

H I S T O R Y

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FRENCH LOUSE;

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OR THE
SPY of a NEW SPECIES,
in FRANCE and ENGLAND:

CONTAINING
A DESCRIPTION of the most remarkable
PERSONAGES in those KINGDOMS.

GIVING
A KEY to the Chief Events of the Year 1779,
And those which are to happen in 1780.

Translated from the Fourth Edition of the revised and
corrected PARIS Copy.

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M DCC LXXIX,

XI

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EPISTLE DEDICATORY

TO HIS

MOST CHRISTIAN MAJESTY.

S I R E,

THIS work, the first that was ever produced by a being of my species, cannot be more properly dedicated than to the monarch under whose government I was born, and who is soon to be my sovereign in a country where no one expected such an event could ever happen, and to me it seems but just that it should be so: the world has so long seen the arms of France joined with those of England, and the title of king of France added to that of king of Great Britain, that it is time the fiction should be realized. This glory was reserved for your majesty; and I flatter myself, that I am the first who has thus publicly congratulated you upon it. But does not your majesty think that some merriment may be indulged, when a view is taken of the ridiculous and worthless agents by whom this work hath been effected? However that may be, it is a happy event for both nations; they will no longer be rivals but in their respect and attachment for your august person.

person. Paris will resound with acclamations of vive le Roy, and London with those of long live king Lewis. There shall be no more bloodshed, war shall cease, commerce shall flourish throughout all Europe, and to all Europe you will soon give the law: in every part of your extensive dominions you will be adored, and every tongue shall pray for blessings on your head; and I in particular shall have the happiness to see you once more, when you delight London with your presence, in order to be crowned with your illustrious consort, by whom I have already been so highly honoured, as will appear in my history. This honour will never be blotted from my remembrance, and claims my deepest gratitude. I am, with the most profound respect,

Your Majesty's

Most dutiful Subject,

THE FRENCH LOUSE.

HISTORY

PRELIMINARY REFLEXIONS.

HOW much beyond the possibility of computation are the calamities and trials to which all living beings are exposed! how often have I lamented my existence, and been tempted to put an end to it by voluntary death; but still I have had sufficient courage and vigor of mind to resign myself wholly to the exigencies of my condition, with more intrepidity than was shewn by the famous Romans, so boasted of in history, Brutus, Cassius, and the haughty Cato. I have followed the light and conduct of reason, and have discovered by minute reflexion that in the illustrious republic, of which I am a member, I owe the exertion of my living powers to my fellow-beings—that suicide is a shameful and clandestine death, a kind of robbery committed against the creeping race—that I have great duties to
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discharge, with respect to my fellow-citizens and my numerous family; and that upon the whole, whatever lives is useful to its offspring merely by its existence.

These considerations have hitherto supported me in the most dreadful circumstances, and the most desperate calamity. I live now in a place of freedom, the life of a philosopher, and so living I am happy; you, my children and my brethren, who live amidst the joys and miseries of mortals, console and delight yourselves with the pleasing hope of obtaining at the end of your days a safe and comfortable retreat. Let my life, which has been one continued train of good and evil, and which I am now going to trace here for your good and happiness, teach you never to abandon yourselves to your misfortunes; submit yourselves with confidence and resignation to a power that knows what is best for us better than ourselves, and your life, like mine, will conclude in happiness.

HISTORY

H I S T O R Y

OF A

F R E N C H L O U S E.

C H A P. I.

*The birth of a Louse in the head of a courtezan.
The happiness of his early life. He marries
and has children, from whom he is obliged to
fly by a general pestilence that overspreads his
country.*

I WAS born in a region very fertile and prolific, of which my ancestors had been more than a year in possession, and in which they had lived with all the happiness of royalty in the head of a charming girl of about eighteen. She lived with a commodious matron at Paris, Montigny by name, whose house was filled with the most splendid young people of the capital. The honour of my young mistress requires me to say, that I have known few heads so fine, or so well covered. It

was an extensive and mighty forest, abundantly sufficient for all our wants, though our colony was very populous. In my childhood I made a great figure, my size visibly increased from minute to minute : my mother, who loved and adored me, would often say, when she pressed me in her arms, that she never knew a child of so much strength and so good a constitution, for that in eight days I should be equal to my father.

When I came to the age proper for marriage, I got me a wife, chusing a female of my own age, fat and strong, for my taste is for plumpness : in four days time I was able to count ninety children, half boys and half girls ; and was so pleased with my condition, that I did not suppose the world to contain a being more happy than myself ; when an unexpected accident brought the first of my calamities upon me.

This region so plentiful, and so well replenished with juicy fruits, which I considered as a place of complete felicity, we found dried up almost all at once : I saw the trees of that vast forest dropping off by the roots one after another ; a mineral smell, which broke out from the pores of that once happy head, was to us a destructive pestilence. I saw my relations and friends dying every minute in strong convulsions ; I soon lost my father, and that valuable mother who had fondled me so much, together with three fourths of my dear children : my poor mistress herself, who had entertained us with such generous hospitality, was now in a condition to be pitied — her breath was become intolerably fetid, her teeth were no longer fast in her
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head,

head, her mouth was covered with froth, her nerves were broken, and her body trembled so as she could scarce either stand or sit.

Of this terrible disaster I was determined on finding the cause; and one morning winding my way with a great deal of trouble through that vast forest, I climbed to the tip of an ear which had been once white, but which the infected air had now blackened.

From thence I saw the proceeding of a cursed operator, who stroking the delicate limbs of my mistress with his greasy fingers, filled her whole body with his dreadful contagion.

Resolving now to go back no more to this cursed and corrupted country, I called my few children that were left together, and we hid ourselves for a while in the doubles of a curtain which hung round my mistress's bed,

Here we staid two days and a half, without provision, without relief, and without knowing what course to take, when my poor mistress, languid and sinking, was taken from her bed, and conveyed in a hackney coach, as I have heard, to the royal mansion of Biffexter.

Her bed was supplied with clean linen; and I had the horror to see the cruel matron shake out of the foul cloaths an innumerable body of my countrymen, whom the plague had carried off; some of them were yet living, and crying out for help; but she, in all the rage of cruelty, pushed them together,

gether, and threw them headlong into a pan of burning coals, which put at once an end to their misery and existence.

C H A P. II.

He takes shelter in the head of a clerk to the parliament of Paris. A description of his new habitation. He removes to the countess of L. A. B.

AS for us, pierced as we were with fear, and perishing with hunger, we knew not which way to turn, when it was our happiness to see a companion of my mistress, and one of her lovers, enter the room. They had just been celebrating a new marriage.

As I was afraid that this new comer would reduce us to the same state as where we were entertained before, I resolved to make my retreat to the head of her gallant ; but only two of my daughters entered it with me, my other children being so weak and exhausted that they could not follow me. I recommended them to their good fortune ; and being able to give them no further help, let them slip wholly out of my mind, having of my own much business to do, and much danger to escape.

The forest in which we made our abode was very different from that from which we had been driven ; it was not an immense plantation of lofty trees, like that which decorated my former mistress ;

trels; it was a forest laid waste, where nothing could be seen but a few shrubs, which, though not half grown, wanted juice and nutriment. In this barren and ungrateful soil they were short and few, and those few had withered till they were white and dry. These shrubs had likewise a form very different from that which trees of the same kind would have had; for those which grew on the outside of this poor forest had undergone some violent impression which made them twist into a round. In the middle of this region there was a smooth vacancy of a circular form, on which, for reasons that I cannot tell, unless it were to preserve the vegetation of the part from too great heat or cold, my new landlord put every morning a cover, black and shining, through which neither sun nor rain could find their way.

It was a little higher than this spot where I and my two daughters took refuge; here we lived as in a desert, finding none of our own species; and being at a loss for proper nourishment, we were obliged to content ourselves with a thick and greasy substance, which I found afterwards to be bear's fat, and which would have been neither disagreeable nor unwholesome, had it not been mixed up with musk and amber, of which the scent was so strong, that it seized our heads, and made us sickly.

My poor wife being dead of the plague, which had made such havoc in our community, I was obliged in this wild country to divide my bed and my heart between my two daughters.

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We began already to form a new establishment, and an infant colony, when my landlord, who was considered as the favourite of the first president, and whose denomination was the Abbé Appletree, counsellor to the parliament of Paris, being invited to dinner with the president, was set at table near the mistress of the house and a pretty delicate girl, who played off many airs, and to whom he seemed to pay much attention; as his various modes of expressing tenderness and respect kept my landlord in a state of constant gesticulation, I had all the difficulty in the world to keep upon his head. I clung as fast as I could to one of his hairs, but by an accident, not to be foreseen, the hair itself quitted its root, and fell, with me upon it, upon the gown of my pretty neighbour. Out of this vexatious state how was I to get? Finding nothing else within my power, I thought it most prudent to go into concealment, by quitting the bough on which I hung, and which had been the occasion of my fall. For this determination I had the more reason, as the lady's gown was of a mouse colour, and the hair was white, so that it would have been no hard matter to have discovered me. I hid myself, therefore, in one of the folds of her tippet, and was not long before I had reason to think well of my own contrivance. The hair fell down upon the carpet, and the servant set his foot upon it, a foot so bulky and heavy as would have crushed me over and over. In this retreat I was forced to wait, and see what accident would happen to my advantage, when in the evening my new mistress went in her carriage to court, and she was presented next day to the king, queen, and royal family.

C H A P.

C H A P. III.

His appearance at court: He has the honour to come very near the queen. He receives the compliments of all the court: His disgrace.

IF this was not the happiest day of my life, it was as you will see the most splendid. My landlady was in the queen's apartment, in the full blaze of royal presence, and I was willing to take a view of a princess whom I had heard mentioned with so much praise in every place, and who had the heart of all her subjects; placing myself, therefore, on the edge of the tippet, I was ravished with the charms of the deity of France, when my landlady, by a sudden and unexpected motion, threw me down at the queen's feet: It was lucky that nobody observed me; but I was afraid, lest among all this magnificence, some foot or other should give me a fatal crush. Such, however, was my happiness, that the goodness of her majesty, which is extended to all her subjects, was experienced by myself: she dropt, with seeming negligence, a white handkerchief; and notwithstanding the eager haste with which several of the courtiers flew to take it up, I had the dexterity to fasten upon it, and was thus respectfully restored to her majesty, who received me very graciously, thanking with a sweet affability the person who presented me.

Judge of my exultation in this happy moment; but this was only the beginning of my high fortune.

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My august mistress raising the handkerchief to her face, I conceived this to be a favourable opportunity of quitting it, and I slipped down upon a bosom of the most dazzling whiteness, and soft as the down of swans.—What a delicious situation! On each side of that charming neck I saw large ringlets of hair, whose colour enchanted me, and in which I hoped soon to take shelter. I saw princes, statesmen, and the greatest noblemen of the kingdom approach us with the most awful respect, scarce presuming to look upon us, nor to seat themselves before us. I saw the august husband of the princess approach her unaccompanied, and taking her hand with an air of the softest tenderness, draw her aside to talk to her in private. I contemplated at my ease the fine features of his face, and the dignity of his noble form. I was, in short, so intoxicated with my elevated condition, that although I had fasted for more than twenty-four hours, I never thought of taking any nourishment.

After this short conversation, to which I had been witness, the queen appeared again in the circle of her courtiers—every eye was charmed with her beauty, every mouth was full of her praises, when a prince of the blood, looking more attentively than the rest upon the throne where I was seated, perceived and knew me: he went instantly, and whispering the princess his wife, made her also observe me, who approaching the queen her sister, looked at me, and laughed, then drawing us aside, while I was gazing on her, she was cruel enough, with the end of her fan, to endeavour to drive me from my post; in vain did I exert all my strength

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to keep it, I was obliged to yield to superior force, and fell upon the edge of a pane of glass in a window which happened to be open. I perceived, that, although thus expelled, they were still seeking for me; I know not with what design, but I concealed myself in the best manner I was able, and their search was ineffectual.

I have since been informed that my being presented at court, and the happiness I had enjoyed in being seated upon that charming throne, made a great noise, not only at Versailles and Paris, but even in foreign countries, and that my royal mistress had blushed when I was driven off. With all humility I implore her pardon for my temerity; and I take the liberty to assure her, that I have peremptorily forbidden all my brethren and fellow-citizens, upon pain of death, ever to approach her sacred person, happy in being the only one of my species who can boast of so glorious an advantage.

But the more my pride had been flattered by such an elevation, the greater was my mortification when I found myself reduced to the condition that followed it.

C H A P. IV.

Our hero in adversity. He connects himself with a soldier in the guards.

A SUDDEN gust of wind blew me off the palace window, and I fell upon the head of a soldier of the guards, who happened to be passing

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under it. I fixed myself there for want of a better situation, and remained eight days in this country, being sensible of no other inconvenience than my regret for the loss of my former glorious condition. But for this regret I might have been happy enough. I found there a great number of companions, and a soil fruitful and well supplied with all sorts of necessaries. My new master and I paid frequent visits to the alehouse; part of every day he was employed in perfecting himself in the military exercise, and all his nights he passed with the gentle Margot, the object of his love. This was a washerwoman, who lived in the street Satory, a lively wench who had always money in her pocket, and who freely supplied all my master's occasions, and even his extravagancies. Her gallant was not ungrateful, he spent great part of his time with her, but to us he was a most tormenting landlord; he had a horrid custom of scratching his head almost continually; his long crooked nails, which he struck among us with great force, never failed to carry off, together with our subsistence, a great number of my brethren, whom he afterwards crushed with his fingers, and threw them contemptuously under his feet. I spared no pains to re-establish our colony; and I had the satisfaction to find myself surrounded with almost a new family, of which I was the father, grandfather, and great-grandfather myself; but this satisfaction had but a short duration.

C H A P.

C H A P. V.

He is forced to quit his soldier, and very unwillingly makes an acquaintance with Margot the washerwoman.

ONE fine morning, when this lover quitted the arms of his mistress, she was desirous before he dressed himself to do him a piece of service. She took a dreadful instrument in her hand, such as I have seen made use of in gardens to rake the walks, and passing it backwards and forwards through the immense forest which we inhabited, she gave great disturbance to our society; three times I slipped between the teeth of this cursed instrument; and having hitherto suffered no other injury than a bruise upon one of my feet, I hoped to escape entirely, when at a fourth essay of the comb, I was forcibly carried off, and fell upon the bosom of my tormentor. Full of rage at this treatment, I bit her with all the force I was able to exert, at the hazard even of being instantly punished with death. My landlady felt the wound, and began to scratch the part with great violence.

This motion threw me off her bosom upon a bundle of linen, which Margot had just ironed, and was going to carry to one of her customers. I penetrated into the plaits of a shift sleeve which belonged to a lady, well known throughout all Europe for the singularity of her adventures; to her

her house I was conducted two hours afterwards, and before dinner I seated myself upon the neck of this new adventurer.

C H A P. VI.

He has the good fortune to escape from the house of Margot, and takes up his abode with Mademoiselle d' Eon, formerly knight of Saint Louis, and captain of dragoons.

NEVER before had I beheld a woman whose manners were so absurd, so masculine, and unsuitable to her sex; always in motion, full of grimace, awkward in the habit, and impatient of the conversation of women; such was the person who gave me an asylum. I lived fifteen days in this habitation alone; but this solitude at first was not irksome to me, I found there an excellent table, and in great abundance, for my mistress never failed to supply it daily with provisions, which she was not solicitous to remove; she considered the time spent at the toilette as lost, and therefore shortened it as much as possible; and on this point I agreed that she reasoned well, and drew more advantage from it than she did.

I may add likewise (and this is to her honour) that by the refined and spirituous perspiration of this heroic lady, as well as by the common nourishment with which she supplied me, I received peculiar strength and vigour, and became superior to all the beings of my species. She also instructed me a little in the English language, which she appeared

peared to understand as well as her own, having lived a long time in London; and although now at Versailles, she continually associated with the English and Americans. It is to her that I am obliged for an acquaintance which has been very useful to me, particularly with regard to events which have lately happened to me, and which I shall relate in the sequel of this history.

It may, perhaps, be enquired, how I was capable of learning a foreign language, especially as my landlady being ignorant even of my existence, and which, if she had known, she would not have failed to put an end to, could not have any conversation with me.

My answer is, first, that my union with the human being that sustained me, makes me a part of the person by whom I subsist.

Secondly, that by the situation of my abode so near the brain, the spirits, which continually issuing from it, form an elementary atmosphere about me, necessarily convey to me all the thoughts which find their way into the head that entertains me.

Thirdly, there is no idea can be formed in the mind, but by the combination of certain words, without which it could not be conceived. This is true beyond all dispute. Men often talk to themselves; and where no voice is uttered, there is still a secret explanation by words; the tongue plays unheeded, and almost involuntarily.

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From these principles, founded on facts, it is easy to infer, that knowing the thoughts which my heroine conceived in French, and expressed in English, I necessarily knew what she was saying in a new language; and that from the answers which she made, I knew what questions had been asked, though they were asked in English. Thus, by a simple and easy grammar of my own, I mastered that noble language, and had a complete knowledge of all that passed.

To these observations I may add, that having been, as I have already said, fifteen days upon the head of my mistress of languages, and having nothing to draw off my attention from my studies, as I was alone, and delivered up to my own reflections, I necessarily made a greater progress in them than if I had been surrounded with my wives, my children, and my fellow-citizens; nor had I any apprehensions for the safety of my life, which no one sought to deprive me of; therefore, my mind was perfectly at ease, and continually busied in taking in instructions.

C H A P. VII.

By means of his mistress he becomes acquainted with persons who mortify his vanity and lessen his self-importance.

IN the preceding chapter I observed, that by the nourishment I drew from my heroine, I was become stronger and more courageous than all the beings of my kind. It is certain that I imagined

gined myself to be bolder and more enterprising than I had ever been before; but as my merit could not be greater than that of my mistress, who communicated it to me, I found before our separation sufficient cause for an abatement of my vanity. The evening before I quitted her, a Frenchman, who appeared to be a man of good understanding, reproached her between themselves with having received large sums of money for betraying the secrets of her country to its most inveterate enemies: secrets which had been confided to her in quality of secretary to the duke of Nevers, when he was ambassador from France to the court of London: that she had likewise acted the same treacherous part after the duke's departure, when she was appointed resident at the same court. He likewise observed to her, that in her conduct she had not observed the decorum suitable to the employments with which she had been honoured: that she had played at an open tennis court in London; that she had fenced with negroes and the vilest and most abject of the populace of that capital; that she had frequented bagnios and other infamous places, where, when any tumult happened, she used to hide herself under the beds: that she prostituted herself to mean and contemptible fellows; and that a Frenchman, who pretended to be a man of quality, a pensioner of the court of France, had in all the coffee-houses, and at other public places in London, loaded her with abuse, saying, that notwithstanding she appeared in the habit of a man, and wore the cross of St. Louis, she was a woman, and an infamous one, with whom he had had an amour, and that for her insolence he would give her a whipping in the

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open street, if she did not mend her manners, &c. &c.

My swaggering lady made but little reply to these severe reproaches. She did not attempt to deny these facts which appeared to be incontestible, but contented herself with alledging, that when abandoned by her own prince, there was no guilt in offering her services to another; that she chose to live in London at the expence of the English, rather than to languish out her life in the Bastile; that if she had concealed herself in the bagnios, it was to avoid the inconvenience of being carried before a justice of the peace; that as for the fine chevalier whom he had mentioned, he was a base fellow; who, to use his own words, was justly disgraced by his country, and considered by the English as an impudent impostor, a despicable scribbler, and a vile adventurer; and consequently no credit ought to be given to his reports and impostures.

Such was the manner in which my landlady answered the imputations thrown upon her. I cannot take upon me to judge of the solidity of her defence; but it is certain that her countryman's reproaches made a greater impression upon me than her justification; and from that time my esteem for my heroine lessened, and consequently my own importance was considerably abated.

C H A P.

C H A P. VIII.

He goes to dine at the house of his excellency Benjamin Franklin. This minister described. What passed at his table.

THE day after I had been acquainted with all these fine anecdotes, my landlady was invited to dine at Paris, with a man of great note, who came from a distant part of the world, and was a minister plenipotentiary from a considerable people, who had lately raised the standard of rebellion against their mother country. I was rejoiced at this opportunity of seeing so extraordinary a person, whom I had often heard of, and was desirous of knowing more particularly.

We arrived at his excellency's house about two o'clock, but I was not able to distinguish him till the end of the repast, so much time was necessarily taken up in emerging from my retreat. However at last I effected it, and in order the better to observe him, I fastened upon a flower which adorned my mistress's hair. By good fortune I found myself placed directly opposite to monsieur ambassador, and here I must acknowledge that I was not able to forbear laughing heartily when I contemplated the grotesque figure of this original, who with a vulgar person and mean appearance, affected the air and gestures of a fop. A sun-burnt complexion, a wrinkled forehead, warts in many

places, which might be said to be as graceful in him as the moles that distinguished the sweet face of the Countess of Barry. With these he had the advantage of a double chin, to which was added a great bulk of nose, and teeth which might have been taken for cloves had they not been set fast in a thick jaw. This, or something very like this, is the true picture of his excellency. As for his eyes I could not distinguish them, because of the situation I was in; and besides a large pair of spectacles hid two-thirds of his face.

I observed that the company was very merry; they laughed much, and threw out many sarcasms against messieurs the English. I counted only thirteen healths that were drank; and among them heard with pleasure those of the king of France and the queen my former mistress, her whom I have always loved more than any other, and whom I shall remember as long as I live.

These thirteen healths being drank in quick succession, increased the liveliness of the guests. My heroine left her seat to place herself close to the master of the house, to whom she sung some verses of her own composing, which I should not have thought excellent but for that circumstance; however they were greatly applauded. I plainly observed his excellency express his gratitude to his Apollo by an ardent kiss, but without quitting his spectacles; at the same time he whispered in her ear, *Shall it be this evening, my goddess?*

From these few words I guessed a little *teté à teté* was going forward; it was what I wished for,
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as I should have been of the party, and the thoughts of it diverted me greatly. I had been a witness to many assignations of this kind; and I imagined this of his excellency and the female chevalier would be curious; but I was cruelly disappointed, and the day after this feast had like to have been the last of my life.

C H A P. IX.

*The Louse loses his mistress. New misfortunes.
A universal deluge. His reflections upon the
soul of a Louse. He gets a new master.*

MY landlady after dinner finding herself a little disordered, for she had drank about four bottles of wine, whereas her usual quantity was but two, withdrew to a window to refresh herself with the air, and by a motion, a little too violent, proved the occasion of a new misfortune to me. It must be remembered, that I was still seated on the flower which helped to compose the ornaments of my mistress's head, and that I had not had time to get back to my former retreat; by this unforeseen motion I fell upon a stone bench at the ambassador's gate. The fall was violent, and stunned me for a moment. When my senses returned, I found myself in greater perplexity than ever. I cast my eyes on all sides, expecting that some person would come and sit down upon the bench where I was, and by that means afford me an asylum; but this so much desired good fortune did not happen: on the contrary, about an hour afterwards

wards I was exposed to a calamity that plunged me into despair. To what vicissitudes are we not doomed in this life ! what evils do we not suffer ! Two instances of this truth I shall give in this and the following chapter. I still tremble when I think of them.

Oh that most abominable shower of rain !—it was a new deluge. A stormy ocean filled the streets, and the torrents which poured down from the roofs of the houses presented to my eyes the most terrifying spectacle. To add to my misfortunes, a gutter of an enormous size was directly over my head, and the vast sheets of water which descended from it, brought me to the last extremity. I was obliged to couch down into a hole in the bench, made probably by some children to put cherry stones in. To me this was a vast abyss, in which I was continually tossed by the violence of the waves. Sometimes I found myself mounted up to the top of this gulph, sometimes I was plunged again into its fathomless bosom ; at length I lost my senses entirely, and fell back, as it were, into my original nothing. I suffered no longer ; I saw, I felt no more.

I cannot tell how long I continued in this state of insensibility ; but the sun afterwards breaking out with increased power, dispersed the waters which probably had covered the whole surface of the globe. The abyss where I lay was dried up, and the vivifying warmth of the great preserver of nature roused my benumbed senses ; I awoke at length from the deep lethargy that had seized me : to me this was a new existence ; the only dif-

ference I could perceive was, that I was stronger and more plump than at the moment of my birth, and that I can still remember very distinctly all the events that happened to me.

But in this universal suspension of my senses, and of all my faculties, where then was my soul, that celestial substance, without which my body would be but a mass of insensible matter, such as the stone I fell upon? was it so inherent in my body that it was necessarily involved in its dissolution? how came it to feel no longer, to have the power of thought no longer? what was it at that time? where was it? Men, whom I have often heard discourse upon this subject, maintain that the soul is a spiritual substance distinct from the body, and incapable of death: if it be as they say, and if the proof of its really existing is drawn from the faculty of thinking, it would follow, that although my body was, as it were, annihilated, my soul would in that moment have still possessed its powers of thought and reason, and have existed independent of any other substance. All these ideas, which at that time entered my head, incline me to believe, that the soul is only a chimera; that it consists only in the organization of the body, and that when this organization is once put out of order, the whole is dissipated, and falls back into its original nothing.

I know that the unwarrantable vanity and arrogance of men have led them to suppose, that all other beings, whom they denominate beasts, have no souls, and that to them alone the honour and privilege of having them belong. In order to explain

explain and account for our actions, they are willing to grant us a faculty which they call *instinct*; but what is this instinct, and how can they prove any difference between this faculty and what they are pleased to call the soul? This has never been defined yet, and I believe never will be. This I am sure of, that we, Lice, reason sometimes as well as they do; and I may also add, that for my own part, I would not exchange my instinct for the soul of the greatest part of them. My fellow beings will pardon this dissertation, which turns out so much in their favour. Let us now resume the history of my adventures.

When I was recovered from my terrible lethargy, I passed about eight hours endeavouring to recruit my strength exhausted by my late fatigue and suffering; at length hunger seized me, a terrible malady when one has not wherewithal to cure it. But where was I to find the kind physician for this malady? I saw a crowd of persons continually passing and repassing, but not one stopped. Such was my uncomfortable situation during a whole night, and part of the next day. The rage of hunger which consumed me increased every moment; and after having escaped drowning by a deluge, such as never existed in the memory of a Louse, I was upon the point of perishing by hunger, when at length my good fortune sent me two jolly youths, who came and seated themselves on each side of me. The question now was, to which of these two I should attach myself? Like the ass between two bundles of hay I hesitated some minutes; at length I determined for him that was on the right of me.

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This was, perhaps, the worst choice, and it might have proved fatal to me; but having no knowledge of either, I could not tell which deserved the preference.

C H A P. X.

He meets again some of his children. His philosophical reflections upon death. He is upon the point of being burnt alive. He escapes this new danger, and settles upon the famous Caron de Beau Marchais.

HE who was now become my landlord, appeared to have a forest well provided with necessaries, which was a delightful sight. It was with great difficulty that I scrambled up to my patron's head; but at length I succeeded, and was happy for the present. He afforded me a plentiful table; and the first thing I did was to regale myself. It is certain that I had much need of such a repast, and had this ardently desired and long looked-for succour arrived two minutes later, I must have perished.

After I had fully satisfied my hunger, I walked some paces into the wood, and to my great joy not only found many of my brethren, but also three of my children, who were born to me on the head of the favourite clerk to the first president, and whom I had never seen since.

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My poor children had experienced many troubles and misfortunes: their adventures, which they related to me, and which I shall not repeat here, that I may confine my narration to what concerns me personally, made me shed many a bitter tear, while at the same time I enjoyed the heart-felt satisfaction of this unexpected meeting, and pressed them with transport to my bosom. He who is a father can only know the different sensations with which I was affected on this occasion. "Alas! my poor children (said I to them) we were born but to die; a year is the utmost extent of our existence in this world: what is this time compared with eternity? if our soul dies with us, all our miseries are at an end; if it survives us, it will, perhaps, animate the bodies of some more fortunate beings: besides, death in itself is nothing; a glance of the eye is not more rapid in its course."

Let us leave to the abject mind of men the fear of death. Death while we are is not, and when it is we are nothing.

"As for us, my dear friends (added I) let us forget the past; let us look upon it as a dream; the future is unknown, the present only is ours: let us enjoy it then while we possess it, and let us banish anxiety, which only serves to make us wretched."

In this manner did I endeavour to comfort my children in the new asylum I had attained. I flattered myself that my happiness would have some duration, but fortune ordered it otherwise.

My landlord was a worthless wretch, from whom indeed I found a hospitable reception, but who designed me for a punishment far more dreadful than that which I had so lately experienced; happily for me, another mischievous design entered his head, in which I was not however at all considered, which preserved my escape from this terrible catastrophe. Monsieur la Fleur (for that was his name) had the honour to be a valet de chambre; he was a lively well made young fellow, about six feet high. I have observed that an advantageous stature never fails to draw upon a domestic some favourable notice; and the stature of Monsieur la Fleur had procured him the post of first groom of the chamber, to a kind of sub-minister of state for dirty work, who by his hypocrisy, his intrigues, and his wit, was become a famous personage, and played a considerable part in the world.

Monsieur la Fleur was not very well satisfied with his master; for I heard him, when he returned to his cock-loft, murmur loudly against him, and made use of terms not very respectful, nor of a piece with the modesty he affected before him.

“ The saucy fellow (said he) puts on a haughty behaviour to me that does not become him. He knows I am his kinsman: I live with him, it is true; but I am not indebted to his charity for receiving me into his house: I could have had better places than his if I had chosen to take them, therefore he ought to have some consideration for me. The impudent fellow forbids me to bear the name of Caron, as if I should disgrace it.

It is more likely that I should blush for him, than he for me : a locksmith, I believe, is a more honourable trade than a clockmaker ; and, without a boast, my father was an excellent workman. My sister, though a cook, is in the right not to come near him. She says, she has never *been censured by a decree of parliament*, and that she has always preserved her honour : by-the-bye she does well to say so, she will be readily believed. As for me, I have a great mind to leave this fine master in the lurch, and superintend the affairs of Mademoiselle Fantan. A spark of my figure may hope to pass his time very agreeably in the service of an opera girl. Hark ! does not my animal ring ? he has continually some employment to give me.— Well, he may wait, I shall be in no hurry to attend him ; by his good will one should not have time to comb one's hair. Aye, ring, ring still, I care not ; for half a farthing I would send him to the devil."

Monfieur la Fleur was in this part of his soliloquy, when another valet came to the cock-loft. " My master wants you (said he) ; he is in haste, and is very angry ; go quickly, I beseech you." " What do I care for his anger ? (replied my patron). What ! cannot I have a moment to myself ? What does he want ? I will go down and give it him handsomely."

Down he went with an insolent air. " Do you want me, Sir ?" " I have been ringing for you this hour, where have you been ?" " You have not rung above four minutes ; I was going to clean myself, and I thought I should have had time

time enough for that, as you said you would not have your hair dressed till two o'clock." "No, I will be dressed this moment."

In consequence of this resolution, the valet prepared to perform his office. Already had he tied on the combing cloth, already had he put the comb to his hair, when the master said, "I have changed my mind, I will not dress till two o'clock."

Monsieur la Fleur returned to his apartment, and there renewed his panegyric upon his kinsman. How many absurdities did he record of him! how was I amused in hearing them! but while he was thus raving and cursing, a thought started into his head, with which I had no reason to be pleased.

"One gains nothing but lice with this fellow, (said he); I believe my head is full of them, I am continually scratching it; I must comb it thoroughly."

These dreadful words froze all the blood in my veins. "My last moment is come (said I to myself). Oh my children, have I found you again only to see you perish with me! To what a horrid fate are we doomed!" Accordingly a chafing dish, which our executioner had heaped with charcoal, stood ready to receive us into its burning gulph.

The wretch now began his dreadful purpose: already above three-fourths of my fellow citizens, and two of my children, were seized by the barbarian, and cast, without mercy, into the furnace;
every

every crack that denounced the death of one or other of them, was a poignard that pierced my heart, and I suffered a thousand deaths in one. I was so distracted with fear and horror, that I no longer sought to avoid the danger; I was taken, like my comrades, by the dreadful instrument contrived for our destruction. Already I was placed upon a sheet of paper, with eight other wretches, and we saw the instant approach when we were to be burnt alive, when Monsieur la Fleur was struck with a thought that saved us. "*Parbleu!* (said he to himself); Monsieur fool (for so he called his master) it is fit I should inform you what gains we make in your service. I am resolved to give you a cast of my office; these little gentlemen (speaking of us) shall subsist at your expence. Yes, I will decorate the head of the famous author of the *Barber of Seville*. What a sight, when you are with your marchionesses and your duchesses, to see you scratch your head like a lousy wretch as you shall be! How many compliments will be paid you upon your new acquisition, and what obligations will you not owe to me who bestowed them on you!"

Such was the project of this prince of valets, a project which banished my terrors, and diffused a salutary balm throughout my veins. One circumstance indeed gave me some concern, and that was the contempt this valet expressed for us; but at the moment when he restored us to life and security, this ought not to have affected me.

Monsieur

Monsieur la Fleur now continued more eagerly than before to extirpate from his head the wretches that remained there. He collected us carefully together, solicitous even to prevent doing us the least hurt; and that we might fall to the repast he designed for us with keener appetites, he drew from us all the aliments that we brought with us, and enclosed us in a piece of paper, which he tied up close and put in his pocket. Here we remained a full hour, and I indulged the hope of enjoying a state of greater happiness and dignity; for I always had lofty and aspiring sentiments, and never chose to inhabit the head of a domestic, if I could attain to that of his master. With persons of rank we are sure of a better table; and besides, with them we learn anecdotes and adventures more interesting than when we are with inferior persons.

C H A P. XI.

The petty minister of state. His eulogium on himself. His great exploits. He governs France. His four secretaries. His almoner. He goes to the opera, takes pains to make himself admired there, and concludes his day at the house of Madam Gourdan.

MONSIEUR la Fleur was in the right when he said our petty minister was insolent, and a blockhead; he might have said the greatest blockhead, and the most insolent fellow in France. I never met with his equal, although I have had
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opportunities of knowing the world pretty well. I can speak with certainty as to these qualities of his ; for I took up my station exactly on the middle part of his head, the very point where all the ideas formed in it united, and nothing ever afforded more diversion than this situation. I never stirred from my post during the whole time I remained in this habitation. I left my comrades to settle where they chose ; they married ; they had children ; as for me, who was better employed, I took in instruction, I reflected, I philosophised.

My self-important beau dined alone the first day of my abode with him. After his repast he sunk down on a large easy chair, resting his feet upon a velvet cushion, and with great complaisance reflected upon the high point of elevation to which he had attained, by his merit only, as he gravely asserted. Here follows nearly a recapitulation of the observations he made upon himself.

“ There is no doubt but I shall be more celebrated, and deserve to be so than the most powerful ministers of state, and even than many monarchs, whose high reputation was often but the consequence of their illustrious birth, or a happy chance which gave them successful generals and wise statesmen ; but I owe my fortune and my fame to my own intrinsic merit and my vast genius. The history of my life must needs be curious and interesting in the highest degree, but it will require a writer equal to the subject, and where is such a writer to be found ? My original of the lowest (which however I never own) how many obstacles, how many difficulties, had I

to

to overcome before I could raise myself to that point of elevation I have now attained. One whole body of the magistracy sought my destruction; that body I have crushed to nothing: my sarcasms, and the striking sallies of my wit, procured me first the affection of the princes of the blood, and afterwards the admiration and respect of the public, *astonished and delighted at possessing me*. There existed but one Voltaire; this deity is no more, and his place is now given to me. It is allowed that I am at present one of the greatest genius's in Europe. I govern an old countess; and have such an irresistible influence over her, that I make her do whatever I please. *This old woman leads her still older husband by the nose*. This good old man, though he has not the title of first minister in France, yet possesses all the power, and singly exercises the whole authority of his king; thus am I in a manner *sovereign of the kingdom*. It was I who fomented the American rebellion; it was I who contrived the war with England; and I hope and expect that at the close of it my fame, and the glory and happiness of my nation, will be carried to the greatest height. I have just now forced the emperor to accept of the propositions of peace that I imposed on him, threatening to join the king of Prussia, if he refused them. I have caused the department of the marine to be given to Sartine, that of the finances to Necker, to Amelot that of Paris. I am respected and esteemed by the learned, adored by the people, and feared by the grandees: I have the disposal of all the *lettres de cachet*. Woe be to those who provoke me; I will

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crush

crush them in an instant, and force my enemies to be silent, and to fear me."

He now rung his bell, and enquired of his porter, what invitations had been sent him; the list was presented. "Let us see (said he) if any thing here will suit me."

The duke de Chartres——for this evening——

"The duchess will be of the party. I must be grave and talk wisely, and I am for gaiety to-day. I will not go there."

The prince of Conti——expects me in his box when the play is over——

"He may expect me long enough."

The little Fannier——

"Always with her *Dorat*. They are two fingers of the same hand. They are inseparable. I will not interrupt their happiness."

The Spanish ambassador——

"There is no amusement to be met with at his house, I must talk of business with him. He presses for the manifesto. I will send him word, that it shall be finished to-morrow, and that he may come to my house on Tuesday at ten o'clock."

The countess Climacteric——

“ No, my charmer, not to-day ; but to-morrow morning I will be at your toilette.”

Amelot——

“ Is he to have girls this evening ? that will do : I will go there and know.”

The countess of Gourdan——

“ Ah hah ! Let us see——strangers——two of them——fifteen years of age——rose buds——just unfolding——here I fix.”

Where is my first secretary ?

“ Sir, he is not yet come back from Monsieur de Sartine.”

That is well ; where is the second ?

“ He has been closetted these two hours with his excellency Monsieur de Franklin.”

And the third ?

“ He is just gone out, and left word he was going with instructions from you to the minister for war.”

The fourth, where is he ?

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“ He

" He receives a great deal of company to-day,
" and gives a ball in the evening, so that he can-
" not be seen yet."

Well, somebody must come immediately; call my almoner.

The abbé made his appearance. " Friend," said my master to him, " here are a great many letters; read them, and answer them this evening. You must assist my clerks, who are all employed, and I shall take it kindly of you, for I have many affairs at present on my hands, so that I cannot attend to those trifles. Send the answers away immediately as you finish them: I am going now to pay my respects to the queen."

" But, Sir," said the almoner, " what am I to write?"

" You must make apologies for my not being able to accept these invitations; that is all."

" And how are they to be signed if you go out?"

" Here, abbé, take my stamp*, make use of it; but take care you do not abuse this confidence."

* A stamp is a signature to impress. In all the offices they have one with the King's name for signing *lettres de cachet*, which he has not the least knowledge of. The ministers have their stamps, to avoid the trouble of signing their names. It is not surprising that so great a personage as Beau Marchais should have his also.

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The little great man having thus given his orders, dressed himself immediately, put a diamond on his finger of a hundred thousand livres value, which had been given him by the empress queen of Hungary, threw himself into a superb carriage, and away we drove to the opera-house. Her majesty, my former august mistress, entered the house the same instant that we did, and was received with loud and general acclamations. Oh! how willingly would I have clapped my hands also, to shew my respect and attachment, but my situation made it impossible, being closely entangled among five or six hairs.

My patron went twice round the boxes; he knew, and was known by all the world: he was intimately acquainted with every lady; he whispered one, he kissed his hand to another: this lady he addressed with a soft respectful air; to that he only nodded his head, with *how do you do, my charmer?*

He afterwards placed himself in the balcony, often standing up, or leaning over it, taking snuff to display his magnificent brilliant; and it was not his fault, if the whole audience had not an opportunity of seeing and admiring him.

When the opera was ended, he took his station upon the staircase, to give those that passed a nearer view of him: all the company had something to say to him; every lady would have had him go home with her to supper. But he could not be in a hundred places at once; he refused, therefore, with an air of modesty and concern, which he well knew

knew how to affect : his coach drew up, he sprung into it with exquisite grace, and we were carried to the hotel of the countess Gourdan.

Our debauchee was received there with wonderful respect and extreme caution ; he was conducted to an elegant apartment, where the two roses that had been announced to him were immediately introduced. *Come near, my charmers, said he to them ; you seem to be afraid of me ; do not be uneasy, I desire to be your friend.*

They were, indeed, two charming creatures ; I wandered a little from my retreat to take a nearer view of them, and my curiosity was agreeably satisfied. Nothing could equal the bloom of their complexion ; a lovely brown the one, the other of a dazzling fairness ; the neck, arms, hands, and feet of each were formed with the most exact symmetry.

Had my patron been an ecclesiastic, he would not have failed to have tasted of both these forbidden fruits that were offered to him ; but being only a layman, impudent as he was, he contented himself with one ; and after a tête à tête of two hours, he quitted his goddesses, and returned to his hotel, where we retired to rest ; and at an early hour for him, for it was scarce midnight.

C H A P.

C H A P. XII.

Dialogue between our little minister of state and Dr. Benjamin Franklin, relating to the designs of France against England. The Louse is driven from his habitation, and finds himself in a condition more elevated, but less comfortable.

THE next morning, before we were risen, Dr. Benjamin Franklin was announced, which obliged us to leave our bed immediately; where we had begun to entertain ourselves with new reflections. These two important personages had a very interesting conference together; it was as follows:

DR. FRANKLIN.

It is absolutely necessary, my dear friend, that we should take more effectual measures, for hitherto we have done nothing; mean time the English get sailors, build ships, encrease their forces, and we are threatened with utter destruction, unless France resolves to give us the most powerful assistance.

BEAU MARCHAIS.

I have faithfully performed all that I have promised you: and first, you have the count d'Estaing's fleet in America, by which that of admiral Byron is blocked up.

DR.

DR. FRANKLIN.

How can you make that out ? it is Byron that blocks up D'Estaign.

BEAU MARCHAIS.

How little do you understand of politics !—— Know what I have just told you is a certain fact ; and before the end of the year you will find it to be so by the consequences.

DR. FRANKLIN.

Heaven grant I may !

BEAU MARCHAIS.

In the second place I promised you that a new fleet should cruise in your seas ; that we would threaten the English with a descent upon their coasts : this will alarm them ; their fleet, under the command of Hardy, will not dare to venture far. This is all you can desire.

DR. FRANKLIN.

A fine beginning truly ! and what will this lead to ?

BEAU MARCHAIS.

To maintain you in your own country : it will prevent the English from sending reinforcements to America ; it will put you in a condition to reduce them by famine, and to treat them as you have already treated Burgoyne.

DR.

DR. FRANKLIN.

Heaven grant it ! but, in my opinion, we should do better if, instead of a descent upon Ireland, we should send the troops now ready to embark to Boston, and with such a reinforcement we might drive the English out of our country for ever.

BEAU MARCHEAIS.

Well, we will think about it, provided you are reasonable, and that the Congress grants us what Sartine and I have so long been demanding.

DR. FRANKLIN.

I have engaged my word for it; this ought to satisfy you.

BEAU MARCHEAIS.

In the third place, I promised you I would oblige the king of Spain to declare open war against Great Britain; and you see I have kept my word: can you desire any thing more?

DR. FRANKLIN.

But we agreed that count d'Orvillier's fleet should not join a division of the Spanish fleet, for that would do us more harm than good.

BEAU MARCHEAIS.

My dear friend, you are very short-sighted; it is easy to discover that you do not see an inch beyond your nose: I will talk to you no more on

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this subject; but pray tell me how do you like the king of France's justification of himself to all Europe?

DR. FRANKLIN.

I acknowledge that a bad cause cannot be better defended; but, in my opinion, it would have been wiser to have let it alone, because it will oblige the English to answer, and they have so much to say.

BEAU MARCHAIS.

Aye, but not with so much wit and elegance.

DR. FRANKLIN.

I think your head seems to itch very much; have you been electrified?

BEAU MARCHAIS.

I amused myself a little yesterday evening in that way, and I have been indisposed all night.

DR. FRANKLIN.

We must take care of that; you know I understand something of those matters; I could shew you some curious things.

BEAU MARCHAIS.

If you have an inclination, I will shew you this evening some things still more curious.

Dr.

DR. FRANKLIN.

With all my heart. Where? and at what hour?

BEAU MARCHAIS.

I will call, and take you up at eight o'clock.

Hereupon they parted; and my benefactor, uneasy with the biting of my comrades, who fed freely on his head, hastily put his hand to the place, and was in the utmost astonishment at finding one of our species there. *Oh heaven (cried he) am I visited by this plague! doubtless the buzzy I was with last night has made me this present.*

Immediately he called his valet, and ordered him to comb his hair; he did so, and we were all made prisoners of war. As we were obstinate, and kept our post to the last extremity, they observed not the law of nations with us; and as fast as they secured any of us, we were plunged into a basin of water. I had no hope of escaping: I struggled, it is true, with the waves, but it was mechanically; and I saw my last moment draw near, when Monsieur la Fleur thought fit to empty the basin into a certain convenience of the English fashion, which stood near the great man's toilette closet. Here my fellow citizens were engulfed for ever; but by an un hoped-for piece of good fortune, I fell upon the edge of the precipice; and as no one perceived me, hope revived in my heart. The point now was to know if any charitable body would come and preserve me. I was likely to owe this good turn to one of the menial

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race, whom I always despised, but I was more fortunate. A real minister of state, who, however, owed his promotion to our little great man, held out his benevolent hand to me about an hour after my escape.

C H A P. XIII.

Scheme of the minister for the marine for sharing Great-Britain between France, Spain, and the Congress. Dialogue between a commissary of the navy and his friend, concerning the present state of the French marine, and the abuses that prevail in it.

MY deliverer had had a scheme in his head for the last two days, which he could not bring to perfection without the approbation of the count de Maurepas; but above all, it was necessary that my late master should relish it, and induce the countess Climacteric to relish it likewise; and this brought him so early to our house.

I could not comprehend exactly the political views of this vast genius, for the conversation passed while I was in the closet; and when I had clambered up to the most elevated part of my new master, I was astonished to perceive that the forest, which so beautifully adorned his sublime head, was not its native growth, not a single tree had its root there: they were rather grey than fair, and absolutely sapless; in a word, it was (to use a technical word of the barbers) frized as much as possible, and powdered quite white, so that it presented
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a most extraordinary and fantastic spectacle to the eye; it was of the same kind with those which in Paris are called *perukes à la Sartine*. The space between this wig and my new master's head prevented me from knowing distinctly all that passed in his mind: I only comprehended, in general, that a scheme was formed there for *a partition treaty between the kings of France and Spain and the American Congress*; by which, after they had possessed themselves of the whole territory of Great-Britain, to the end that this power, so formidable by sea, should be totally annihilated, it was to be divided into three parts; the king of France was to have England, properly so called; Spain was to have Ireland; and messieurs of the Congress were to be put in possession of Scotland. I found also, that monsieur Beau Marchais was to be appointed *governor of the city of London for the king*; because he was well acquainted with that city, where he had many friends; and besides, it was necessary to promise him a reward proportioned to his zeal, and the importance of the enterprize. The little great man seemed to be charmed with a scheme so noble, and likely to be so advantageous both to his country and to himself. "But," said he jestingly, "when I am possessed of this dignity, where shall I find a fit place of residence in London? the palace of George the Third is too mean for the dignity of the governor for the king of France?"

"We will consider of that," replied Mr. Brazenface, "all in good time."

By speaking thus contemptuously of my deliverer, I may possibly be charged with ingratitude;
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but if it be considered, that when he preserved my life, he was so far from designing me a benefit, that he did not even know of my existence: it will be granted that I had no obligation to him; and being naturally frank and sincere, I cannot disguise my sentiments. This apology may serve in many other cases that will occur in the recital of my future adventures,

Our two statesmen, after diverting themselves some time longer with this thought, separated: my patron got into his carriage, where an accident happened to him, which obliged him to quit it immediately. Attempting to raise the cushion on which he sat, a sudden jolt of the coach disordered his peruke so much, that he was obliged to return to his hotel, where he put on another, and left me upon that which he had thrown off.

But what a situation was I now in! a domestic belonging to the chamber put the deserted peruke upon a wooden head, a thing I never saw before, and which I wondered at greatly; for it was a mere machine, without any power of thought, and was motionless. I knew not the use of this wooden resemblance of the human figure, when an old commissary for naval affairs, who had been in the service above thirty years, looking attentively on it, I heard him say to one of his friends, “Do you see that block? if it had a body of the same materials, and was drest in the cloaths of the master of that peruke, it would look as well, and reason as profoundly upon the business of the marine as he does.”

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His friend desired him to explain what he meant by such a comparison, and to tell him what errors he had observed in this essential part of the government.

It not being yet the hour for an audience of the minister, the commissary agreed to give his friend this satisfaction. They placed themselves close by me; and supposing they were alone, spoke their sentiments very freely, ignorant that they had a Louise so near them, who could understand and remember every thing they said.

Dialogue between an old commissary for naval affairs and his friend.

COMMISSARY.

Are you acquainted with the regulations of the navy made by the great Colbert?

FRIEND.

Not being in that department, I can only tell you that I have heard persons of great knowledge and judgment in those matters call it a masterpiece; and added, that it might serve as a model for all the maritime powers in Europe.

COMMISSARY.

You are in the right to call it a master-piece: I will give you the sum of these regulations. Lewis XIV. being in the year 1689 obliged to maintain several formidable armies for the land service, was desirous also of restoring or rather of creating a marine in France; but in order to provide for the enormous

mous expences which this establishment would necessarily require, the most exact, and uniform oeconomy was absolutely necessary; consummate knowledge and unwearied industry in the persons to whom such an arduous task was committed, were qualities indispensable for it; but where were such persons to be found? not among the nobleſſe, who are deſtined for the ſplendid occupations of war and command; nor among the officers of the navy, who being obliged to be at a diſtance from the ports and arſenals, could not give themſelves up to affairs which required cool and unremitted attention, ſuch as all particulars neceſſary to the conſtruction and equipment of ſhips; it was therefore ſettled that a ſtanding body of men ſhould have the internal management.

FRIEND:

Is it not of this body of the adminiſtration you are ſpeaking?

COMMISSARY.

It is. But upon its firſt eſtabliſhment they were called men of the *pen*, in oppoſition to that of the *ſword*. In order to be admitted into this body much knowledge, great talents, and patient affiduity in labour were neceſſary: as the buſineſs to be tranſacted in it was of vaſt extent and infinite variety, it required alſo a great number of perſons to perform its different functions; and the funds for the navy not being ſufficient to pay this vaſt body of men in proportion to their ſervices, the mediocrity of their ſalaries were compensated by the honours and reſpect annexed to their employments. They were firſt of all exempted from
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all military authority; they excited an emulation among them, established degrees of eminence, and an heirarchy, of which this is the gradation. *Clerks, principal clerks, commissaries in ordinary, commissaries general, intendants and counsellors of state*, with the prospect of becoming the minister for naval department.

FRIEND.

An admirable regulation! and well calculated to rouse the spirit of ambition in those who compose that body called the men of the *pen*.

COMMISSARY.

This is not all; it was afterwards settled, that a person upon his first admission should be a pupil before he became a writer: thus a kind of school was formed, which every one must pass through before he entered into the body of the *pen*, the different ranks of which was from that time equal in number to that of the sword, and followed in the same order. The pupil had the rank of a *guard marine*, the clerk of an ensign, the principal clerk of a lieutenant, the commissary of a captain, the commissary general of a colonel, and the intendant of a lieutenant-general.

FRIEND.

But what were the positive functions of an officer of the *pen*?

COMMISSARY.

They were very considerable; and first they were to examine, to purchase, to receive, and put to use all
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the materials employed in the constructing, equipping, and arming the vessels: secondly, the admission, the instruction, the regulating, and the levying of sailors. When the vessel was armed and put to sea, the captain from that moment became absolute master on board; and the officer of the *pen* was no more than a steward for the king's property, and the faithful recorder of the errors or success of his majesty's representative, the captain.

FRIEND.

How long did this salutary equilibrium continue?

COMMISSARY.

It continued even to the reign of Lewis XVI. with a few alterations. For instance, it was the duke de Praslin who called the body of the *pen* the honestest part of the administration; and afterwards, in the ministry of Monsieur de Baynes, the cross of Saint Louis was conferred on several of my brethren as well as on myself.

FRIEND.

And who was it that introduced confusion into this admirable order?

COMMISSARY.

Alas! that is easy to guess; even the wearer of that peruke. This man, who set out in the world with the post of counsellor to the chatelets, for a salary of a hundred and twenty-five louis d'ors, had been raised to the rank of a lieutenant of Police, that is, third clerk to the mayor of Paris. It were to be wished that he had always continued in this post,

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which he filled very well, being a severe scourge to the rogues of this capital. Although he is originally of Spanish descent, he has none of the haughtiness and arrogance of that nation; on the contrary, he is mean and abject. While he was a lieutenant of Police, he enriched himself by all kinds of base and dishonest artifices, which he found it not difficult to conceal. Under different names, and without disbursing a single penny, he was associated with companies of traders, manufacturers, and contractors, for whom he procured privileges and exemptions; and by such dark and unwarrantable methods, he is become master of an estate of 200,000 livres a year; whereas before he became lieutenant of Police, he was not worth more than twelve hundred. Such is the personage, who without any knowledge but of the tricks and artifices of pick-pockets and robbers, and the method of procuring spies and informers, is become on a sudden first minister for naval affairs; one who has never seen a ship of war but in pictures and engravings. Being thus elevated to an employment of which he understands nothing, he is obliged to have recourse to his dependents, whose counsels he follows in all things. These Mentors directly forming the military power, have given their old Telemachus to understand, that he would have a greater reputation for wisdom and knowledge than all his predecessors, if he would openly overturn the principles, and destroy the system of the great Colbert, and form a new code for the marine.

FRIEND.

This is positively the picture drawn by Epeffet in the spirit of prophecy; *the patron stupid, the dependents*

pendents base. And how did he proceed in this noble enterprize?

COMMISSARY.

That is what I am going to tell you. These gentlemen began with procuring the suppression of the naval administration, and transferred the whole service from the *pen* to the *sword*, leaving, however, to some of the commissaries the registers and the naval dress; but their functions are confined to writing what is dictated to them by the officers, and to supplying funds for their demands; they are absolutely excluded from every employment at sea. Such is the result of the numberless ordinances published by the new minister for naval affairs, since the year 1776.

FRIEND.

I should be glad to know all the abuses and inconveniencies, which have been the consequences of this wise establishment.

COMMISSARY.

They are numberless, but the most considerable of them I will explain.

And first, by confiding to the military officers of the marine, the direction of the works relative to the constitution and equipment of ships, they are supposed to be better versed in the theory of these matters now, than they were in the reign of Louis XIV. but this is far from being the case; on the contrary, I maintain, that an extreme ignorance prevails among the military body, the necessary

ecessary consequence of the injudicious method, adopted in the reception and instruction of the youth destined for the naval service; for that regulation which forbids any person but of the order of the noblesse from being received as *guards de marine*, and that prejudice which places the sea service in an inferior degree to that of the land, the custom of destining to the former none but younger sons of great families, or gentlemen without fortune, forced to the necessity of entering at a very early age, in order to pass through the several ranks, is the cause that when these youths are sent to their stations in the different ports, they are so illiterate that they scarce know how to write or read; and are wholly destitute of that preliminary knowledge, which in others, better instructed, give method, order, and clearness, qualities indispensibly necessary in any labour which requires an effort of the understanding.

Secondly, the business of a sailor is so difficult in itself, and requires so constant a practice to attain to any excellence in it, that it must needs be extremely disadvantageous to connect it with any sedentary employment.

Thirdly, the minute details into which those who are charged with the administration of the navy are obliged to enter, must necessarily be subject to frequent interruptions, when these employments are filled by the officers of the navy.

Fourthly, we all know that a spirit of œconomy will never be exerted by those persons against whose encroachments that spirit is particularly directed. Therefore, in the new system, the military being no longer observed by the watchful eye of office, being accountable to none, and attentive only

only to the splendid exterior of their profession, and their own personal convenience, seeing themselves enabled to provide, without opposition, for all their occasions, will no longer be contented with what is necessary; superfluities will be added in excess; enervated by luxury, they will no longer be capable of the continual vigilance so necessary in a naval commander; and the first action they are engaged in at sea will be signalized by a defeat.

Fifthly, Will not majesty itself fall under public censure for the negligence, the waste, and the depredations which the administration is no longer impowered to restrain?

The commissary was proceeding, and I should have learned a great deal more, for he seemed to understand the subject well, when a servant came for the peruke which had afforded me an asylum; he put it in a box, but where he carried it I did not know till six hours afterwards, when I was restored to the light of day.

C H A P.

C H A P. XIV.

Changes his situation. A curious dialogue between Monsieur Benjamin le Frank and his neighbour concerning Doctor Franklin. The Doctor's adventures. Of his æconomy: of his electricity, and his elevation.

THE first object that met my eyes, was a large room on the ground floor, furnished in a manner I never saw before. Along the sides, and all around, stood a triple row of these false forests, such as that which at present afforded me a retreat, but in many different forms; some were round, others had bundles of trees tied together, which they called hammer, for being well prest and cemented, they were as stiff as iron. These last had an ornament behind of an immense length, the end of which was formed into a circle. It was asserted that these forests conferred wisdom and learning upon those who wore them, with a capacity of deciding upon the life and death of their fellow citizens; and were destined for the gentlemen of the faculty, furnishing them with sufficient skill to fathom all the secrets of nature, and to investigate the causes of all the diseases with which the human race is afflicted; but they were not however able to communicate the power of healing them.

The

The master of the house, when my forest was presented to him, put it on the handsomest wooden head in the shop, and by way of distinction placed it on a shelf. I saw a great many strangers come in and go out of this hall; some to have their branches, which were given to be the principal ornament of their heads, cut off close to the roots with an instrument of steel: others to have the trees of their forests improved by culture, and cut into a beautiful form. These gentlemen, by the simplicity of their dress, appeared not to be of the first order of financiers in Paris; neither could they be said to have drawn much advantage from a splendid education by the politeness of their manners, but they appeared to be contented; they were cheerful, and had a natural archness which diverted me.

One among them of deeper knowledge than the others, reasoned much upon the laws and customs of Paris, which he seemed to understand perfectly well. He had formerly been clerk to a notary, afterwards to a procurer, and by insensible degrees had risen to the honourable post of clerk to the secretary of a counsellor of the great chamber. I was pleased with his train of reasoning, which had a great resemblance to that of Mr. *Brazenface*, who governed an old woman, who governed an old man, who in his turn governed, &c.

Here follows the argument of our petty magistrate. The parliament of Paris represent the king: the great chamber of this parliament takes cognizance, and decides upon all affairs of importance, in which the honour and fortune of any Frenchman

man is concerned. The reporter of each law case can, by the manner he represents it, incline the balance to what side he pleases, either for or against the party.

The most popular reporter of the great chamber is the abbé P——r. He has too many affairs upon his hands to permit him to examine them all himself; he is contented therefore with the extracts made by his secretary; the secretary loaded with business likewise, leaves this task to me. I make extracts of the proceedings of the courts just as I please, and subjoin a note containing the judgment which in my opinion ought to pass. These extracts are delivered to the reporter, who reads, or is supposed to read, them to the parliament, and the decree is then made according to my direction; consequently I make the parliament do whatever I please; and thus, without any one suspecting it, I am in reality master of the honour, fortune, and sometimes the lives of my fellow citizens.

The conversation now took another turn; the war became the subject, and various opinions were given: they were still very seriously engaged, when a man, whose appearance, though mean, was decent, and who had for a quarter of an hour supported his part of the conversation sensibly enough, took a razor from one of the boys in the shop, shaved himself, combed his hair, powdered it very modestly, then sat down to continue a conversation in which he seemed to take great interest; it was as follows:

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Dialogue

Dialogue between Benjamin le Frank and his Neighbour.

NEIGHBOUR.

I suppose, Sir, it is from a principle of œconomy that you are so inattentive to your dress?

B. LE FRANK.

You think you are jesting now, but nothing is more certain. The master of this shop permits me to come here and dress twice a week, which costs me no more than a penny each time.

NEIGHBOUR.

I should imagine then that your income is not very large.

B. LE FRANK.

I have only nine pounds two shillings and six-pence a year, which makes six-pence a day exactly.

NEIGHBOUR.

How is it possible for you to support yourself upon such a trifle?

B. LE FRANK.

Extremely well: you would find it difficult to be contented with it, not having been accustomed to such a narrow revenue; and yet I am a richer man by one-third of this sum, than a person of
great

great merit, and superior genius, who is at present an ambassador to the court of France.

NEIGHBOUR.

You surprize me : pray, who is this person ?

B. LE FRANK.

The minister plenipotentiary from the American Congress.

NEIGHBOUR.

What ! the celebrated Dr. Benjamin Franklin !

B. LE FRANK.

The same : for a long time his income was no more than four-pence a day, and he was contented.

NEIGHBOUR.

I thought he had been a physician ; why does he take the title of doctor ?

B. LE FRANK.

By excelling in any possession a man may attain to the title of doctor. *Doctor* means truly learned ; and it is really surprizing that physicians should all bear this title, when there are so many blockheads of that profession.

NEIGHBOUR.

From what you have said, I think it is not surprizing that physicians should arrogate to themselves the qualities that give them a right to this title ;

title; but the wonder is, that any one will allow it: but enough of these gentlemen. Do you know Monsieur Franklin's real history; people here speak variously of him, but nothing certain is known.

B. LE FRANK.

I will tell you very willingly all I know of him. He was born at Boston, in New England; his parents were in low circumstances, and could not give him a very liberal education; his first employment was that of a workman to a printer. Behold him then in reality a *man of letters*; for you know, neighbour, that a printer is more than any other a *man of letters*, since if there were no printers we could not have any books. He gained near half a crown a day by his labour, and having access to the books in his master's shop, he lost no opportunity of instructing himself; his favourite study was physic, and his favourite author in that science the abbé Nollet, whose speculations in electricity were much in his taste, and to this kind of reading he devoted all his leisure. At the end of some years he took a fancy to go and settle in Philadelphia, which being a more considerable city than Boston, he hoped he should sooner find the means of making his fortune. Being still young when he arrived at Philadelphia, he soon spent all the money he had saved at Boston, and was obliged to engage with a printer there, with whom he lived four years. During this interval he contrived to amass the sum of sixty guineas; when growing weary of his trade, and having in his physical researches made an important discovery; namely, that for four-pence a day a man may
provide

provide himself with diet, lodging, and every other necessary. "Well," said he, "the money which I have laid by will carry me on a long time, as I can be contented with so small an income."—He then quitted his master, and lived privately, subsisting for many years upon four-pence a day.

NEIGHBOUR.

I cannot conceive how he did it; to me it seems impossible.

B. LE FRANK.

And yet nothing is more easy; it requires only resolution: his method was (for I have taken him for my pattern) to purchase for three-pence a quantity of potatoes, which served him for bread and meat both, and of which there was sufficient to subsist on a whole week. A baker roasted them for a half-penny; and he bought of a milk-woman daily a half-penny worth of milk; all this amounted to no more than seven pence a week; he gave a penny a day for his lodgings in a garret, because he liked neatness and convenience; otherwise he might have accommodated himself at a cheaper rate. He drank small beer mixed with water, and this cost him two-pence a week; the remainder he laid by for dress and pocket-money; for he employed nobody to wash for him, or to mend his linen and stockings.

Now let us calculate, and you will be convinced that it is not impossible to live upon this sum. Four-pence a day makes twenty-eight pence a week.

His

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|-------|-------|
| | | | | d. |
| His potatoes, the dressing of them, | } | | | |
| and his milk, cost him every | | | | 7 |
| week | | | | |
| His lodging | — | — | | 7 |
| And his beer | — | — | | 2 |
| | | | | <hr/> |
| | | | Total | 16 |

Thus, out of eight-and-twenty pence a week, there remained twelve to make a figure with.

NEIGHBOUR.

Your account is clearly made out; but I who gain half a crown a day find it difficult to subsist; how then could I make four-pence a day serve me?

B. LE FRANK.

Not unless you were like him, a doctor.

NEIGHBOUR.

But how did this gentleman of four-pence a day, raise himself to his present elevated station?

B. LE FRANK.

By little and little. The gentleman acquired a profound knowledge of electricity; he commanded the thunderbolt to fall where he pleased; he bid it roar at a distance, and at a distance it roared: he stood on one side of a river, and electrified a dog on the other; the poor animal made piteous moans, but knew not who caused its sufferings. By these rare and wonderful talents he rose to be
a collector

a collector of the customs for the king of England in the port of Philadelphia, which place brought him in five hundred pounds sterling a year (about twelve thousand livres).

NEIGHBOUR.

Oh mighty well ! this was somewhat better than four-pence a day : but how could he contrive to spend such a sum ?

B. LE FRANK.

As to that he acquitted himself extremely well ; he took a wife, he had children, a cellar stored with good liquors ; a plentiful table. He was then a zealous royalist, because it was for his advantage to be so. He procured his son a commission in the army ; and this son continuing steady to his duty and attachment for his Britannic majesty, is still governor of New Jersey for the king. The doctor understands his personal interests perfectly well ; perhaps he was apt to attend to them too much, if we may judge by the event ; for after being a considerable time in possession of this employment, he was very politely thanked for his services and turned out of it,

NEIGHBOUR.

So, then, he had recourse to his four-pence a day again ; a very disagreeable change to him, surely.

B. LE FRANK.

He left no means untried to get back his place, but he did not succeed ; hence originated his animosity

animosity to his king, and even to the whole British nation.

NEIGHBOUR.

But how did he subsist ?

B. LE FRANK.

Electricity having taught him that there is fire every where, and in every thing, he took a fancy that by this discovery he might live in the grand style: accordingly he electrified the minds of the Americans, making them believe that all the evils they suffered proceeded from St. James's palace, in London; that in that palace the resolution was taken to consider them as slaves, and to force them by an arbitrary exertion of power to pay all the taxes and imposts that interest and caprice could invent. There needed no more to excite a revolt among the doctor's patients; he was sent to London with propositions from them full of insolence, and even injurious to the majesty of the throne: these propositions were rejected, as the electrifier expected. When he returned to his own country, he enumerated injuries on the part of the British government towards them which never existed; he enflamed their resentments, counselled them to shake off their chimerical dependence on their mother country; held out the prospect of a glorious freedom to them and their posterity; commenced their legislator, established a form of republican government, and subjected them to the despotism of the Congress.

NEIGH-

NEIGHBOUR.

You have given us a fine portrait of your hero, my friend ; but in what part of his conduct do you pretend to imitate him ?

B. LE FRANK.

Certainly not by attempting to engage my countrymen, the French, in a rebellion against their king. I shall imitate my Mentor only in the first scenes of his life ; that is, by being satisfied with a little, as I am at present, and by endeavouring to acquire some distinguished talent that may recommend me to a lucrative place in the revenue.

Monsieur le Frank would have proceeded in his discourse, when a person came to tell him that a coach was waiting for him at his door. A coach ! never had he been honoured so highly before ; he quitted his friend with precipitation, who saw himself disappointed of the pleasure he hoped for in hearing his own history, which would, doubtless, have been very curious, having formed himself upon so excellent a model.

C H A P.

C H A P. XV.

Our hero meets with a good master, with whom he travels to Bruffels. Dialogue concerning the author of the annals of the eighteenth century and his mistress. Their adventures at Paris and London.

WHEN Monsieur Benjamin le Frank had concluded his historical panegyrick upon Dr. Benjamin Franklin, during which his whole audience had been profoundly silent, they all began to speak at once, and descant upon his good fortune.

“ It must be confessed,” said one, “ that a man may subsist upon a very small matter, and by that means avoid many cares, perplexities, and much fatigue.”

“ Monsieur Franklin’s stomach,” says another, “ did not consume less nourishment, when he had but four-pence a day to live on, than it does now when he has an elegant table; and I maintain that he was even happier then than he is now.”

“ How do you make that out?” said the master of the house.

“ Because,” replied he, “ at that time he had no remorse, no stings of conscience to torment him;

“ him; whereas now he is continually racked
 “ with the upbraidings of his own conscience.”

“ That may not be the case with him,” said a fourth; “ there are men in the world so very wicked,
 “ that their conscience is quite silent.”

During all this fine conference, the peruke in which I had sheltered myself was taken down to be drest; and by frizing it backwards and forwards, I was driven out, and fell upon the combing cloth of a gentleman whom they were dressing, and who had fine natural hair, which I had the dexterity to get into before they had finished dressing him and removed the cloth.

Secure in this new asylum, I began to breathe with freedom: it is true, that I found myself in a perfect solitude; but this circumstance was far from being irksome to me. My days had already run half their course; the fire of my passions was almost extinct; and for some time past I aspired at being a philosopher, and was now in a way of becoming one.

My new landlord was just setting out on a journey to the Catholic Netherlands, in order to procure some establishment; but if he could meet with nothing there that would suit him, he proposed to go to Amsterdam or to London. I, who had never been out of Paris or Versailles, was delighted with this opportunity of seeing the world; but I was particularly desirous of visiting England; that nation which was now at enmity with France, the sovereign of the seas, and become the most

powerful in Europe. I had heard that one might live here in perfect freedom among men, not slaves : most ardently did I wish that my companion would determine for England and carry me thither ; but I was apprehensive that some obstacle would arise which would blast all my hopes. Happily, however, my wishes were accomplished, and in the following chapter you will find me in London : but it is proper that I should now make my readers acquainted with the personage who had been my master for more than three weeks, as likewise with the adventures we met with in our journey.

This landlord of mine was a man of genius, who had read much, and studied assiduously, but could not raise his fortune in France. Being a perfect master of his own language, his plan was to teach it in foreign countries; for which purpose he was furnished with several letters of recommendation to persons in Brussels, in London, and in Amsterdam ; so that if he did not succeed in one place, he might have an opportunity of trying his fortune in another. I could not possibly have fallen into a better situation ; and that I might not expose myself to the danger of losing it during our travels, I was very careful to give him no disturbance, but contented myself with such simple nourishment as the hair-dressers afforded me.

We began our journey in the Brussels diligence, and on the third day reached that city without meeting with any occurrence during our route worthy observation. The day after our arrival we went to pay a visit to a French refugee, who has made some noise in the world ; his name was L—g—t.
My

My landlord having a letter of recommendation to him, we were allowed to wait a full hour in the hall, after which we were permitted to enter the room where he was sitting.

“ Good morning, friend,” said he to my master, “ I find by your patron’s letter that he is in good health, and at his desire I shall be very glad to do you any service in my power ; but you must come to-morrow, for I am very busy to-day.”

“ Very well, Sir,” replied my master ; “ at what hour will you be pleased to give me audience ?”

“ About noon,” replied Mr. L——g——t, and immediately left us.

This interview being very short, I had not too much time for making observations on him, but I resolved to examine his figure carefully the next day.

In the evening my landlord took me with him to see a play. Prince Charles, who is governor of the Low Countries, was pointed out to us ; and by what I could understand from the company about us, he is almost adored in Brussels.

When we left the play-house, my master was conducted by a person, who had sat near him there, to a house of entertainment, which they called the Woolcombers : here was very good company ; they supped together ; and at table the conversation happened to turn upon Mr. L——g——t.

Dialogue

*Dialogue concerning the celebrated author of
the Annals of the eighteenth century.*

MY MASTER.

I have a letter of recommendation for this gentleman, and went with it to his house this morning, but he had no time to give me an audience to-day, and has appointed me to come again to-morrow.

THE FLEMMING.

Yes, that is his manner; he affects the man of consequence; pray how do you like his Well of Truth?

MY MASTER.

I do not understand you.

THE FLEMMING.

Mr. L—g—t is the only man who has dared to speak truth in his annals; for other authors, and journalists especially, give us nothing but impostures. Poor truth! that daughter of Heaven, lay hid in the well, to which the perverseness of mankind had driven her. Mr. L—g—t alone had the courage to lend her his assisting hand, and presented her to the astonishing world; and on this account it is that his country-seat is called the Well of Truth.

MY MASTER.

I fancy you are speaking ironically.

THE

THE FLEMMING.

I only repeat his own expressions.

MY MASTER.

He appears, indeed, to have a small portion of vanity; but pray tell me, is he liked in this country? in France I know he has many enemies.

THE FLEMMING.

While he continues to give no offence by his conduct, and does not presume to censure our government, he may live in quiet; and hitherto he has given no cause for complaint on this subject. He has contrived to make the lieutenant of Police in this city his friend, by flattering him in his annuals; so that if any orders came from France to seize his person, this faithful friend would prevent their being executed, consequently his person is in no danger from that quarter; but there is some objection made to the morals of this *preserver of truth*, on account of the scandalous example of libertinism he gives, by living publicly with a woman, who, frightfully ugly as she is, is known to be his mistress.

MY MASTER.

I know the person you speak of; but in this particular he is rather to be pitied than blamed.

THE FLEMMING.

How can you make that out?

My

MY MASTER.

I find you are unacquainted with his history: I will relate it to you; but first tell me, whether you have ever seen this woman.

THE FLEMMING.

Frequently; she goes with him often to the play-house: I will describe her person, and you will judge if the picture be like. She is about six-and-thirty years old, a colossus in stature and bulk; her forehead of a prodigious height, her eye-brows broad and thick, large black eyes, an enormous nose, shaped like the bill of a parrot; thin lips, sunk between her nose and chin, and that chin very large, and covered with a beard like that of a capuchin; she has the look and air of a dragoon in woman's apparel: our Flemish women are not in general remarkable for delicacy of figure, but this lady exceeds them all in clumsiness.

MY MASTER.

I perceive you are well acquainted with her; now learn how she became the mistress of L—g—t. This gentleman had managed so as to give offence to the whole body of attorneys in Paris, to the parliament of *Mapreau*, to the parliament of *Hue*, all the men of letters, the French academy, and the ministers of state. Being no longer able to act in his profession of advocate, nor to continue his trade of a journalist, and having the honour of a *lettre de cachet* before his eyes, he knew not to what saint he should address his dower, when a female divinity,

to whom he had done some essential services in two or three suits at law, appeared before him, and addressed him thus :

“ L——g——t, your affairs are in a most perplexed condition ; you have no money, you can stay no longer in France ; your only resource is your library, which you must not sell ; hear, then, what I propose. You have procured me a separation from my husband. I can dispose of my estate for a hundred thousand livres ready money ; this sum I offer you, together with my person, and I am ready to follow you to any part of the world.”

Here she stopped ; L——g——t threw himself at her feet, professed the deepest gratitude, the utmost respect and esteem, promised an eternal attachment, and swore, that he would be her devoted slave till the last moment of his life.

“ As for respect,” said the generous lady, “ I do not expect that of you ; all I require is tenderness and an inviolable attachment ; and having promised me this, our contract is signed ; between persons of honour a promise is sufficiently binding : but, my dear L——g——t, I give you notice beforehand, that if ever you abandon me, it is not to the law that I will have recourse for justice, it is to my own hand only that I will owe it ; a pistol or a poignard shall put an end to your life.”

L——g——t now repeated his vows of everlasting love and fidelity, and our lovers quitted Paris immediately,

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mediately, and France soon afterward. Their intention was to settle in Holland; but finding that impracticable they went to London, where they lived about two years. But as there is no domestic felicity without some interruption, a quarrel arose one day between this pair of turtles; the male being rather impetuous, objected to something in the conduct of his mate. The innocent female would bear no contradiction, and in the course of her justification laid the blame upon her other half; and this half not being able to endure any more, took an opportunity one morning to leave Madame in possession of the house, and retired to lodgings in another part of the town.

The lady was greatly surprized when she found he did not return the whole day; another passed, and he did not appear. From that time she never ceased her search till she had discovered the place of his retreat, and hastily entering his room, "Oh! here you are then," said the enraged dove; "where are my hundred thousand livres? since you have quitted me, restore my money."

"I cannot pay it back at present," replied L—g—t; "but if you chuse it I will pay you interest for that sum."

"That will not do," resumed the dove, drawing a pistol out of her pocket, and holding it to the breast of her mate; "I will have the whole sum immediately, or your person alive or dead; therefore, good Sir, take the trouble to say your last prayers, or put up your papers, and march
" before

“ before me : come, dispatch, I do not chuse to
 “ wait your leisure.”

Poor L—g—t, who thought the argument madame held in her hand unanswerable, gathered up his papers in an instant, put them under his arm, and making a profound bow to madame, embraced her, and suffered her to conduct him to his former habitation : he has never taken such a foolish design into his head since.

THE GERMAN.

Why, she manages him as if he were an infant ; strange that a man of genius should act so absurdly !

MASTER.

It often happens that men of genius fall into greater absurdities than other people : but tell me sincerely, do you think he can be of any service to me in this country ?

THE GERMAN.

That depends upon the degree of liking he entertains for you ; but pray let me know to-morrow what passes between you ; you will find me here about this time.

C H A P. XVI.

Some of L——g——t's paradoxes upon the English; and the war they are at present engaged in examined. His reasons for becoming devout. History of the Louse's comrade. He goes to London.

THIS dialogue enabled me to form some judgment of the person who was the subject of it, and gave me a stronger desire to see him, and hear him discourse. We did not fail to be at his house the next day at the appointed hour. He received my master civilly, invited him to stay and dine; and after conversing with him for a few minutes, left us for a whole hour alone in his library, where, having nothing better to do, my master looked over his journal, and read a few passages to me.

The first we fell upon drew some observations from him, which appeared to me to be very judicious. L——g——t when he was in London had been several times at the theatres, and had seen some tragedies represented, but being wholly unacquainted with the language of the country, he did not understand a word of what was spoke: to him it was no more than a dumb show; yet he took it into his head to play the profound critic, and to censure the performance with severity. The players were too vehement; their action was not just; they roared instead of speaking, &c. This was

was not all ; our journalist had the presumption to summon the inimitable Garrick before his tribunal, although he had never seen him play ; but forming an opinion of him by the present players, and assigning him yet more vehemence and more grimace, he pronounced him to be a very indifferent actor, and inferior to the worst of our French comedians.

“ Methinks, Mr. L—g—t,” said my master, “ makes a mighty ridiculous figure here as a critic ; without having ever seen or heard this great actor, he assumes the power of judging and condemning him. He alone has more taste and discernment than the whole English nation ; and while Garrick is looked upon almost as a divinity in London, L—g—t, the stupid, the audacious L—g—t, places him beneath the meanest of the French comedians. Surely after this he must be despised in England ; it is no wonder he left that country so soon.”

As my fellow-traveller read on, he was surprized to find this journalist endeavouring to prove that France had not been the aggressor in the present war between her and England, and that it was the latter that was to blame. “ This man,” said he to himself, “ writes not this from any partiality for his own country, nor because it is his real opinion, but to give vent to his malignity against a nation which had not sufficiently prized his merit, and had neglected to erect a statue to him.

We

We were amusing ourselves with reading some of his other paradoxes, when he entered to conduct my master to the dining-room. As soon as we were seated at table I came out of my retreat, and took my station upon one of the curls of my master's hair, in order to have a better view of our host. He was a man of about forty-four years of age, of low stature, and his face much seamed with the small-pox; but his eyes were full of fire, so that although he might be called really ugly, yet his countenance did not displease you. His manner was stiff, and he appeared to have a very high opinion of his own talents, which however was very ill founded.

The lady we had heard so much of did the honours of the table, and her appearance convinced us, that the picture which was drawn for her the evening before had not exaggerated the faults of her face and figure. As I was placed very near her, I might easily have fixed my abode with her; and one consideration seemed to invite me, which was the view of several of my own species, who seemed by their bulk to be plentifully provided for: but besides that the landlady was disagreeable, my solitude had greater charms for me than the society of my fellow creatures; and I was desirous of enjoying the sweets of it as long as I could: so after I had indulged my curiosity with examining the exteriors of our host and hostess, I withdrew into my retreat to listen to their conversation.

I must acknowledge however, that religion being the subject, it did not greatly interest me. The Roman catholic faith appeared to have great advantages

vantages in the opinion of all the guests ; among whom two being priests, were well paid for the support they lent it : but I was surprized to find that the master of the house expressed more zeal for the cause than even the priests.

My master said very little on the occasion ; he was busied with his own reflections : “ Poor L—g—t,” said he to himself, “ does not believe a word of what he maintains ;” the catholic religion, is in his opinion, neither better nor worse than any other ; but having drawn upon himself the hatred of every order of the state, he seeks to shelter himself under the wing of the priesthood : yet he is a contemptible wretch for asserting what he does not believe, and attempting to prove the truth of tenets which he holds to be absurd and ridiculous. It is a vile trade this, but he gets money by it. I would advise him, after he is grown rich by his annals of the eighteenth century, to address the human race after this manner :

“ Ladies and gentlemen, you are all fools ; as for myself, having no money, I sported with your follies, in order to be rich. This was the end I proposed ; I have succeeded, and am satisfied.”

L—g—t then turning to my master, asked him what kind of studies he had hitherto been engaged in, and what way of life would best suit him ? My master began immediately to give him his history in this manner :

“ I studied

“ I studied several years under the care of the
 “ fathers of the oratory, and when I quitted them,
 “ returned to the house of my father : he is a phy-
 “ sician, and designed me for the same profession,
 “ but I had an invincible dislike to it. I could
 “ not endure to be present at the dissecting of
 “ bodies, nor to see my fellow creatures languish
 “ under tedious and torturing maladies, for which
 “ no certain remedy could be found. My father
 “ himself owned to me, that after a practice of
 “ thirty years, he was convinced that the science
 “ of physic was so dark and impenetrable as to
 “ puzzle the greatest geniuses : and that when it
 “ happened that some of his patients recovered
 “ their healths, he was fully convinced in his own
 “ mind that he had no part in the cure, and
 “ that nature had done all.”

“ Since this is your opinion,” said I to my fa-
 “ ther, “ and that one cannot worthily follow this
 “ profession, why are you resolved that I shall em-
 “ brace it ?”

“ Because,” replied he, “ every one ought to
 “ take care of his own interests first ; and a great
 “ deal of money may be gained by this profession.
 “ We are quacks, it is true, but necessary quacks,
 “ which men cannot do without ; therefore this
 “ profession ought to be as agreeable to you as any
 “ other, since it will furnish you with the means of
 “ a support.”

These considerations made no impression on me,
 I was passionately devoted to the study of the *belles*
lettres ; poetry and the theatres delighted me ; I

wrote

wrote a comedy, in my judgment it was a masterpiece. I offered it to the French players, they refused to receive it; I printed it, hoping that the public would be more discerning than the comedians. My performance appeared on the counters in the booksellers shops, but nobody bought it: can you guess the reason? it was because I had neglected to pay my respects to the reviewers, and had not presented them with copies. They did not mention my play in their publications, and so the town never heard of it.

Mean time my father perceiving that I had no inclination for his profession, was offended, and asked me positively, how I intended to gain a subsistence, since I had no fortune to depend upon?

I told him I was resolved to apply myself wholly to literature.

“How!” said my father, “you will follow the trade of an author then. Fye! fye! it is a beggarly trade, which will fool you with hopes till you perish with hunger?”

“But, Sir,” said I, “there are authors who have raised themselves from indigence to the possession of easy fortunes; for example, d’Alembert, la Harpe, Marmontel, and many others.”

“The men whom you have named,” replied my father, “are but the fag end of literature. It was not their merit that raised them to affluence, but their meanness; it was the most contemptible flattery, the most servile submission to num-
L “berless

“berless indignities, that procured them the suc-
 cess they have not merited. I would rather see
 you an apprentice to a shoemaker, than the imi-
 tator of such worthless beings; therefore deter-
 mine upon some trade; chuse what you think
 will suit you best, otherwise I will abandon you
 to your wretched destiny, and never see you
 more. I give you three days to consider of my
 proposal.” Saying this he left me.

Being in great uncertainty what to resolve on,
 I went to consult one of the fathers of the oratory,
 who was my friend, and he persuaded me to enter
 into his society.

It was, perhaps, the best choice I could have
 made. Their sole employment is the education of
 youth; they are not bound by any vows; they
 depend upon no one; they are at liberty to quit
 the order whenever they please; all that is required
 of them is to live in celibacy so long as they con-
 tinue in it.

This was the way of life that I resolved to em-
 brace; and my father not being able to prevent it,
 I entered into the society at the age of twenty-three,
 and continued there seven years. The cause of my
 leaving it then was a passion which I had enter-
 tained for an amiable young woman, by whom I
 was tenderly loved. I would have married her,
 but she had a fortune and I had none, so that her
 parents gave me my dismissal in due form, by
 forcing her to marry a rich blockhead whom she
 hated.

It

It is now more than six months since I suffered this disappointment, which affected me deeply at first; but my reason at length prevailed, and thank heaven I am now perfectly tranquil. Fortune is the mistress I am now in pursuit of; if I thought I could find her here, here I am willing to remain; if not, I must seek her elsewhere.

“ I perceive,” replied L——g——t, “ that your father is a man of sense and judgment; you would have done better to have followed his counsels. However, you must not be discouraged. You would be an author. Well, you must produce some work that may draw notice upon you; but do not take for your patrons those paltry fellows you named just now, la Harpe, d’Alembert, and the rest; load not yourself with the infamy in which they are sunk, that is not the way to live by your pen, nor to acquire esteem; follow a more honourable path, but little known in France; go to London.”

“ The sovereign of the English nation,” added he, “ may be compared to a man who sits alone at a table with a great many dogs at his feet; some of them are favourites, and to these he distributes the bones from his plate. Others, and they are the greatest number, keep a continual barking, sometimes at the master, sometimes at those he favours, in order to have part of the good cheer. The poor man not being able to drive them out, is obliged to hear their noise; or if he would silence them, it can only be done

L 2

“ by

“ by throwing some bones under his table to them
“ likewise.

“ The ministers,” pursued L——g——t, “ are
“ seldom able to keep their places long ; do you,
“ therefore, always engage with the party that
“ opposes them ; write for that party ; they have
“ not a French writer in their pay, and you will
“ be very acceptable to them : you will be sure of
“ a tolerable pension immediately, which will be
“ increased afterwards, if by the force of clamour
“ and importunity they get the favourite ministers
“ turned out, whose places they want to fill. By
“ this method a man may make his fortune in
“ England, although in France it would conduct
“ him to the Bastile or Bistre.”

“ But,” said my master, “ I am acquainted
“ with no one in London ; and it is necessary to
“ begin by gaining the notice of one of those Eng-
“ lish hounds who bark so loud.”

“ This difficulty will be easily got over,” replied
L——g——t, “ I will recommend you to two of
“ my friends who will do your business completely
“ for you. Let me see you here to-morrow morn-
“ ing, I will then give you a couple of letters for
“ London.”

Thus useful was the patronage of the annalist of
the eighteenth century. My master was well
pleased with his success, received the two commen-
datory letters next morning, and a few hours after-
wards we set out for Ostend, where we embarked on
board one of the four new packet boats, established
2 by

by Frederick Romberg and company of Bruffels; and where we had no reason to be apprehensive of hostilities, being under the imperial flag: we had a favourable wind, and on the second day arrived at London.

C H A P. XVII.

They are in London. Make a visit to the duke d' A—gné. The new form of administration proposed to be established in England by the king of France. The duke d' A—gné appointed viceroy. Letters from Lewis XVI. to that duke.

TWO days after our arrival in London, my master, being quite recovered from the fatigue of travelling, began to enter upon business, and went to wait upon a French duke who was then at his country seat. This nobleman gave us a very cordial reception, and invited us to pass a few days with him; an invitation which we gladly accepted. He introduced his discourse with my master by asking him if he was acquainted with the English constitution.

My master replied, “ that he had but a very “ superficial knowledge of it;” upon which his grace put into his hand a collection of all the patriotic speeches he had made in parliament since the loss of his sovereign’s favor and his place in the ministry.

“ By

“ By the perusal of these papers,” said his grace,
 “ you will instantly comprehend the state of this
 “ kingdom; you will know its constitution tho-
 “ roughly; you will observe the progress of its
 “ decay, and be able to foresee its future ruin.
 “ I will afterwards inform you of the revolutions
 “ that must shortly take place.”

My fellow-traveller read over these master-pieces of eloquence, from which it was easy to discover that the author was one of those hounds who barked for bones; and it must be acknowledged that he barked both loud and strong, for he had tasted the sweetness of them formerly, and could the less endure to be without his share.

Two days afterwards his grace had a long conversation in private with my master; and being convinced that he possessed all the talents necessary for his purpose, said to him, “ My friend, are you
 “ willing to be my secretary for foreign affairs?
 “ it is a delicate trust, and will require, on your
 “ side, the most impenetrable secrecy. Your ap-
 “ pointments, however, will not at first be very
 “ large; but you may reckon upon soon attaining
 “ a splendid fortune, and a very advantageous
 “ post.”

My master, who was indifferent which side he embraced in an enemy's country, accepted the duke's proposal, and promised all he desired. The duke then shewed him a letter from a well known French minister, containing the form of the new administration, which the intended conqueror of
 England

England was to establish in that kingdom. I listened with great attention to the reading of this important piece; and here follows the contents.

Letter from the count de V---g---nes, minister for foreign affairs, to the duke d' A---gné at London.

“ As I neither can nor wish to do any thing
 “ without consulting you, my lord duke, I have
 “ sent you the plan formed by our committee,
 “ which we submit to your judgment, and intreat
 “ you to send us your observations upon it as soon
 “ as possible.

“ As soon as we have made ourselves masters of
 “ the kingdom, and have got the persons of the
 “ king and queen, and all the royal family in our
 “ hands, they are to be conducted, with all the
 “ honours due to their former dignity, to Saint
 “ Germain en Lay, where they will have such a
 “ court as their revenue will enable them to maintain;
 “ and if they chuse to live in amity with
 “ the king our master, they will be received with
 “ distinction at Versailles, and at any of his country
 “ residences.

“ The king our master will settle a revenue of
 “ two millions of livres upon them, which shall be
 “ duly paid every quarter.

“ King George, on his side, shall resign the
 “ electorate of Hanover to his son, the present
 “ prince of Wales, on these conditions: first,
 “ that

“ that this young prince shall renounce his prin-
 “ cipality of Wales, and never afterwards bear the
 “ title. Secondly, that he shall reside constantly
 “ in France, and spend the revenue of his elec-
 “ torate there.

“ King George’s other male children, after ab-
 “ juring the protestant religion, shall all enter into
 “ the ecclesiastical state. The best bishopricks in
 “ France shall be given them; and the king our
 “ master will engage to procure for each of them
 “ a cardinal’s hat.

“ The daughters of the said king George shall
 “ be married to the French princes; and the king
 “ our master will engage to give to each a portion
 “ of two millions of livres.

“ These articles concluded, in order to avoid
 “ all occasion for seditions and revolts, you are to
 “ be appointed viceroy of England, where a go-
 “ vernment purely monarchical shall be established,
 “ as best calculated for the happiness of the
 “ people.

“ To prevent the ill designs of your enemies,
 “ you shall be empowered to bring the present mi-
 “ nisters to a trial for high treason against the
 “ people of England, and you shall hang them all
 “ up at Tyburn, amidst the shouts and acclama-
 “ tions of all present at their execution.

“ All the taxes at present levied in England
 “ shall be continued, till it shall please the king
 “ our master to relieve his subjects, by taking
 “ some

“ some of them off, except the duties upon French
 “ wines exported into England, it being reasonable
 “ that nations subject to the same monarch should
 “ enjoy the fruits of their respective countries.

“ In order to maintain the authority of the king
 “ our master, and to secure him in the full posses-
 “ sion of it, it must be your first care to fortify
 “ strongly the Tower of London, to cause forts to
 “ be built in it, and to put it in every respect
 “ upon the footing of the Bastile in Paris.

“ Lettres de cachet shall take place in England
 “ as in France, which you are to distribute as you
 “ please, according to particular exigencies, and
 “ with your usual prudence.

“ As to the article of religion, it being clear
 “ that mankind believe no longer in the super-
 “ stitions of former ages, all sects, therefore, shall
 “ be tolerated in England, with this distinction
 “ only, that such persons as are not members of
 “ the Roman church, shall be incapable of hold-
 “ ing any employment in the state. Your grace,
 “ therefore, is entreated to give the first example
 “ of that submission to the will of him whose per-
 “ son you are to represent.

“ In order to destroy every idea of rebellion, to
 “ preserve the interior peace of the kingdom, and
 “ to prevent all dissensions and civil broils, there
 “ shall be no more parliaments in England in the
 “ form of that subsisting at present; but there
 “ shall be separate parliaments established in the
 “ several provinces of the kingdom, in which the
 M “ employ-

“ employments shall be set to sale, as they are in
“ the parliaments of France.

“ The business of these parliaments shall be to
“ determine suits at law between private persons,
“ and register merely and simply the declarations
“ of the king upon the first requisition that shall be
“ made.

“ If they think it necessary to make any remon-
“ strances in behalf of the people, it must not be
“ till after the edicts have been registered; and
“ if they presume to act contrary to this order,
“ they shall be suppressed, the purchase money for
“ their employments shall be confiscated for the
“ king's use, and other parliaments shall be created,
“ who will be more reasonable and more submit-
“ tive.

“ The viceroy shall appoint to all the posts, em-
“ ployments, and governments, both civil and mi-
“ litary; provided however that the persons whom
“ he has nominated, shall procure his majesty's
“ confirmation of his choice within six months
“ afterwards.

“ That there may be no longer any animosity
“ between the two nations, nor any apparent dis-
“ tinction paid to one more than the other, in the
“ public acts that shall be made in his majesty's
“ name, his stile shall be king of England,
“ France, and Navarre; and the city of London,
“ called his *good city*, as well as the city of Paris.

“ There

[91]

“ There shall be a standing army of fifty thousand regular troops, exclusive of the militia, kept up in England ; these troops are to be in readiness to march any where at the viceroy’s first order. Such, my lord duke, are his majesty’s designs, which we hope to carry into execution immediately upon his being acknowledged sovereign of your country. It is your part to do every thing in your power to hasten this event. You will receive by the same courier a letter from the king, filled, doubtless, with those expressions of esteem and affection, which your services and your faithful attachment to his majesty so justly merit.

“ I am, &c.

“ De V—G—NES.”

My fellow-traveller read the letter likewise from Louis XVI, in the above paper mentioned ; it is so honourable for the nobleman to whom it is addressed, that it ought not to be omitted : here it follows.

*Letter from the king of France to the duke
d’ A---gné.*

“ Cousin,

“ The faithful relation that has been made me
“ of the numberless proofs you have given of
“ your attachment to my sacred person, and of
“ your zealous endeavours to support my interests
“ and the glory of my name, will not permit me
“ to doubt of the continuance of your services ; I
“ have therefore appointed you governor in my
M 2 “ name

“ name over all England, under the title of vice-
 “ roy ; and I earnestly recommend to you to treat
 “ all my subjects with gentleness and the same
 “ affection which I bear them. This doing, I be-
 “ seech God, Cousin, to have you in his holy
 “ keeping.

“ Signed LOUIS.”

C H A P. XVIII.

The Louse meets with new misfortunes. He loses his fellow-traveller. One of his thighs and two of his feet are burnt. He is sent in the folds of a letter to the house of the author of the General Advertiser, a manufacture of vile abuse against the government. The Louse after a fast of two days continuance meets at length with an English master.

HERE, said I to myself, are great designs; it would seem that wonderful revolutions will shortly take place in Europe, and my lord duke will play a principal part in them. He must certainly be a man of prodigious merit, and a passionate lover of his country, by thus attempting all probable means to deliver her from the present ministers, who tyrannize over her in the name of their sovereign. Such were my reflections when I took it into my head to examine this important personage more particularly : accordingly I placed myself on the top of my master's head at the very moment when he was engaged in a private conver-
 sation

sation with his grace. Scarce had I begun to make my observations, when my master, I know not for what reason, shook his head, and not able to support this motion, I fell upon a letter which my lord duke had just written, and which he was sprinkling over with some gold dust to dry the ink; so that being glued to the paper by this composition, I was not discovered, but lay hid in a corner when it was folded up.

My new situation was become very critical; I lamented the loss of my dear fellow-traveller; the best of masters, from whom I had never suffered any injury: it is true that I carefully avoided giving him uneasiness; and when forced by the cravings of hunger to pierce his skin, I did it as lightly as possible, and always during the night when he was asleep, and was not likely to feel me.

But now, alas! what was to become of me? to what place was this letter in which I was imprisoned to be transported? to what new patron must I attach myself? what treatment must a French Louise expect from the English? I was giving myself up to these tormenting reflections, when I was suddenly exposed to a new and more dreadful torment than any I had yet experienced. On that part of the paper to which I was fastened by the cement made by the gold dust and ink, there fell in burning torrents a large quantity of flaming wax; I roared aloud, but the cruel wretch who caused my misery paid not the least attention to my cries. I had strength enough still left to crawl from the fatal spot; and I might, perhaps, have effected my escape, if a stone of an enormous size
had

had not been prest upon this boiling wax, which crushed one of my thighs and two of my feet in pieces.

Such was the violence of the pain, that I instantly lost all sense and power of motion; when I recovered, a few minutes afterwards, I was amazed to find that this boiling liquid which had lamed me, was become cold and hard as marble. My poor thigh was encrusted in it; yet in the midst of my misfortunes I thought myself happy to have got off at so cheap a rate, since one thigh more or less was of no consequence to my walking: I will, therefore, take up no more of the reader's time with comments upon this accident, but proceed to the relation of events in which, perhaps, he is more interested.

This detested letter, with other papers, was addressed to a certain author of a news-paper, which was published every day in London, under the title of *The General Advertiser*. The papers were to be inserted daily in it, in order to increase the gloom, and keep up the ill humour of the English nation. The author broke the seal, and restored me to liberty; he perceived me, but taking me for a grain of dust, he blew me off the letter upon a large table covered with manuscripts and printed papers. Here I passed two whole days without eating or drinking, no opportunity offering in all that time for gaining a new settlement.

Here my only employment was to listen continually to discourses upon the affairs of state, and
2
heaven

heaven knows they gave a frightful picture of poor old Great-Britain.

According to some she was reduced to the last extremity, having no internal resource, her commerce annihilated, her public credit ruined.

Others maintained that the greatest enemies this poor country had was the king's ministers; that they only had caused the American rebellion, and drawn on the war with the French and Spaniards.

Some declared it to be their opinion, that these ministers had a good understanding with the French and Spaniards, and even with the Americans; and that the result of their execrable politics was to betray both their country and their king to their foreign enemies; almost all concluded that these ministers deserved death, and that it was incumbent upon the nation to do itself justice.

Among these politicians there were some daring wretches who presumed to hint, that they ought to depose a monarch who was weak enough to be guided by ministers who were unworthy of any confidence and incapable of acting right; they quoted for example the execution of the unfortunate Charles the first. By whose hands were these seeds of sedition scattered through the land in order to disgust the English with their sovereign and the constitution of their country? By men who, as I have since been informed, sought only to expel the present ministers, that they might usurp their places: men who, notwithstanding their professions, had no love for their country,
and

and no other views but to enrich and aggrandize themselves: men who were willing to see England crushed by her enemies, to have the pleasure of saying, " This we predicted, but we were not believed; our counsels were despised, see now the consequences:" men who love to wade in troubled water, hoping that in the general wreck of the nation the reins of government would be confided to them. In a word, by men who had secret connections with the enemies of the state, and depended upon being raised to the highest employments of the kingdom, when it was transferred to other hands.

This house was the general manufactory of all these abominations; hither come the materials from all parts; some were paid for their labour, others were satisfied with having the liberty of pouring forth their gall; but all kept themselves concealed, and spit their venom under borrowed names.

While I continued in this situation, I knew not from what motives these wretches exclaimed thus violently against the government; I considered them as heroes, enflamed with patriotic love, who for their country's sake ventured to stand up in opposition to powerful ministers, fearless of the vengeance their honest representations might provoke.

The person who drew most of my attention was the compiler of this seditious paper, who scorned to wear any disguise, and seemed to set every danger at defiance. I used my greatest efforts to gain a settlement with him; I fixed upon one of his sleeves,

sleeves, and I had a fair prospect of succeeding in my enterprize, when the wretch, who was going to visit a person of great consequence, took a small brush out of his pocket, with which he brushed his coat ; and, at the moment when I least expected such a reverse of fortune, swept me from my post, and I fell upon his handkerchief which lay on the edge of the table I had just quitted ; and this handkerchief he immediately afterwards put in his pocket.

This was a horrid situation, but happily I was not long in it ; for my man making use of his handkerchief immediately after he had paid his compliments to the great man whom he went to visit, I made my escape, and crawled, though with some difficulty, to the shoulder of the latter, from whence I afterwards mounted to his head.

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C H A P.

C H A P. XIX.

Lord Sh—— becomes the Louse's master. He is appointed viceroy of Ireland for the king of Spain. His correspondence with his catholic majesty's confessor. Orders of the king of Spain. New form of administration in Ireland. The inquisition established there. The city of D----b----n's address to the king of Spain.

IT is certain that I had great need of such a restorative, weakened as I was by the burning of my thigh and my two feet, and by the rigorous fast which had followed that misfortune. The food my new inn afforded me was strong and nourishing, the essence of the best roasted beef in England; although my landlord himself was not very plump, yet he fed well.

Having fixed my habitation upon his lordship's head, it was no difficult matter to gain a perfect knowledge of his views and designs, and here is what I discovered :

Lord Sh—— is like my lord duke, a bitter railer against the government, where he once held a distinguished place; and his resentment against those by whose means he was expelled, is one of the powerful motives by which his present conduct is influenced. He has used his utmost endeavours
to

to be reinstated in the favour of his prince, but not succeeding, he hath taken a path directly opposite. Although in appearance the friend of my lord duke, whose sentiments he seems to adopt, yet he would be extremely unwilling that his grace should snap up any thing which he thinks he deserves better than him; like my lord duke, he exclaims against the king and his ministers, and not being able to obtain his ends, he erects his batteries against England, and hopes to rise upon its ruins.

Having some suspicion that the king of France is secretly treating with my lord duke, he has thrown himself into the party of the king of Spain; and he has not hitherto managed his business ill, for if things fall out as he hopes and desires, he will attain the same point of elevation in Ireland that my lord duke is promised in England.

The truth of these facts cannot be doubted; it is established by words of the most authentic kind, which I heard my new master read several times; and so sanguine were his expectations, that his imaginary grandeur filled all his thoughts when he was alone.

But it will be asked, what interest he had with the king of Spain, upon which he might depend for the completion of his high-raised hopes? The best in the world; his catholic majesty's confessor: the following letter, from the good father to his lordship, will prove that his confidence was not ill founded.

N 2

Letter

*Letter from the king of Spain's confessor to lord
Sb-----.*

“ I had some difficulty, my lord, to persuade
 “ his catholic majesty to name you for the eminent
 “ post of his viceroy in Ireland, in preference to any
 “ of his faithful subjects. After I had employed
 “ every political reason I could think of to deter-
 “ mine him to this choice, I was obliged to bring
 “ the torch of religion to your assistance. I told
 “ him, that by a particular revelation from the
 “ holy immaculate virgin, I was shewn the will of
 “ heaven; and that in order to establish for ever
 “ the true religion in the kingdom of Ireland, it
 “ was written in the book of fate, that you should
 “ represent the person of his catholic majesty there.
 “ But, my lord, you must not expect to be raised
 “ to this high post unless you bind yourself by the
 “ most solemn oaths to perform exactly all the ar-
 “ ticles contained in the secret treaty I now send
 “ you, and as soon as I am certain of your com-
 “ pliance with this commission, I will procure the
 “ order to be passed for promoting you to this
 “ illustrious viceroyalty,” &c.

*The secret treaty between the king of Spain and
the earl of Sb-----.*

A regulation which it is my royal pleasure
 should be observed throughout my kingdom of
 Ireland.

“ Art. 1st. There shall be but one religion
 “ throughout the whole kingdom; from the first
 “ day.

“ day of my reign the Huguenots shall either embrace the true faith, or be banished from all my territories, and their estates shall be confiscated for the use of those pious persons who are desirous of secluding themselves from the world to live in religious contemplation.

“ 2d. In the whole kingdom of Ireland there shall be but ten bishops, who are to be named by our holy father the Pope, and one archbishopric, of which Dublin shall be the see.

“ 3d. The holy inquisition shall be established in all the principal cities of Ireland, and the superior tribunal shall be in the capital, for the better propagation of the true faith, and to preserve tranquillity in these my new dominions; for it is to this holy establishment that I owe the peace and happiness of my territories, which have never been harassed by civil wars, such as have raged in France and England, and other places.

“ 4th. The Irish shall enjoy the benefit of commerce in every part of Europe, in the same manner as the subjects of my other kingdoms.

“ 5th. As England is to be the property of my dear brother the king of France, the Irish shall enjoy a free trade with that country; and I release them at present from all the duties laid upon any of their manufactures.

“ 6th. There shall be no more parliaments in Ireland; and it is my pleasure that the present parliament be dissolved: when my Irish subjects
“ have

“ have any favour to solicit, or any representations
 “ to make, they must address themselves directly
 “ to me, and my paternal goodness shall provide
 “ for all their necessities.

“ 7th. Immediately after my viceroy shall be
 “ installed in his high office, he shall cause strict
 “ search to be made throughout the kingdom for all
 “ books written against the true religion, and shall
 “ order them to be burnt in the most public part
 “ of that city wherein such books shall be found.
 “ Those which are approved by the holy inquisi-
 “ tion shall be immediately translated into the
 “ language of the country.”

The earl of Sh—— having subscribed to all these articles, and promised to have them rigorously executed, abjured at the same time the religion in which he had been brought up, in order to embrace that wherein alone he could be saved; and a short time afterwards he received the edict, with the following letter :

His catholic majesty's edict, by which the earl of Sh—— is appointed viceroy of the kingdom of Ireland.

“ Don Carlos, by the grace of God king of
 “ Castile, Leon, Arragon, the Two Sicilies, Jeru-
 “ salem, Navarre, Granada, Toledo, Valentia,
 “ Galicia, Majorca, Seville, Sardinia, Cordova,
 “ and Corfica, Murcia, Jaen, the Algarves, Gi-
 “ braltar, the Canary Islands, the East and West-
 “ Indies, the Isles of the ocean, and of Ireland,
 “ arch-

“ arch-duke of Austria, duke of Burgundy, of
 “ Brabant and Milan, count of Hapsburgh, of
 “ Flanders, of Ferol and Barcelona, lord of Biscay,
 “ and of Malina, &c. To the members of my
 “ council, the president to the auditors of my
 “ courts of audience, and chancellors to the al-
 “ cades and alguasils of my house and court, to
 “ the corrigidores assistants, governors and alcades
 “ of all ranks, pertaining either immediately to the
 “ crown or to peculiar territories or orders, and to
 “ all other persons of whatever quality or condi-
 “ tion in the cities, towns, and in every part of my
 “ kingdoms and seignories. Be it known, that I
 “ have judged it fit and convenient to address to
 “ my council an edict, in these terms, signed by
 “ my hand.

“ Having by the mercy of God re-united under
 “ my dominion the kingdom of Ireland, with all
 “ the cities, towns, forts, castles, and isles in its
 “ dependence, it is my first duty to begin my go-
 “ vernment by putting them under the protection
 “ of the Holy Trinity, and my second to rule over
 “ them like an indulgent father, as I have hitherto
 “ been to all my other subjects. I have therefore
 “ thought it incumbent upon me to establish there
 “ the holy catholic, apostolic, and Roman church,
 “ out of which there is no salvation ; consequently
 “ I command all infidels, heretics, and schismatics,
 “ residing at present in Ireland, who will not be
 “ converted to the true faith, to quit the kingdom
 “ within eight days after the notification of my
 “ will in this edict.

“ The

“ The estates and goods of all such persons shall
 “ be confiscated to my use ; and it is my pleasure
 “ that those estates shall be sold, and the money
 “ arising therefrom shall be applied to the erect-
 “ ing and endowing monasteries for such women, as
 “ well as men, who are willing and desirous, for
 “ the greater glory of God, to live in a religious
 “ retirement, and dedicate their labours to the
 “ edification of their brethren.

“ I likewise establish throughout every part of
 “ the kingdom the holy inquisition in the form it
 “ subsists at present in my other territories, to the
 “ general satisfaction of my subjects.

“ The administration of Ireland, both civil and
 “ military, shall be carried on in the same manner
 “ as in my other kingdoms ; the parliament shall
 “ be abolished, as being contrary to the spirit of a
 “ monarchical government, and calculated to raise
 “ troubles and foment divisions.

“ The viceroy of Ireland shall be obliged to a
 “ constant residence at Dublin, and shall govern
 “ the kingdom with full authority in my name,
 “ taking care to preserve order and tranquillity in
 “ every part of it.

“ To this high office I appoint Don Sh———,
 “ hitherto known by the title of earl of Sh———.
 “ I create him a grandee of Spain of the first rank,
 “ having the most entire confidence in his affec-
 “ tion to my sacred person, and the zeal he has
 “ shewn for the propagation of the true faith.

I

“ I com-

" I command all my subjects in Ireland to acknowledge his authority as viceroy over them ;
 " and it is my pleasure, that they obey his edicts
 " as if issued by myself.

" I grant my Irish subjects the same privileges
 " enjoyed by all my other states ; and it is my
 " will that from this moment every kind of duty
 " upon their manufactures shall be abolished.

" The council shall take care to dispatch
 " the necessary orders and information, that all my
 " subjects may know my present royal determination.

" Given at Aranjuez, the first day of my reign
 " in Ireland.

" (Signed)

" I THE KING."

*Letter from the catholic king to the earl of
 Sh———, grandee of Spain.*

" Viceroy of Ireland,

" My royal edict, as above, having been published in my council, the execution of it is forthwith ordered ; and for that purpose these presents are published. It is my command, therefore, that immediately upon your receiving my said edict, and known my resolution there expressed, that you, in quality of my viceroy in Ireland, do observe, accomplish, and execute, and cause to be observed, accomplished, and executed in every part of my said kingdom ; giving proper
 O " orders

“ orders and making fit dispositions, to the end
 “ that all my Irish subjects may be certified of my
 “ royal determination, for such is my pleasure; and
 “ the printed copy of the present paper, certified
 “ by Don Antonio Martinet Saloras, secretary of
 “ resolutions, and senior scribe of the chamber and
 “ government to my council, shall be of equal
 “ force with the original.

“ Given at Aranjuez, the first day of our reign
 “ in Ireland.

“ (Signed)

“ I THE KING.”

And below was wrote, “ Don Juan Francisco
 “ de Lastric, secretary to the king our lord, wrote
 “ this by his order.” Signed below, “ Don Ma-
 “ nuel Ventures Fignerva, Don Manuel de Villa
 “ Fane, Don Manual, Don Verdugo, Don Kry-
 “ mond de Nubien Rigiste, Don Nicholas.”

It must be confessed, said I to myself, that my
 lord duke and my patron knew how to play their
 cards: but, added I, *they sell the bear's skin before*
they have killed the bear. If the kings of France
 and Spain should have reckoned without their host,
 the viceroys will have no kingdoms to govern.
 These observations perplexed me, not knowing
 what foundation they had for these sanguine expect-
 ations, when the following address, from all the
 good catholics of Ireland, was transmitted to my
 viceroy, to be by him presented to the king of
 Spain.

The

The city of D---b---n's address to his catholic majesty.

“ Most gracious sovereign,

“ We the catholic commons and citizens of the
 “ ancient and loyal city of D——n entreat
 “ permission to approach the foot of your royal
 “ throne, to offer you our hearts, our persons, and
 “ goods, as to our only lawful sovereign, whom
 “ God in his grace and mercy has been pleased to
 “ give us.

“ We have been oppressed by a people who ought
 “ to have considered us as brethren; and we have
 “ long patiently borne the yoke of slavery: our
 “ remonstrances and supplications for relief have
 “ had no other effect but to increase the weight of
 “ fetters forged for us by cruel and unrelenting
 “ ministers: our petitions have been rejected with
 “ contempt; we are entitled to be governed as
 “ freemen, and we are treated as slaves. When
 “ our rulers in any instance appear to do us jus-
 “ tice, they affect to consider it as a favour, and
 “ accompany it with such odious and impolitic
 “ restrictions, as wholly destroy its efficacy.

“ With what joy then do we not now acknow-
 “ ledge the hand of Heaven in thus undertaking
 “ our defence, and delivering us from a barbarous
 “ slavery, to confide us to the care of a monarch,
 “ good, pious, just, and who loves his subjects
 “ with a parental affection; a monarch who will
 “ establish securely our holy religion, bring abun-

Q 3

“ dance

“ dance into our country, and cause our com-
 “ merce and our manufactures to flourish : a
 “ monarch who has already given us one of our
 “ countrymen for his representative ; a nobleman,
 “ *wife, virtuous*, disinterested, one whom we have
 “ always loved ?

“ With hearts filled with the sincerest gratitude
 “ for your majesty’s goodness to us, and the most
 “ ardent zeal for your sacred person, we will never
 “ cease to thank Heaven for having placed us
 “ under your protection, and to offer up our
 “ prayers for your majesty and your august fa-
 “ mily.

“ Such, Sire, are the sincere and affectionate
 “ sentiments of your majesty’s loyal and ever faith-
 “ ful subjects.

“ Signed by 380.”

C H A P,

C H A P. XX.

An assembly held at the marquis of R----- upon affairs of high importance. He is named by the American Congress, Protector of the Liberties of Scotland. Resolutions of in the Congress. New form of administration Scotland. The protector to have a court, and receive ambassadors from all the sovereigns in Europe.

I Inhabited the head of my lord the viceroy more than fifteen days; and although I lived there in perfect solitude, yet I was happy enough; the great affairs which I was acquainted with employed my thoughts very agreeably. My patron received a great number of visits, sometimes from persons whom he employed to decry the government, sometimes from emissaries whose business it was to foment the divisions and troubles in Ireland in favour of his catholic majesty. One day we would hold conferences with the viceroy of England, to concert and prepare the patriotic speeches they were to deliver in parliament, and to strengthen by presents and promises the opposition in a new one which was approaching. Another day we would give a grand dinner to a great number of the members of the majority, and then we seldom failed to draw over some to our party. Thus we went on, when my master was invited to dine with the

the marquis of R——, at whose house an assembly was to be held the same evening upon state affairs of great importance.

I accompanied my patron to the marquis's house, and when the company were met, examined the personages with great attention, that I might be able afterwards to set a true value on their merit, and gain some knowledge of their real designs.

I observed them heedfully during the repast, where, although the conversation was upon indifferent subjects, it was easy to perceive the party spirit which animated them all. I will now just sketch out the pictures of some of these grave senators, before I give an account of the designs which were discussed in this august company.

And first. The master of the house, who had formerly been first minister of the finances; he was a little ugly black man, very lean, his eyes sunk in his head, which was covered with a peruke; he seemed to be about fifty years of age, and enjoyed an estate of forty thousand pounds sterling a year; he hated his sovereign, because, having once enjoyed his favour, he had not been able to preserve it; and ever since his disgrace, he had employed his utmost endeavours to ruin his successor, and the other secretaries of state.

Second. Ch—— F——x, his person thick and short, a man of wit, artful, and intriguing, who sought to retrieve his affairs by any means, and to make

make a fortune in the minority, since he could not do it in the opposite party.

Third. General B——, a zealous partizan of the opposition. The ministers hoped, that by giving him the command of an army, he would abandon his former connections, and serve his country and his prince with fidelity. *This brave man, firm to his old attachments, accepted the command of the troops, and gave them up to the Americans, becoming himself a prisoner of war with them.*

Fourth. The Admiral, so stiled by way of eminence by the rest of the guests. This man of consummate experience, although one of the party who opposed the king and his ministers, and a kinsman of my lord duke, was nevertheless chosen by his majesty to command a considerable fleet fitted out to attack an inferior one of France. Swayed by the advice of his cousin, and influenced by the interests of his party, he acted in such a manner as to gain no advantage over the enemy, although superior to them in number; *but on the contrary, gave them an opportunity to boast, and with reason, that they had been conquerors.*

Fifth. My lord duke, he who caused me so much torture by burning my two feet and one of my thighs.

Sixth. The bishop of P——: I did not expect to find a prelate in this assembly.

Seventh, and last. My master, the viceroy of Ireland.

When .

When all were met, the marquis, as president, rose up, and delivered himself as follows :

Speech of the marquis of R——.

“ My Lords and Gentlemen,

“ The causes for which I have desired your
 “ prefence here, and the affairs which we are to
 “ discuss and determine upon, are of the greatest
 “ importance; I hope, therefore, for your most
 “ serious attention to what I am now to say.

“ Hitherto we have all united to carry one single
 “ point only, namely, the expulsion of the present
 “ ministers, whom we all equally hate. Our en-
 “ deavours for this purpose have been steady and
 “ uniform, but those endeavours have not suc-
 “ ceeded; and all we have been able to do was to
 “ prejudice the minds of men against them, and
 “ prepare the nation for a rebellion, when we
 “ judged matters were ripe for it. As for the
 “ king, being fully convinced of the great merit
 “ of his favourites, he is more firmly attached to
 “ them than ever.

“ Our schemes to raise enemies to our country
 “ have proved effectual, and these very enemies
 “ are actually preparing to invade it; the govern-
 “ ment know this and tremble; but as they have
 “ not taken proper measures to prevent this threat-
 “ ened invasion, we may be absolutely certain of
 “ its success.

“ Another matter of no less importance is, the
 “ division of Great-Britain among the three belli-
 “ gerent

“gerent powers, namely, France, Spain, and
 “America: each of us has been secretly informed
 “of this intended division, which we have not
 “communicated to one another: each of us has
 “offered his service to these powers, and solicited
 “employments under them, and almost all have
 “succeeded. But, gentlemen, this is not suf-
 “ficient, we must continue fast friends, unite our
 “interests, and concert our future operations to-
 “gether.

“Let us now consider how our affairs stand
 “at present :

“My lord duke is appointed by the king of
 “France viceroy of England.

“His catholic majesty has named my lord
 “Sh——— for his viceroy in Ireland.”

These two noblemen seeming greatly surprized
 to find the marquis so well informed, he smiled,
 and addressed them thus :

“My lords, I knew all the steps you have
 “taken *ovo ad mala*, and you see I have never
 “obstructed them: there is still a door open for
 “me which will conduct me to glory and fortune,
 “and this is America; I have concluded a treaty
 “with the Congress relating to Scotland, which in
 “the division of the territories of the king of
 “Great-Britain belongs to them. If you are de-
 “sirous to know the particulars of it, I will ac-
 “quaint you with them immediately; but,” added
 P. he,

he, “ we must be inviolably faithful to each other,
“ and be equally communicative.”

This all in an instant promised, and the viceroy of England and Ireland read their several patents, after which the marquis of R——— read a paper containing the resolutions of the Congress with respect to Scotland; it was as follows:

Resolutions of the American Congress.

“ Supported by the justice of our cause, we
“ have at length been able to shake off the yoke
“ which the English had laid upon us; Heaven
“ has sent blessings upon our arms; the roaring
“ lion, who sought to devour us, is overthrown;
“ the sea is open to us, our trade is free from one
“ end of the world to the other; we have no longer
“ any corsairs to contend with, no superiority
“ to fear; the subjects of Great Britain, weary of
“ the despotic government under which they have
“ groaned, have shaken it off: divided into three
“ different countries, each too weak to support
“ itself separately, one-third has put itself under
“ the protection of our glorious ally the king of
“ France; another has transferred its allegiance to
“ his catholic majesty; and the last has requested
“ to be united with us, to partake our rights, the
“ rights of men, our prerogatives, our privileges,
“ and our liberty. We the more willingly grant
“ our brethren the Scotch the assistance they im-
“ plore of us, as we thereby procure to ourselves
“ friends who, in case of necessity, are able to help
“ and defend us. Therefore, having first carefully
“ considered

" considered an affair of such vast importance, and
 " taken the sense of our countrymen upon it; it
 " has been

" Resolved, That we will give every kind of
 " protection to the inhabitants of Scotland, whom
 " from this moment we will look upon as our bre-
 " thren and as making part of our republic.

" It being supposed, That the Scotch shall enjoy
 " the same privileges that we do.

" Resolved, That they shall have the same
 " number of deputies in our present Congress as
 " the province of Pennsylvania; and these depu-
 " ties shall be consulted in affairs of state, in the
 " same manner as if Scotland made part of the
 " Continent.

" Supposed, That being incorporated with our
 " government, they are not to be separated in any
 " circumstance whatever, especially on occasions
 " of public joy and festivity.

" Resolved first, That in all public feasts a
 " health more shall be drank in honour of our new
 " brethren.

" Secondly, That the anniversary of this glo-
 " rious alliance shall be constantly celebrated by
 " the Congress in full assembly.

" Supposed, That the Scotch have not borne any
 " share in the enormous expences of the war which
 " we have been obliged to maintain, in order to

“ erect our republican government, the advantages
“ of which they are desirous of partaking with us.

“ Resolved, That they shall be obliged to pay
“ within three years, in three equal payments, by
“ way of formal union and recompence, the sum
“ of four millions sterling in specie, and not in
“ paper.

“ Supposed, That the Scotch have no regular
“ troops among them, nor ammunition of any
“ kind to defend themselves in case of hostilities.

“ Resolved, That the Congress shall have a
“ standing army in Scotland of twenty thousand
“ men, fifteen thousand of these troops to be in-
“ fantry, and five thousand horse. That this army
“ shall be maintained at the expence of the Scotch,
“ the Congress reserving to themselves the appoint-
“ ing of the general and the other officers; the
“ said general is to give an account of his conduct
“ to the Congress through the protector hereafter
“ named, whose orders he is punctually to obey.

“ Supposed, That among prudent men there
“ ought to be no disputes about religion, and that
“ liberty of conscience is one of the most glorious
“ privileges of mankind.

“ Resolved, That there shall be no established
“ religion in Scotland, but all persons shall be at
“ liberty to exercise whatever religion they like
“ best; and that the Scotch in general, and the
“ presbyterians in particular, shall enter into no
“ quarrels

“ quarrels concerning religion, upon pain of
“ death.

“ Supposed, That the Congress being so distant
“ from Scotland, they cannot in urgent cases give
“ the necessary orders with such expedition as if
“ they were upon the spot.

“ Resolved, That the Congress shall appoint a
“ citizen to reside at Edinburgh, furnished with
“ powers sufficient to maintain order and tranquil-
“ lity in the kingdom. That this person shall have
“ the title of *Protector of the Liberties of Scotland*,
“ and be stiled *His Protectoral Highness*. That in
“ cases of urgent necessity, when there is not suf-
“ ficient time to receive directions from the Con-
“ gress, he shall have the power to march the
“ troops wherever he shall judge necessary, and
“ give them proper orders.

“ Supposed, That the protector of the liberty
“ of the Scotch should be particularly acquainted
“ with all the different designs and movements of
“ the European courts, being nearer them than we
“ are, and being able to ward off any danger
“ that may threaten this country.

“ Resolved, That his highness shall send en-
“ voys to all the courts of Europe, as he shall
“ judge necessary; and likewise receive them from
“ the said courts, as is done by prince Charles,
“ governor of the Austrian Netherlands.

“ Supposed, That for the honour of Scotland
“ the protector ought to have a court suitable to
“ his dignity and the glory of that nation.

“ Resolved,

“ Resolved, That out of the first money arising
 “ from public employments, and from such taxes
 “ as shall be laid by the first assembly in which
 “ the Scotch deputies shall take their seats, the
 “ protector shall be allowed for his personal ex-
 “ pences, and those of his household and officers,
 “ an annual sum of five hundred thousand pounds
 “ sterling.

“ And at this time we appoint the most honour-
 “ able the marquis of R———, protector
 “ of the liberties of Scotland, and confide to him
 “ all the powers above-mentioned.

“ We give the command of the Scotch army
 “ to the brave general Bu———, who was
 “ of such essential service to us in the last war, by
 “ surrendering himself and the whole English army
 “ under his command our prisoners of war.

“ The rest of the officers in the Scotch army
 “ we will appoint in our next assembly, after re-
 “ ceiving advices from the said marquis of
 “ R———, and the said general B———.

“ Given in Congress the first day of our alliance
 “ with the Scotch. By order of the Congress.

“ (Signed)

“ CHARLES THOMPSON,
 “ Secretary.”

C H. A P.

C H A P. XXI.

Result of the assembly. The bishop of P----- to be archbishop of Canterbury; demands a cardinal's hat. Admiral K----- appointed minister by the king of France for naval affairs in England. The honourable Charles F—— first minister of state in Scotland. The Louise's work concluded. He gives it to the Editor.

AFTER the resolutions of the Congress had been read, the French viceroy rose up, and thus addressed the marquis of R----- :

“ Your protectoral highness has no bad share of
 “ the spoils of our country, although you have
 “ been rather later than us in providing for your
 “ own interests, and we cannot but congratulate
 “ you on your success: the wise disposition of the
 “ Congress, by whom you are authorized to have
 “ ambassadors in the several courts of Europe,
 “ have furnished me with the hint of soliciting the
 “ same honour from my sovereign; and I suppose
 “ the viceroy of Ireland entertains the same hope.”

“ You judge rightly, my lord,” replied the Irish viceroy; “ I did not attend to this circumstance at first, but it is of great importance. And now, gentlemen,” pursued he, “ it is necessary that
 “ we

“ we should take care of our friends, and procure
 “ for them good employments, such as they merit;
 “ and to begin with my lord bishop of P———,
 “ here present: I am very certain that he, as well
 “ as ourselves, is not swayed by any childish pre-
 “ judices with regard to religion; and I know
 “ that, attentive only to his own interest, he is will-
 “ ing to enter into the Roman church; I was
 “ therefore desirous of proposing him to his catho-
 “ lic majesty for the archbishopric of Dublin; but
 “ that see is promised to his majesty’s confessor,
 “ and a bishopric in my viceroyalty would not be
 “ worth his acceptance; I therefore intreat you,
 “ my lord duke, to consider what will be fit
 “ for him in yours.”

“ I have already considered this matter atten-
 “ tively,” replied the duke, being very desirous
 of serving his lordship; “ there are two sees in my
 “ viceroyalty which he may have the choice of: the
 “ bishop of London and the archbishop of Can-
 “ terbury are too conscientiously attached to the
 “ protestant religion to be prevailed on to quit it,
 “ consequently they must resign their sees, and his
 “ lordship shall have either of these which he
 “ chuses.”

“ I am transported with your generosity, my
 “ lord duke,” said the bishop of P———,
 “ you may depend upon my gratitude; and I ac-
 “ cept with all humility the see of Canterbury:
 “ but I have another favour to ask of you; it is
 “ not to be doubted but the holy father, when he
 “ sees England under the denomination of France,
 “ and the catholic religion established here, will
 “ have

“ have some cardinals hats to bestow upon the
 “ English; and who can have better pretensions to
 “ one than myself, as being the first catholic
 “ bishop, and primate of England as being arch-
 “ bishop of Canterbury ?”

“ You are not easily satisfied,” said my lord
 duke smiling, “ but I cannot deny you any thing;
 “ I shall with pleasure recommend your affairs to
 “ the king; you deserve all that can be done for
 “ you.

“ As to the admiral,” pursued the duke, “ be-
 “ ing my kinsman and most intimate friend, and
 “ being well convinced that he has done France
 “ the most essential service, to reward him shall be
 “ my care; I will make him first minister for
 “ naval affairs in England, in the name of his most
 “ christian majesty.”

“ But, gentlemen,” said his protectoral highness,
 “ you have not provided yet for the honourable
 “ C—— F——, and it is with great pleasure
 “ that I take that task upon myself; I am too well
 “ acquainted with his great talents, not to be de-
 “ sirous of profiting by them; I therefore entreat
 “ him to accept the post of my first minister: the
 “ great attachment he has always shewn for Ame-
 “ rica, leaves me no room to doubt that this
 “ choice will be very acceptable to the Congress.

“ And now, gentlemen,” continued he, “ our
 “ first arrangements are made, it only remains
 “ that we swear to each other an inviolable friend-
 “ ship and most impenetrable secrecy; for if our
 Q “ opera-

“ operations should be discovered, we are ruined ;
 “ let us resolve to continue firmly attached to our
 “ new sovereigns, to act always in concert, and
 “ success is certain.”

Such was the result of this august assembly : they separated soon afterwards, without the least suspicion that I had been present at their consultations, and had played the part of a spy ; this part, shameful as it generally is, was honourable for me, as I had not engaged in it from any interested views, nor was actuated by those base and disgraceful motives, which govern the greater part of mankind ; I did it merely for my own amusement, and should have been glad to have been witness to the great events here treated of, but I could not hope to live long enough for that, having scarce more than a month remaining to complete the usual term of a Louise's existence.

I left my patron two days afterwards, and fell upon a poor devil of an author who was in his pay, and inserted his fine productions in *The General Advertiser*. With him I now live a practical philosopher, expecting my dissolution, without either desiring or fearing it.

It is in this retreat that I have collected all the foregoing incidents, and put them in this form, being very anxious to send them into the world, in order to gain a reputation. I propose the next time I am in the coffee-house to put these papers into the hands of a neighbour of my landlord whom I have often seen, and who I know to be a good patriot,

patriot, who will doubtless publish them: this done, I bid farewell to human kind, to the creeping race, and to all the beings I have ever known.

POSTSCRIPT *by the* EDITOR.

The Louÿs, author of this very interesting manuscript, put it into my hands about the beginning of September 1779. It was wrote in the French language, and I have given it to the public exactly as I received it, without making the least alteration. It was not without great difficulty that I was able to read it; for the author having never been taught to write by a master, his manuscript was scarcely intelligible; and the writing was likewise so small, that I was obliged to make continual use of my microscope.

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XSMWPDRI BVNWLXY:

O R;

100.6 21
4

THE SAUCE-PAN.

omnium his moribus, quin divitiis et sumptibus, non probitate neque
ia, cum majoribus suis contendat? Etiam homines novi, qui antea
tutem soliti erant nobilitatem antevenire, furtim et per latrocinia
quam bonis artibus, ad imperia et honores nituntur. Proinde
ratura, et consulatus, atque alia omnia hujuscemodi, per se ipsa
magnifica sunt, ac non perinde habeantur, ut eorum qui ea susti-
irtus est. Virum ego liberius altiusque processu, dum me civitatis
piget tædetque.

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