little or no consolation to us; 'twas a damp cold closet, with a half dismantled window shutter, and with a window which had neither glass or oil paper in it to keep out the tempest of the night. I did not endeavour to stifle my cough when the lady gave a peep into it; so it reduced the case in course to this alternative — that the lady should sacrifice her health to her feelings, and take up with the closet herself, and abandon the bed next mine to her maid — or that the girl should take the closet, &c. &c.

The lady was a Piedmontese of about thirty, with a glow of health
in



in her cheeks.—The maid was a Lyonoise of twenty, and as brisk and lively a French girl as ever moved.—There were difficulties every way—and the obstacle of the stone in the road, which brought us into the distress, great as it appeared whilst the peasants were removing it, was but a pebble to what lay in our ways now—I have only to add, that it did not lessen the weight which hung upon our spirits, that we were both too delicate to communicate what we felt to each other upon the occasion.

We sat down to supper; and had we not had more generous wine to it than a little inn in Savoy could have furnish'd,



furnish'd, our tongues had been tied up, till necessity herself had set them at liberty—but the lady having a few bottles of Burgundy in her voiture sent down her Fille de Chambre for a couple of them; so that by the time supper was over, and we were left alone, we felt ourselves inspired with a strength of mind sufficient to talk, at least, without reserve upon our situation. We turn'd it every way, and debated and considered it in all kind of lights in the course of a two hours negociation; at the end of which the articles were settled finally betwixt us, and stipulated for in form and manner of a treaty of peace—and I believe with as much religion

religion and good faith on both sides,
as in any treaty which as yet had the
honour of being handed down to po-
sterity.

They were as follows:

First. As the right of the bed-
chamber is in Monsieur — and he
thinking the bed next to the fire to
be the warmest, he insists upon the
concession on the lady's side of tak-
ing up with it.

Granted, on the part of Madame;
with a proviso, That as the curtains
of that bed are of a flimsy trans-
parent cotton, and appear likewise
too scanty to draw close, that the
Fille



Fille de Chambre, shall fasten up the opening, either by corking pins, or needle and thread, in such manner as shall be deemed a sufficient barrier on the side of Monsieur.

2dly. It is required on the part of Madame, that Monsieur shall lay the whole night through in his robe de chambre.

Rejected: inasmuch Monsieur is not worth a robe de chambre; he having nothing in his portmanteau but six shirts and a black silk pair of breeches.

The mentioning the silk pair of breeches made an entire change of the article—for the breeches were accepted

cepted as an equivalent for the robe de chambre, and so it was stipulated and agreed upon that I should lay in my black silk breeches all night.

3dly. It was insisted upon, and stipulated for by the lady, that after Monsieur was got to bed, and the candle and fire extinguished, that Monsieur should not speak one single word the whole night.

Granted; provided Monsieur's saying his prayers might not be deem'd an infraction of the treaty.

There was but one point forgot in this treaty, and that was the manner in which the lady and myself should

be



be obliged to undress and get to bed—there was but one way of doing it, and that I leave to the reader to devise; protesting as I do it, that if it is not the most delicate in nature, 'tis the fault of his own imagination—against which this is not my first complaint.

Now when we were got to bed, whether it was the novelty of the situation, or what it was, I know not; but so it was, I could not shut my eyes; I tried this side and that, and turn'd and turn'd again, till a full hour after midnight; when Nature and patience both wearing out—O my God! said I——

—You have broke the treaty, Monsieur, said the lady, who had no

more



more slept than myself.—I begg'd a thousand pardons—but insisted it was no more than an ejaculation—the maintain'd 'twas an entire infraction of the treaty—I maintain'd it was provided for in the clause of the third article.

The lady would by no means give up her point, tho' she weakened her barrier by it; for in the warmth of the dispute, I could hear two or three corking pins fall out of the curtain to the ground.

Upon my word and honour, Madam, said I—stretching my arm out of bed, by way asseveration—

—(I was

—(I was going to have added, that I would not have trespass'd against the remotest idea of decorum for the world)—

—But the Fille de Chambre hearing there were words between us, and fearing that hostilities would ensue in course, had crept silently out of her closet, and it being totally dark, had stolen so close to our beds, that she had got herself into the narrow passage which separated them, and had advanc'd so far up as to be in a line betwixt her mistress and me—

So that when I stretch'd out my hand, I caught hold of the Fille de Chambre's

END OF VOL. II.

