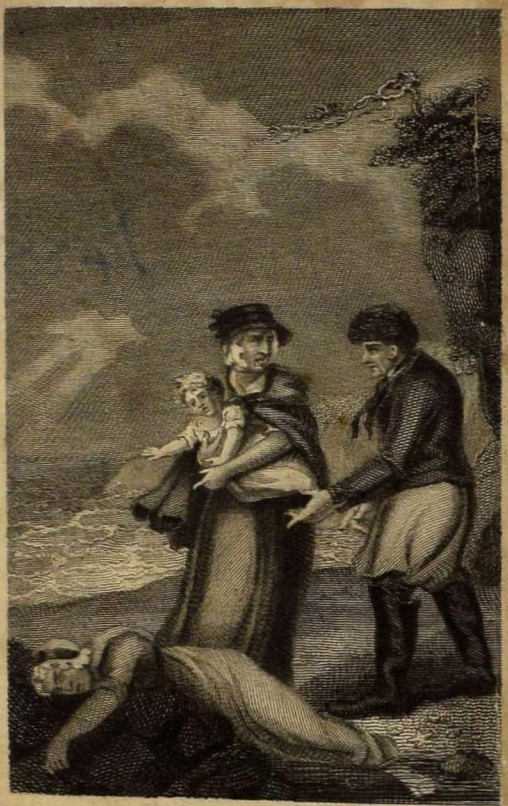
FRONTISPIECE. VOL. II.



See page 41.

Publish'd Sept.r 1806. by J. Harris, corner of St. Paul's Church Yard.

AN

EXCURSION

FROM

LONDON TO DOVER:

CONTAINING SOME ACCOUNT

OF THE

Manufactures, Natural and Artificial Curiosities, History and Antiquities of the Towns and Villages.

INTERSPERSED WITH

Historical and Biographical Anecdotes, Natural History, Poetical Extracts, and Tales.

PARTICULARLY INTENDED FOR THE

AMUSEMENT AND INSTRUCTION OF YOUTH.

BY JANE GARDINER,

Elsham Hall, Lincolnshire.

IN TWO VOLS.—VOL. II.

London:

PRINTED FOR LONGMAN, HURST, REES, AND ORME, PATERNOSTER-ROW; AND J. HARRIS, SUCCESSOR TO E. NEWBERY, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD.

EXCURSION

FROM

LONDON TO DOVER.

SIR Thomas More having offended the king, by giving his sentiments upon the impropriety of his being divorced from Catherine of Arragon, for the purpose of making Ann Boleyn queen, found it prudent to resign the important post of lord high chancellor, and retire to a private station of life. The liberality of his disposition, and the generosity of his sentiments, had prevented him from amassing any portion of wealth; and calling his children around him, he informed them that they could no longer live in their usual style; yet he could not bear to resign their society, although it would be necessary to alter their mode of life. "I have (said that great man, addressing them in a tone of cheerfulness) been brought up at Oxford; from thence I went to an inn of chancery, from thence to Lincoln's Inn, and in the king's court,

from the lowest to the highest degree; yet at the present time, I have a little more left me than a hundred a year, but my counsel is, that we descend not to the lowest fare at once; we will not comply with Oxford fare, nor that of the New Inn, but we will begin with Lincoln's Inn diet; and if we find ourselves not in a capacity to live thus the first year, we will conform to that of Oxford; and if our purses will not admit of that, we must go a begging together, with a bag and a wallet, hoping that some good people will give us their charity; and at every man's door we will sing a *salve regina*, whereby we shall keep company and be merry together." Notwithstanding the wishes of this affectionate father, however, the happy society was soon afterwards dissolved; for upon Sir Thomas More's refusing to take the oath of supremacy, to the inexpressible grief of Mrs. Roper, he was sent to the Tower. Though he was deprived of the pleasure of conversing with his daughter, an intercourse was kept up between them by the pen; and when orders were issued to prevent this exalted character from enjoying the happiness of writing to this beloved child, he contrived to defeat the intention of his enemies, and actually wrote two letters with coals. The tears, the prayers, and the persua-

sions of Mrs. Roper, at length procured her admission within the prison walls; when in the most urgent manner she implored her father to preserve his existence by taking the oath. Life, however, was but a secondary consideration to a man who placed all his happiness in a better world; and he calmly waited the issue of the king's determination, and heard the sentence of death without fear or dismay. As he was returning back to the Tower after it had been passed upon him, attended by a body of guards, his agonized daughter rushed through the multitude which surrounded him, and threw herself into his arms; tears supplied the place of utterance; her anguish was too severe for language to express; she clasped her arms round his neck, sobbed with the greatest violence; and even the guards who witnessed the affecting interview melted at the sight. The agitation of this unfortunate parent was little inferior to that of his daughter; the big drops of sensibility rolled down his manly cheeks. "My dearest Margaret (said he, pressing her to his bosom), it is the will of God, and therefore we must submit; bear it with patience, grieve for me no longer, but recommend me to God in your prayers." By the greatest intercessions Mrs. Roper obtained the body of her father, which was buried in

the chancel of Chelsea church; his head was placed upon London-bridge, and remained there for the space of fourteen days; after which it was purchased by this affectionate daughter, who kept it in a leaden box until she died, when, by her particular desire, it was buried in the coffin with her, and encircled within her arms. This amiable and accomplished female survived her father nine years, and was interred in St. Dunstan's church, in the city of Canterbury, A. D. 1544. Of the abilities of this lady the strongest testimony has been given; she was unquestionably one of the most learned females of the sixteenth century; yet her fondness for literature never induced her to neglect any of the active duties of life; she was a dutiful and affectionate daughter, a fond and tender wife and mother, a gentle mistress, and a faithful friend; her charity was extensive, her piety was exemplary; and it is difficult to say whether she was most admired for the virtues of her heart, or the qualifications of her mind. As an author, Mrs. Roper is mentioned in terms of the highest approbation by some of the most learned men of the times; her sisters were no less famed for literary knowledge. They were all celebrated by the famous Leland in the following lines:

"Forbear too much to extol, great Rome, from hence,
Thy fam'd Hortensius' daughters eloquence;
These boasted names are now eclips'd by three
More learned nymphs, great More's fair progeny;
Who overpass'd the spinster's mean employ,
The purest Latin authors were their joy;
They lov'd in Rome's politest style to write,
And with the choicest eloquence indite;
Nor were they conversant alone in these,
They turn'd o'er Homer and Demosthenes;
From Aristotle's store of learning too,
The mystic art of reas'ning well they drew.
Then blush, ye men, if you neglect to trace
Those heights of learning which these females grace."

It is to Mr. A—— that I am indebted for this interesting account of Mrs. Roper; for though I am tolerably conversant in historical biography, my knowledge on that head extends no farther.

This city was formerly governed by the archbishop; the king had a prefect, who possessed but very little authority. It is now governed by a mayor, recorder, sheriff, twelve aldermen, and twenty four common councilmen. A court is held every Monday in the Guildhall, for civil and criminal causes; and every other Thursday, for the government of the city. Here is a market on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and a fair for toys on the 29th of September.

Canterbury derives great advantages from the hop-grounds that are round it, which consist of several thousand acres of land, some years ago esteemed the largest plantations in this kingdom.

> The flow'ry hop, whose tendrils climbing round
> The tall aspiring pole, bear their light heads
> Aloft in pendent clusters—which, in the malt's
> Fermenting tuns infused, to mellow age
> Preserves the potent draught!

Mr. A—— asked Adelina what class the hop belonged to. She answered the 5th class Pentandria.—Five stamens. In the class Pentandria, we find nature sporting in her utmost luxuriance, and in the greatest variety of aspects. The qualities of vegetables, too, which belong to this class, are not less dissimilar than their forms. Some choice esculents and some deadly poisons are among its multifarious productions; some are eminent for beauty, and others for utility. It includes several natural orders; but in a general view, Pentandrious plants may be divided into rough-leaved, which are generally esculent, or at least harmless; such as produce berries, and are generally poisonous; and such as have flowers disposed in umbels or rundles, partly aromatic and medicinal, partly acrid and sometimes poisonous.

There are six orders, and ninety-seven genera. The hop, Humulus, is of the second order, Digynia. Two pistils. Neither the male nor female flower has any corolla; the cup of the male flower is composed of five leaves; that of the female is made up of only a single leaf, very large, and of an oval figure; the seed is single, roundish, covered with a coat, and contained within the cup. Mr. A—— was greatly pleased with Adelina's account of the class Pentandria, and added, the hop is a climbing plant, sometimes growing wild in hedges, and cultivated on account of its use in making malt liquor. They are planted in regular rows, and poles set for them to run upon. When the poles are covered to the top, nothing can make a more elegant appearance than one of these hop-gardens. At the time of gathering (which is in August) the poles are taken up with the plants clinging to them; and the scaly flowering heads, which is the part used, are carefully picked off by women and children. These are a finely flavoured bitter, which they readily impart to hot water. They improve the taste of beer, and make it keep better. Kent, Sussex, and Worcestershire, are the counties most famous for the growth of hops.

Care should be taken to dry the hops as fast as they are picked; for in lying undried, they

are apt to heat and change colour very quickly. If the quantity picked be so large that the kiln, in which they are to be dried, is over stocked, they must be spread thin upon a floor, and they will keep two or three days in that manner, without any harm. Indeed, where the quantity is but small, there is no need to have recourse to the kiln at all; for they will dry much better than any other way, by being laid thin upon a floor, and often turned. The drying of hops is the most material part of their manufacture; for if they be ill dried, they lose all their agreeable flavour; and great caution should be used, that they be all equally dried.

When the hops have been picked and dried in the oast, or tin floor, they are so brittle that they would break to pieces and be spoiled if they were immediately to be put up; they are therefore to lie together three weeks, or thereabouts, that they may become tough; if they are covered from the air by blankets in the heap, they may be bagged much sooner than if left open.

The manner of bagging them is this: a hole is made in an upper floor, so large that a man may easily go up and down it; then a hoop is fitted to the mouth of the bag, and so firmly sewed on, that it cannot be torn off; the bag is then let down through the hole, and the hoop

remaining above, stops it from being pulled quite through, being larger than the hole; a few hops are to be first thrown into the bag, and a person below is to take up a parcel of these in each corner of the bag, tying it with a packthread; this makes a sort of tassel, by which the bags are afterwards the more easily managed and turned about. When this is done one man must go down into the bag, and, while another casts in the hops, he must tread them down equally every way with his feet; when the bag is in this manner filled, it is to be ripped from the hoop, and sewed up, leaving two tassels at the corners, as at the bottom. A bag of hops thus prepared, may be kept for several years in a dry place.

They have, also, at Canterbury, a manner of making boar's flesh into brawn, which is much esteemed. Mr. A—— said, he was afraid of putting us to the blush by enquiring how it was done. I answered that he need not fear; for if he wished to know I could inform him. You know, my dear sister, that though our beloved mother wished us to excel in every elegant accomplishment, she took particular pains to instruct us in every thing useful: and to show her that I have not forgot her instructions, I shall write down what I told Mr. A——; who, not easily crediting that a girl so fond of books, &c. understood any thing about cooking, desired I would tell him

"Brawn is the flesh of a boar souced or pickled; for which end, the boar should be old; because the older he is, the more horny will the brawn be.

"The method of preparing brawn is as follows: the boar being killed, it is the flitches only, without the legs, that are made into brawn; the bones of which are to be taken out, and then the flesh sprinkled with salt, and laid in a tray, that the blood may drain off: then it is to be salted a little, and rolled up as hard as possible. The length of the collar of brawn, should be as much as one side of the boar will bear; so that when rolled up, it may be nine or ten inches diameter.

"The collar, being thus rolled up, is to be boiled in a copper, or large kettle, till it is so tender, that you can run a straw through it: then set it by, till it is thoroughly cold, and put it into the following pickle: To every gallon of water, put a handful or two of salt, and as much wheat bran; boil them together, then drain the bran as clear as you can from the liquor; and when the liquor is quite cold, put the brawn into it."

Mr. A—— shook me by the hand, and said he would no longer dispute my abilities, even where he thought I should shine the least; and then told me, that the greatest and most valua-

ble manufacture carried on here, is that of broad silks, which are brought to such perfection as to be thought, by many, preferable to foreign silks: great quantities of them are sent to London. They have, likewise, a very beautiful manufacture of coloured muslin, brought to great perfection, known by the name of Canterbury muslin. Adelina said, she hoped her father would not proceed without explaining to us all the particulars relating to the silk-manufacture, and the manner in which it is obtained, from the worm to the time that it is fit for use. Mr. A—— replied: "You know that silk is the produce of an insect, called the silk-worm; curious both on account of the matter that it produces, and the various forms that it assumes, before as well as after its being enveloped in the ball which it weaves itself. From a grain, or seed, which is its first state, it becomes a large worm, of a whitish colour, inclining to yellow; which, shut up in the cod, appears dead, in the shape of a greenish bean; when it awakes it makes a passage out of the cod, in the shape of a butterfly; when dying, it prepares itself, by casting a grain, or seed, for new life, which the heat of summer assists it to assume; its first day's employment, when come to sufficient strength, is to make its web; on the second, it gives a form

to the cod, and almost covers itself over with silk; the third day it is quite hid, and the following it is employed in thickening and strengthening the cod, always working from one single end that is never broken, and which is so fine and long as to reach the length of six English miles. In ten days the cod is in perfection; when it is taken down from the branches of the mulberry-tree, where the worm hung it, which, if left, would make itself a passage out about the fifteenth day.

"The first, finest, and strongest cods are kept for the grain, and the rest carefully wound; they are of different colours, but the most common are yellow, orange colour, sea-green, some of a flesh-colour, others of a sulphur, and some white; but all the shades are lost in dyeing and preparing the silk. To wind off the cod, two machines are necessary; the one a furnace, or copper, and the other a frame to draw the silk. When the copper has boiled, the winder throws in a handful or two of cods. The whole is then stirred briskly about with birchen rods, in the shape of brushes; and when the heat and agitation have loosened the ends of the silk, they are apt to catch at the rods; they are then drawn out and joined ten, twelve, or fourteen together, and formed into threads, according to the size

required by the work for which they are designed. When joined into two or three threads, they are passed into the holes of three iron rods, in front of the reel, upon the bobbins; they are then drawn to the reel, and fastened to an arm of it, and the workmen gives it a motion, by turning the handle; at the same time he guides the threads and makes them as even as possible. Two workmen will spin and reel three pounds of silk in a day. As to the cods, after they are opened with scissars, they are used in making artificial flowers.

"Having gone through the progress of winding the silk, I think it necessary to mention to you, that most of the silk woven in England is imported raw; the country being too cold to keep the worms in the open air, as is practised abroad; and to bring them up in the house would be attended with more trouble than the profits of the silk would balance. Some ladies keep worms for their amusement, to have the pleasure of witnessing their different changes; but it is what I do not wish you to do, as they make a great deal of dirt, and occasion a great loss of time. Those who prepare the silk for the weavers are called throwsters. The silk is worked with a shuttle on a loom, a machine which raises the threads of the warp in order to

throw the shoot and strike it close. Lustrings and taffeties are worked in the manner of cloth; but figured or striped silks require a great deal more art."

Mr. A—— then told us, that the celebrated Mrs. Behn was born in this city, and gave us this account of her. "Mrs. Aphra Behn, whose maiden name was Johnson, was the daughter of a gentleman of good family at Canterbury, who, being related to Lord Willoughby, obtained, through the interest of that nobleman, the advantageous post of lieutenant-general of Surinam, and several of the contiguous islands. Mr. Johnson, unfortunately, died upon his passage; but his family landed, and settled there. The beauty of the surrounding country has been elegantly described by this lively writer; and the story of the American prince Oroonoko, with whom she became intimately acquainted, afforded her subject for a novel, which she has called by his name, and which was afterwards dramatised by Southern. The intimacy which subsisted between the prince and Miss Johnson gave rise to a variety of censorious remarks; but whether there was any foundation for them is a circumstance which certainly admits of doubt. Soon after this lady's return to England she was united to Mr. Behn, a Dutch merchant,

and became a great favourite at the court of Charles the Second; for the accurate, yet lively description that she gave of the colony she had quitted, inspired the king with the highest opinion of her natural abilities. The talents of Mrs. Behn were completely calculated for conversation; her wit was lively, and she was entirely unreserved; and so delighted was the king with her learning, that he persuaded her to reside at Antwerp, upon a war breaking out with the Dutch. During her residence at that place, her personal charms attracted the attention of a gentleman who had been attached to her before she became a wife; and if she never yielded to the passion that he felt for her, the conduct which she adopted towards him was certainly indiscreet. To another, whom, in her correspondence to a friend, she distinguishes by the name of Van Bruin, she indulged the vein of that humourous wit to which she was so naturally prone; and some very ludicrous scenes occurred between them, which are rather too prolix for me to describe. The times in which Mrs. Behn lived were proverbially licentious, which must apologize for the freedom of her writings, and the levities of her life; but certainly she possessed none of that chaste purity of conduct which every man of sense would wish to witness

in the behaviour of his wife. As an author, she is allowed to have possessed much merit: she published three volumes of miscellaneous poems; wrote seventeen plays: to which may be added both histories and novels, and translations of several celebrated works. Both Dryden and Southern were great admirers of her abilities; and to obtain the applause of such men she must have possessed both genius and taste. She died April 16, 1689, and was interred in the cloisters of Westminster Abbey."

Mr. A—— also informed us, that Richard Boyle, an eminent English Statesman, distinguished by the title of the Great Earl of Cork, was born at Canterbury in 1566, and died in 1643; having spent the last as he did the first years of his life, in the support of the crown of England against Irish rebels, and in the service of his country.

Mr. Jackson and Charles leave us in the morning; and we shall feel a great loss of their enlivening society: they have promised to see us at Dover, where they mean to spend a month this summer.

In the year 234 there was a dreadful storm at Canterbury, which threw down two hundred houses, and killed several families. When I was told of this circumstance, it put me in mind of these lines of Dryden:

"Ev'n when the farmer, now secure of fear,
Sends in the swains to spoil the finish'd year;
Ev'n while the reaper fills his greedy hands,
And binds the golden sheaves in brittle bands;
Oft have I seen a sudden storm arise,
From all the warring winds that sweep the skies:
The heavy harvest from the root is torn,
And whirl'd aloft the lighter stubble borne;
With such a force the flying rack is driv'n,
And such a winter wears the face of heav'n;
The lofty skies at once come pouring down,
The promis'd crop and golden labours drown.
The dikes are fill'd, and, with a roaring sound,
The rising rivers float the nether ground,
And rocks the bellowing voice of boiling seas rebound.
The father of the gods his glory shrouds,
Involv'd in tempests and a night of clouds;
And from the middle darkness flashing out,
By fits he deals his fiery bolts about.
Deep horror seizes ev'ry human breast,
Their pride is humbled, and their fear confess'd,
While he from high his rolling thunder throws,
And fires the mountains with repeated blows;
The rocks are from their old foundations rent,
The winds redouble, and the rains augment:
The waves on heaps are dash'd against the shore,
And now the woods and now the billows roar."

To-morrow we leave Canterbury, where we have spent a week in the most agreeable manner.

My curiosity has been highly gratified in viewing the antiquities of this venerable city. We have seen every thing worthy of notice, and spent our leisure time in the pursuits of natural history, and of drawing: sketching any view or remarkable object that pleased us, collecting subjects of natural history, botanizing, playing on the flageolet, studying geography, and reading; the most delightful employment of all others. We have a small portable library of chosen books in three languages, to which we have made a considerable addition in this place. The inn is an exceedingly comfortable one; and we have been quite happy in the society of each other, without wishing for more company: it is remarkable, that Mr. A—— has not met with any person whom he knows, though he has so very extensive an acquaintance. One gentleman, an inhabitant of this place, with whom in the younger part of his life he lived in habits of intimacy, being with his family at Bath. We shall now proceed to the Isle of Thanet; Adelina and I having a great desire to see Margate, which we have heard so often spoken of; and Mr. A——, kindly attentive to our wishes, intends to make an excursion to it, before we go to Dover; yet I am impatient to be there, as I do not expect to hear from you till then. With

what eagerness shall I read your letter! what happiness will it give me to know that you are all in good health! Notwithstanding my thoughts are so much occupied with what I hear and see, they still constantly revert to home; to our domestic, happy circle: but I shall grow serious if I dwell on that subject, by reflecting how far I am distant from you. I send this packet from hence.

We left Canterbury very early that we might see all the beauty of the morning. The day began to dawn soon after we set off, and the birds to awake and sing their morning songs. The flocks and herds began to rouse themselves, and stray over the fields and hills. The labouring men went out to their work. The sun gradually rose in all its brightness and grandeur. The dewy grass sparkled like crystal, and every object in nature was animated. Though this sight might be often seen, our habits of life make it rare.

The variety, therefore, and the beauty of this scene, made an impression upon me, which will never be forgotten. It brought to my mind these beautiful lines of Beattie:

"But who the melodies of morn can tell?
The wild brook babbling down the mountain's side,
The lowing herd, the sheep-fold's simple bell;
The pipe of early shepherd, dim descried

In the lone valley; echoing far and wide
The clamorous horn along the cliffs above;
The hollow murmur of the ocean tide;
The hum of bees, the linnet's lay of love,
And the full choir that wakes the universal grove.
The cottage curs at early pilgrims bark;
Crown'd with her pail the tripping milk-maid sings;
The whistling plowman stalks afield; and, hark!
Down the rough slope the ponderous waggon rings;
Thro' rustling corn the hare astonish'd springs;
Slow tolls the village bell the drowsy hour;
The partridge bursts away on whirring wings;
Deep mourns the turtle in sequester'd bower,
And shrill lark carols clear from his aerial tour."

In pursuing our journey to Margate, at a pleasant distance from the road we observed on the left, *Barton Mills*, the residence of ——— Esq; and on the right we were surprised by a stately range of barracks, where a number of troops are stationed. We then passed through *Sturry*, two miles north east from Canterbury; which anciently belonged to the abbey of St. Austin; after which, the manor was the estate of the Apulderfields, from whence it passed by marriage to other families. We were pleased with the situation of the parsonage: the river Stour, running close by the house, has at that place a neat stone bridge of three arches over it. Opposite the mansion, and across the public road, stands a water-mill for grinding corn, which, by the noisy circulation of the wheels,

Mr. A—— observed, reminds the passing traveller, bent on pleasure, not to forget the benefits resulting from the unwearied operations of industry. Just beyond this spot, at the distance of a few yards, the parish church lifts its tapering spire. The mill, the church, the bridge, and the transparent stream had a peculiar effect. They formed an interesting picture, and added no small degree of beauty to the scenery. We were so delighted with it, that Adelina pulled the string; we jumped out of the chaise, and, choosing the best situation, sat down to take sketches. Behind us was a hedge and a lane; and we were not a little entertained at hearing a dialogue between an old gentleman and his two nephews; with whom he had been prevailed upon, we found by their discourse, to take an early walk to see the mill. Being fatigued, they sat them down on the bank. Charles, one of the boys, expressed his joy that they were going to see the inside of a mill, which was what he had long wished to do. "And, pray," inquired he, "what is it like?"

Mr. Mansfield. That you will see when you go into it: in the mean time, Arthur, examine this wheat: I showed you barley and rye this morning.

"There is no beard to this," said Arthur.

Mr. Mansfield. No; and the ear is heavier

and larger. Gather one, and count the number of grains it contains.

Charles ran across the lane to a corn field, pulled violently, and drew up a root that had seven stalks growing from it.

"Hold, you wasteful little fellow!" cried his uncle. "I did not tell you to root up my field at one stroke. Let me see, however. Observe what a wonderful increase is here. These seven stalks have all sprung from one single grain, and each ear contains, perhaps, twenty grains; which gives us in all one hundred and forty grains, instead of one."

Arthur. That is astonishing, indeed! So there always grows a hundred and forty times as much wheat as is sown?

Mr. Mansfield. No, no, I did not tell you that. In this instance it is so, and sometimes it may even happen to produce more; but a great deal of seed rots in the ground, without ever growing at all: of what does come up, some is spoilt before it is ripe; and the ears that come to perfection do not all yield so well as these. I believe, therefore, that, taking the kingdom throughout, we only gather about eight times the quantity that we sow.

Arthur. How long is wheat growing, pray, Sir?

Mr. Mansfield. Nine or ten months for the most part. No sooner is the harvest of one year got in, than we begin to prepare for that of the ensuing one. We plough the land, and sow it again immediately. Some seed, indeed, is not sown before the spring, but that never produces quite such good crops.

Charles. What is the use of ploughing, uncle?

Mr. Mansfield. To break up the earth, which would otherwise get so hard that no corn could grow in it. When a field has been ploughed, a man walks over it, and scatters the seed all over the field. Then it is raked in by an instrument full of great iron teeth, called a harrow. Care must afterwards be taken to keep it free from weeds; but besides that, nothing more can be done. It is left for the rain to water, and the sun to ripen it.

Charles. And when it is quite ripe, then the harvest comes, does it not?

Mr. Mansfield. Yes. Then the reapers go into the field and cut down the corn with their sickles. They tie it up in bundles called sheaves, and it is carried into our barns, and thrashed out for use.

Just as Mr. Mansfield had finished speaking, and they arose to get over the style, the miller came to us, and with rustic civility invited us

into his house. Mr. A—— told him, that if he would permit us to view the inside of his mill, he would greatly oblige us. Fairfield readily invited us, and we met Mr. Mansfield and his nephews, two handsome fresh-coloured boys, just as they arrived at the mill. No sooner did Mr. A—— and Mr. Mansfield look at each other, than they both exclaimed, what my friend Henry! my friend Charles! and expressed the greatest satisfaction at this rencontre; for it appears they had been old college friends: after much rejoicing at this unexpected meeting, Mr. Mansfield asked leave to show his nephews over the mill; and therefore, instead of making my own remarks, I shall write down what observations were made by the boys. Mr. Mansfield explained to them, how the sails, being turned round by the wind, were the occasion of turning different wheels in the inside of the building. He next pointed out to them two large flat stones, shut up in a kind of box. "You may see," said he, "that all the corn is made to pass between these stones. The understone is fixed; but the upper one turns round, and presses so heavily upon it, as to bruise and grind the corn to powder."

"I understand you uncle," returned Charles. "And is that all that is done here?"

Mr. Mansfield. Not all, Charles; for the corn, though ground into meal, wants sifting. To do that, there is a contrivance called a boulting engine, and you may look at it if you step this way.

Mr. Mansfield then opened a little door in the large wooden box, or bin, that contained the engine; when a quantity of fine flour flew out into their faces, and powdered them all over. The boulter was made of frame work five or six feet long; round which a canvas was tightly strained. "Now," said Mr. Mansfield, "the meal is put into this bolting machine, which turns round, you see, very fast when the mill is at work. The quickness of its motion causes the fine flour to fly off through the canvas; but the coarse and husky part which is bran, not being able to do that, falls to the bottom by itself. The use of shutting it up in this box, is to prevent the flour from being scattered over the mill."

We remained at the mill till we had thoroughly examined every part of it. The boys received much pleasure from seeing the different wheels and contrivances, and were diverted to find, when we came away, that we were all so covered with flour as to look almost as white as millers. We went into the house to brush ourselves while Mr. Mansfield and Mr. A—— conversed together. Mr. Mansfield entreated Mr. A—— with so

much earnestness to spend a day or two with him at his niece's, that he could not refuse. While they were rewarding the miller for his trouble, and regulating matters, Adelina and I sat upon the banks to finish our sketches; mine I shall enclose to you, with this letter. It is a rural prospect, with a mill at work; several people employed about it; on one side a house; at the door sit two healthy looking girls; Patty spinning, while Fanny is mending a net; Giles appears at a distance in the mill; Fairfield and Ralph taking sacks from a cart. As we sat drawing, our ears were delighted with the melodious voices of the miller's two daughters, who sung this song, which pleased me greatly; and we afterwards joined in the chorus with them.

CHORUS.

"Free from sorrow, free from strife,
Oh how blest the miller's life!
Cheerful working thro' the day,
Still he laughs and sings away.
Nought can vex him,
Nought perplex him,
While there's grist to make hin gay.

DUETT.

Let the great enjoy the blessings
By indulgent fortune sent;
What can wealth, can grandeur offer,
More than plenty and content?"

We sat some time conversing with these good people; it was then agreed that the two gentlemen should proceed in the chaise, and that Adelina and I should walk with the boys, as it was only four miles distant; and a very pleasant walk indeed we had to Mr. Benson's house, which is known by the name of Rose Hill. It stands on the summit of one of those gentle eminences which diversify and adorn this delightful county. From the windows facing the west, the first object that presents itself to view, being contiguous to the house, is a gradually sloping lawn, divided from the adjacent meadows by the river Stour, which flows in various directions through the neighbouring valley, and at length empties itself into the sea at the distance of about seven miles.

On the northern side of the house, the ground is appropriated to useful gardens, an orchard, and a shrubbery. In the rear of this convenient and pleasant habitation is an extensive farm-yard, well stocked with poultry, and furnished with buildings of various kinds for the reception of grain, and for other purposes requisite in the farming business; Mr. Benson keeping the principal part of his estate in his own hands. The ground which lies toward the south he has exercised his taste in decorating with peculiar

elegance; and he takes much pleasure in cultivating his favourite spot with unwearied assiduity, when more important concerns do not require his attention.

Mr. Benson is a great admirer of the works of nature; and, wherever she presents a beauty, is careful not to violate the sacred offering. Where he has called in the assistance of art to heighten and embellish his design, he has concealed as much as possible the traces of it; being desirous that the beautiful simplicity which he so much admires should chiefly preside over the environs of Rose Hill. In the pleasantest part of the garden is a small mount, on which the intermingling branches of woodbine and jasmine are formed into an arbour; and, while they afford an agreeable shade, dispense a most grateful odour.

From this little retreat an assemblage of interesting and pleasing objects is presented to the view of the beholder. Flowers of a countless variety rear their blooming heads, and perfume the air with their fragrance. These lovely productions of nature are so disposed as to exhibit their respective beauties in the most advantageous manner.

The adjacent as well as the distant country presents to the eye a scene varied and delightful,

equal to what the most lively imagination can conceive. Meadow-grounds, corn-fields, and woods of various greens, combine to render the prospect infinitely beautiful. There, the majestic oak extends its copious branches, and offers to the languid traveller a secure shelter from the intense rays of the sun. Here, the tall elm rears its lofty head erect and stately; while the foliage of an humbler growth decorates the lovely landscape with the utmost luxuriance, and enriches the view with a thousand different shades. To crown the whole, the ocean itself terminates the enchanting scene with awful dignity. On contemplating this august and sublime object, the imagination is apt to be carried insensibly from the rural beauties, with which the hand of nature has decked our temperate and favoured climate, and, in idea, we are transported to distant regions, where the enervated Indian faints beneath the scorching rays of a meridian sun: or, pursuing a different course, we turn our thoughts toward the dreary country of the uninformed Laplander, and fancy that we see him passing his gloomy and cheerless hours in his wretched habitation, patiently waiting until his long and tedious winter shall expire.

But while moralizing thus I forget to tell you, that we were most cordially entertained by the

hospitable owners of this delightful mansion. Mr. Benson had gone out early in the morning, and taken Charlotte Benson in the gig, and Robert his eldest son who rode on horseback, to spend the day with a friend ten miles off. They did not return till late in the evening; but we spent the day very pleasantly; for Mrs. Benson is an exceedingly agreeable woman; and Mr. Mansfield entertained us greatly, by describing the manners and customs of several nations in which he had travelled. After tea, the children being obliged to attend the writing-master, who comes to teach them three times a week, and Mrs. Benson being engaged in the nursery with her infant daughter, Mr. Mansfield invited us to walk with him to a delightful arbour; where being seated, he related to us some interesting particulars of himself, which I shall give you in his own words. Addressing himself to Mr. A——, "A short time after I left you at college," said he, "my father died; and leaving me a very small estate, I resolved to go to the Indies, where I lived thirty years, and then returned to England, having amassed an immense fortune. As soon as I arrived at Canterbury, the city in which I was born, my first care was to visit a merchant who was a very distant relation. I told him, that as I had neither

children, brothers, sisters, nor any relations, but very distant ones, and was absolute master of my fortune, I had resolved to divide it with the one most worthy of possessing riches, and begged him to assist me in the discovery. 'I am not acquainted with all your family,' replied the merchant; 'but I know that you have two niece's who live in this city; they are sisters, both possessed of good fortunes; but of very different dispositions. The eldest, whose name is Belton, visits nobody, lives in a small house, and keeps only one servant: she has no pleasure but in hoarding up money. The Countess of Mayfield, on the contrary, has no greater pleasure than in spending her's: she is fond of grandeur and magnificence: but this frivolous taste does not hinder her from being charitable: every week, on such a day, a dozen poor people go to her gate and alms are distributed to them.' 'This countess is the woman,' said I; 'but as for the other, I will not see her, for I hate misers.' The very next day I called upon the countess; she received me with the greatest politeness, and I thought her a charming woman. Mrs. Belton's servant was sister to my friend the merchant's groom. This man, happening to be in the room when I declared that I would not see my covetous niece, went and told his sister what

he had heard. 'Your mistress is rightly punished for her covetousness,' said he; 'Mr. Mansfield is as rich as a jew; and he won't give her a sixpence, because she does not know how to make a good use of her money:' Mrs. Belton, always mistrustful and suspicious, hearing somebody come into her house, instantly glided down stairs, and on tip-toe listened behind the door, and heard every word. Her vexation was extreme at hearing this strange piece of news. The treasure, which she had hoarded up so carefully, and which was so dear to her, appeared as nothing now in comparison with the immense riches which I had brought from the Indies. 'What shall I do,' said she, 'to gain his friendship? I find I must become generous, since he esteems only those who do good. But can I resolve to part with the little that I have? it is a hard case, yet I see no other method.' After having considered a long time what plan she should adopt, Mrs. Belton resolved to visit the Countess of Mayfield, in the hopes of meeting me. She actually did meet me at her sister's, and endeavoured to gain my friendship by the most insinuating address: in the most obliging manner she reproached me for not going to see her. 'Without doubt, sir,' added she, 'you did not know that you had another niece, besides

the Countess of Mayfield.' 'I knew very well,' said I, 'that you were my relation, but I thought our humours would not agree. I am told, you love to hoard up money; and as for me, I love my money only to use it.' 'It is true, sir,' replied Mrs. Belton, 'I have spent very little since my husband's death; I am accused of avarice, you say; but, how unjustly am I accused! if I have lived with so much economy, if I have amassed a considerable sum of money, it is that I may have it in my power to found an hospital in this city for the sick and afflicted. To-morrow morning, I intend calling upon one of the magistrates, to settle the plan with him. I shall place five hundred pounds in his hands, being part of the sum devoted to purchase land, on which I mean to build this hospital.' With astonishment, I stared at Mrs. Belton. 'Is it true?' said I—'how unjust people are! You, whom I thought the most avaricious of women, possess a soul so noble as to deprive yourself of the comforts of life, and consent to be called a miser, and all for the sake of assisting the wretched. Indeed, I respect you now, as much as I despised you before. Come, my generous niece, I will have a share in this good work; to-morrow morning, I will call upon you, and accompany you to the magistrate.' Mrs. Belton

returned home quite delighted, thinking herself sure of having acquired the esteem of the rich Indian. I kept my promise, and called upon her the next morning, taking with me a considerable sum, which was put into the hands of the magistrate, as well as the widow's five hundred pounds.

"I have been greatly deceived with regard to the character of this woman,' said I, to my friend the merchant. 'What a generous soul! the alms which the Countess of Mayfield distributes are nothing in comparison of what she has done—Yes, I prefer her to her sister, and it is she whom I will enrich.' 'An old servant who lived with the father of these two ladies is now here,' said the merchant; 'he has been enquiring where you lodge, and wishes earnestly to speak to you.' 'Let him come in immediately,' said I; 'without doubt he has something to communicate to me.' Poor Bertram (that was the man's name) was sent for. 'What can I do for you, my friend?' said I.—— 'Alas! sir, I am unhappy, and I am told you are charitable; this is what brings me to you. I lived twenty years in your brother's service; after his death, I married, and carried on a little trade; but a fire, three years ago, consuming almost all my property, I am unable to provide for my family, and bring up

my children: what I beg of you, sir, is, to give me a trifle to put out my son to learn some trade.'

"And why did you not apply to Mrs. Belton, or the Countess of Mayfield?'

"I did, sir, but in vain; Mrs. Belton refused to give me any assistance; the Countess of Mayfield offered me some little support, on condition that I should go and fetch it, with the other poor people, in the day-time at a fixed hour. But if she does not like to conceal her beneficence, I like to conceal my poverty; and I thought it was hard to beg my bread at the gate of a house where I had served faithfully twenty years. I preferred going again to service.'

"And what is become of your children?'

"My daughter has the good fortune to be brought up by your niece, Miss Sophia; that generous lady, though poor herself, yet finds means to do good to all around her.'

"What! do you say I have a poor and generous niece, and I do not know her? Who is she then?'

"The sister of Mrs. Belton, and the Countess of Mayfield, your brother's youngest daughter.'

"How is that possible! neither of the sisters ever mentioned her; where does she live then? and why is she poor?'

"After the death of her father, she placed the greatest part of her fortune in the hands of a merchant, who by misfortunes became a bankrupt.'

"Finding that she had not fortune enough to live in the city, she retired into the country to the house of a friend, who had married the clergyman of the village. She leads the most exemplary life, spends part of her time in making clothes for the poor, and in giving instructions to two or three poor girls. By her discourse and example, she teaches them to be good, gentle, laborious, and patient. If any are sick in the village, she immediately visits them and does them good.'

"This is the very person I am in search of,' said I: 'my dear Bertram, to-morrow I will take you in my carriage to the village where Sophia lives. Do not be uneasy about your son, I will provide for him. You are too old to work, ask your master to dismiss you, I will have you spend the remainder of your days comfortably.'

"Oh! sir, I shall spend them in blessing you and Miss Sophia.'

"I came to the village of Sturry, and, inquiring for the clergyman, asked him several questions concerning my niece. 'My good, sir,'

said the clergyman, 'Sophia is an angel. Any one else would have been unhappy at the loss of their fortune; but on her countenance you see a mild cheerfulness: that is, because nothing makes her lose her goodness, and it is that goodness which renders her happy.' 'I beg you, sir,' said I, 'to inform her that a relation, whom she has never known, is very impatient to see her.' Sophia, though astonished at so much earnestness, received me with her accustomed ease and politeness. After having conversed with her some time, I said to her, 'I am charmed with you, niece; you please me a thousand times more in your neat simple dress, than the Countess of Mayfield with all her magnificence; and, though poor, you look a hundred times more content than Mrs. Belton with all her money. But what is the reason that these ladies did not mention you to me? have you quarrelled? Do they not know where you are?'—'I am too much interested in my sisters' welfare, to neglect keeping up a correspondence with them,' answered Sophia; 'I wrote to them both three days ago.'—'Oh! what bad hearts!' cried I; 'I cannot forgive this indifference toward a sister so amiable'.—'Pardon them, I entreat you,' said Sophia, 'it was through a forgetfulness which they would have repaired afterwards.'—

'No, it was not forgetfulness,' said I; 'they knew in their hearts that you were better than they, and that is the reason why they would not have me know you; especially as they wished themselves to benefit by the riches I have brought from the Indies. But they are mistaken in their expectations; I will not leave my fortune to the countess, because she does good only through vanity, that she may be called charitable; I will not enrich Mrs. Belton, because she does good only through interest. As a proof of this, they have both refused to assist privately an old servant of their father's. Since I have learnt this circumstance, I no longer esteem Mrs. Belton for the hospital that she intends to build; and I really believe that she has formed this design only to get my fortune. As for you, my dear niece, you do good only because it is right, because it renders those happy and estimable who do it: I am resolved to declare you my sole heiress, and from this very moment you may dispose of every thing I possess. I know you have no occasion for riches to make you happy; but a great many people will be happier if you possess riches.' I actually settled ten thousand pounds upon her that very day, and twenty thousand pounds more at my death; and learning from the clergyman that a worthy young

man in the neighbourhood was sincerely attached to her, but had not declared his passion, on account of the smallness of his fortune, I sounded my niece, and finding the attachment mutual, I soon made up the match, bought this estate, and settled them in it. They pressed me earnestly to live with them; and finding that the society and affection of my amiable niece was necessary to my happiness, I readily consented, and have ever since lived the happiest of lives, blessing kind Providence for giving me riches to reward such merit. Her lovely offspring are the delight of my old age. The Countess of Mayfield was so humbled by my preference of Sophia, that it brought her to a right sense of what real charity was, and she now enjoys the pleasure of doing good for its own sake. Mrs. Belton lamented bitterly the loss of my fortune, and of the five hundred pounds placed in the magistrate's hands; but, ashamed to show it, the hospital was finished, and she now lives in it, spending her days in mortification and penance. Bertram lives in a comfortable cottage half a mile off, whither the family frequently walk, to drink tea, or eat strawberries and cream. The son, a quick, steady youth, is just now appointed steward to Mr. Benson; and the daughter, who was carefully educated by Sophia when she

resided at the worthy clergyman's, assists her in the instruction of her children: she is a very amiable, well informed young woman, and makes herself extremely useful in the family."

We thanked Mr. Mansfield for his narrative, with which we were highly pleased; and Mrs. Benson, with her children and the young governess, joining us, we walked to meet Mr. Benson and his party. It was a delightful evening, and put me in mind of those beautiful lines of White, which we have often repeated when taking our evening walk together:

"When day declining sheds a milder gleam,
What time the may-fly haunts the pool or stream;
When the still owl skims round the grassy mead,
What time the tim'rous hare limps forth to feed;
Then be the time to steal adown the vale,
And listen to the vagrant cuckoo's tale;
To hear the clam'rous curlew call his mate,
Or the soft quail his tender pain relate;
To see the swallow sweep the dark'ning plain
Belated, to support her infant train:
To mark the swift in rapid giddy ring
Dash round the steeple, unsubdued of wing;
Amusive birds! say where your hid retreat
When the frost rages and the tempests beat;
Whence your return, by such nice instinct led,
When spring, soft season, lifts her bloomy head?
Such baffled searches mock man's prying pride,
The God of nature is your secret guide.

While deep'ning shades obscure the face of day,
To yonder bench, leaf shelter'd, let us stray,
Till blended objects fail the swimming sight,
And all the fading landscape sinks in night;
To hear the drowsy dor come brushing by,
With buzzing wing, or the shrill cricket cry;
To see the feeding bat glance thro' the wood;
To catch the distant falling of the flood;
While o'er the cliff th' awaken'd churn owl hung
Thro' the still gloom protracts his chatt'ring song;
While high in air, and pois'd upon his wings,
Unseen, the soft enamour'd wood-lark sings;
Each rural sight, each sound, each smell combine,
The tinkling sheep-bell or the breath of kine;
The new-mown hay that scents the swelling breeze,
Or cottage chimney smoking thro' the trees."

After we had walked two miles, chatting most agreeably, and admiring the beauties of nature, we met Mr. Benson, a very genteel looking man, with his son and daughter.

If we were before prejudiced in favour of this amiable couple, we were still more charmed with them the better we became acquainted.

After the usual compliments had passed, the occurrences of the day were reciprocally recounted by the children, amongst whom the most perfect harmony reigned. Robert, the eldest son, had received from nature a melancholy disposition, with a penetrating understanding. When he walked out with his uncle, every thing that

he saw awakened some reflection, and gave rise to new thoughtfulness. His brothers and sisters frequently complained, that while he seemed himself so much engaged, he took no pleasure in contributing to the general amusement of the house. They even resolved among themselves, to beg that their father and uncle would not take him to walk out with them any more; but a gentler method of correcting him came afterwards into their minds. They agreed together to practise, for some days, the very same conduct towards him, that he practised towards others. One of them went to see some fine pictures; another, some new buildings; and a third a collection of natural curiosities; but when they returned home, they kept to themselves all the accounts, which they had formerly been eager to relate, of what they had seen or heard; and instead of that mutual communication of the pleasures of the day, which had made their evenings lively and agreeable, they had nothing now in common, but formal gravity, and a tiresome silence. Robert remarked this change with equal surprise and vexation. He felt the want of that gaiety, and openness of conversation, which, though he rarely gave way to, made, in fact, all his entertainment. Accustomed, however, to reflection and consider-

ation, it taught him immediately the injustice of his own behaviour; and he soon became as communicative, as he had hitherto been reserved. In giving way to that social openness, with which nature has gifted mankind for their mutual blessing, attachment, and union, his own heart first tasted the sweets of friendship and benevolence; while the vigour and vivacity of his genius found fresh employment and satisfaction, from the information that he gathered, in return for what he imparted. It began to grow dark as we returned home; and the boys were surprised, in the midst of the gloom, to see a bright speck upon the ground. "What is that, what is that, papa?" they exclaimed at the same instant. "It looks," added Charles, "as if one of the stars had fallen to the earth." Mr. Benson told them that they were glow-worms. They begged to take up one to examine it, which Mr. Benson consented to. They then saw that the glow-worm was a small insect, something bigger than a wood-louse; and that the brightness proceeded from a part under the tail. The light it gave was strong enough for them to see what o'clock it was by their uncle's watch, when held close to it. Emily took it home on some leaves, and could scarcely be persuaded the next day that it was the same insect, when she saw it without

either lustre or beauty of shape. As we walked on, Mrs. Benson desired Charlotte to repeat the sonnet she had learnt the day before, which she did very prettily indeed.

THE GLOW-WORM.

If on some balmy breathing night of spring
The happy child, to whom the world is new,
Pursues the evening moth of mealy wing,
Or from the heath-flower beats the sparkling dew,
He sees, before his inexperienc'd eyes,
The brilliant glow-worm like a meteor shine
On the turf bank; amaz'd and pleas'd he cries,
"Star of the dewy-grass, I make thee mine!"
Then, e'er he sleeps, collects the moisten'd flower,
And bids soft leaves his glittering prize enfold,
And dreams that fairy lamps illume his bower,
Yet with the morning shudders to behold
His lucid treasure, rayless as the dust:
So turns the world's bright joys to cold and blank disgust.

Mr. Benson then proposed our making an excursion, the next day, to the ancient *Reculvers*; and telling the children that they should be of the party, they immediately retired to rest as soon as we arrived at Rose Hill, that they might awake us betimes in the morning, as we were to breakfast and go early. It was a beautiful morning. Harold, the youngest boy, had got himself ready to accompany us, and, contrary to his usual custom, had arisen very early; he

hastened the preparations for his expedition: but just at the instant when he fancied he had arrived at the accomplishment of his expectations, the sky became dark, the clouds thickened and grew black, and a most tempestuous wind beat down the branches of the trees, and blew up the dust in whirlwinds. Harold ran continually into the garden to examine the sky; and then skipt up stairs, three steps at a time, to consult the barometer; but both the sky and the barometer agreed in disappointing his wishes. Nevertheless, he scrupled not to assure his father that we might go in safety, that all these gloomy threats would disperse into nothing, that the weather would be finer than before, and that we ought to set out without losing another moment.

Mr. Benson, however, who had no blind confidence in the foresight of his son, thought it wiser to wait a little longer; and soon after, the clouds suddenly burst, and a torrent of rain fell on the earth. Harold then, ashamed as well as grieved, burst into a flood of tears, and refused all consolation. The children had regular school-hours, both with their papa and mamma, but on our account they were this day to have a holiday. Adelina and I, to soften their disappointment, readily joined in their play, and were ourselves much amused with their game of *Ma-*

dame. Rosamond, the young governess, was the mistress; and supposing it to be morning, and that she was just risen, she rang the bell for Charlotte her cook, to bring her book of house-expences, and read the accounts of the day before; which contained the particulars of a dinner for five or six persons, and of the supper, with the price of every article. The mistress then examined the account, to see if any thing was charged too high, and cast it up to know if it was right. After that, she ordered the dinner and supper, and paid the cook's account. Charlotte then went out of the room, and after making believe to cook and dress the dinner sent up a very elegant one. Emily was the laundry-maid, and washed and ironed her doll's clothes. Robert was a tradesman, and, after the cook left the room, was introduced to the mistress with samples of cloth and other things; some of which she bargained for, and he sent her a bill with the goods, as she desired. After which Adelina, who was the nursery-maid, took in Maria, who was the child; and the lady taught her to read and spell, and put the dissected maps together. Charles was the drawing-master, Arthur the dancing-master; and both these masters instructed Maria in her mamma's presence. I was another lady; Elizabeth my

child, to whom I taught French; Alexander was the writing-master, and George the music-master, and gave their lessons. Then making believe that it was afternoon, we visited, and were extremely polite to each other, whilst our children played with dolls. After the visit, Rosamond went into her nursery, and finding her child sick, nursed her; the physician was sent for, who prescribed medicines, and wrote down his prescriptions, which the apothecary made up, being provided with a pair of scales, a pestle and mortar, &c. I and my daughter took a journey, travelled into France, went to see views, ruins, &c. &c. (in pictures) and talked French to each other. We kept up this game with great spirit till dinner. The rain continued till three o'clock in the afternoon: the clouds then dispersed, the sun recovered its splendour, the sky its serenity, and all nature seemed restored to the freshness of spring. The temper of Harold cleared up, like the horizon, by degrees. After dinner Mr. Benson accompanied us all to eat strawberries at old Bertram's; the calmness of the air, the warbling of the birds, the beauty of the meadows, and the sweet perfumes breathing every where around us, soon brought back peace and good humour into the bosom of Harold.

"Do you observe," said his father, "how delightful a change has just been made throughout the creation? Recollect but the gloomy face of things, which so lately saddened us: the earth, you may remember, was parched, and opened in wide gaps from the long drought; the flowers lost their sweet smell, and bent their drooping heads; all vegetation seemed at an end. To what must we attribute this sudden renewal of the beauties of nature?" "To the rain that we have had to-day, papa," answered Harold; and on pronouncing these words, he was instantly struck with the folly of his behaviour, and the injustice of his repining. He coloured; and his father judged by his consciousness, that his own reflections would suffice to teach him, for the future, to sacrifice without murmuring his personal gratification, for the general good.

Bertram is a venerable intelligent old man: he was much pleased with our visit, as we also were with our walk.

The grass being damp in the evening prevented our walking, and we spent it pleasantly; we travelled with the children on the maps; another party made words with letters, on separate pieces of card; another put words together to make sentences. We then, with all the children, played at Gardiner's Evening Amuse-

ments; a game which I intend to purchase: it is a large flat box, divided into thirteen partitions, containing thirteen packs of cards, with questions on as many different subjects. Mr. and Mrs. Benson, Mr. Mansfield, and Mr. A——, joined in this pastime. I was astonished at the quickness of the children's answers to the questions, on every subject. As Adelina and I could not repeat the verses which the game card required, we sung several songs instead; and Adelina played some fine pieces of music, which enlivened the game, and made the evening pass very pleasantly; and indeed usefully, as a great deal of instruction is to be acquired from this game. Mr. A—— was much pleased with it.

The next morning being very fine, and our party collected together, some in carriages, some on horseback, we spent a delightful day.

Reculvers joins to the sea at the mouth of the river Genlad, eight miles north-east of Canterbury, and has a church which was collegiate, with two pyramidal spires, notable sea-marks for ships between the Isle of Sheppey and the North-Foreland. Mr. A—— told us it was said, that Severus Emperor of Rome, about the year 205, built a castle at this place, which he fortified against the Britons; that Ethelbert, one of the kings of Kent, erected a palace here

for himself and his successors, the compass of which is visible still from the ruins of an old wall; and that about 200 years after, a monastery was erected here, which, Anno 949, King Edred gave, with the manor, to Christ-church, Canterbury. Here is a fair the 1st of September; and in the reign of Edward I. it had the grant of a market; but this has been long since disused.

Arthur observed, that Severus had also built a wall in the north of England, and concluded by wishing that he knew the history of Severus. Mr. A—— told him, if he would apply to me, he would be certain to have his wish gratified. I was a little confused at being called upon, before so large a party; but, to oblige this charming boy, I gave him the following account of Severus:

"Lucius Septimus Severus, a Roman emperor, was born in Africa, A. D. 146, of a noble family. He attained several offices in the state, and, being of an ambitious and avaricious temper, spared no means to advance himself. He assumed the title of emperor on the borders of Illyrium, and succeeded, taking as his partner in the throne Albinus, who commanded the Roman forces in Britain. His reception at Rome was highly gratifying to his vanity. At the

same time another competitor for the purple started up in the person of Pescennius Niger, a general in the east, who was not cut off till after several severe contests. Severus afterwards plagued Byzantium, and, having subdued several countries, returned to Rome. Soon afterwards war broke out between the two emperors, in which Albinus was defeated and slain. Severus now deluged Rome with the blood of her best citizens, and, being tired of an inactive life, carried his army into Asia, where he obtained great conquests. Britain having revolted, he suddenly proceeded thither and reduced it, building a wall across the northern part of the island to defend it from the Caledonians. While he was in Britain, his own son Caracalla attempted to murder him, but was prevented. Severus died soon after at York, A. D. 211, in the 66th year of his age, and the 18th of his reign." The life of Severus afforded us a great deal of conversation.

I was greatly affected by such an unbounded view of the sea as presents itself on entering this place: Mrs. Benson, perceiving it, desired Charlotte to recite Keate's Address to the Ocean, which she did with great eloquence:

" Hail! thou inexhaustible source of wonder and contemplation! Hail! thou multitudinous

ocean! whose waves chase one another down like the generations of men; and, after a momentary space, are immersed for ever in oblivion! The fluctuating waters wash the varied shores of the world; and while they disjoin nations, whom a nearer connection would involve in eternal war, they circulate their arts, and their labours, and give health and plenty to mankind. How glorious! how awful are the scenes thou displayest! whether we view thee when every wind is hushed; when the morning sun silvers the level line of the horizon; or when the evening track is marked with flaming gold, and thy unrippled bosom reflects the radiance of the over-arching heavens! Or whether we behold thee in thy horrors! when the black tempest sweeps thy swelling billows, and the boiling surge mixes with the clouds! when death rides the storm, and humanity drops a fruitless tear for the toiling mariner, whose heart is sinking with dismay! And yet, mighty deep! 'tis thy *surface* alone we view. Who can penetrate the secrets of thy wide domain! what eye can visit thy immense rocks and caverns, that teem with life and vegetation? or search out the myriads of objects, whose beauties lie scattered over thy dread abyss? The mind staggers with the immensity of her own conceptions; and when she

contemplates the flux and reflux of thy tides, which, from the beginning of the world, were never known to err, how does she shrink at the idea of that Divine Power, which originally laid thy foundations so sure, and whose omnipotent voice hath fixed the limits, where thy proud waves shall be stayed !"

We took a boat, and put off to some little distance from land. The seamen told us, that the dredgers for oysters on this coast, which are reckoned exceedingly good, have often met with Roman vessels, cisterns, cellars, &c. in the sands, besides vast numbers of Roman coins, rings, bracelets, &c. which come from the land by the fall of the cliffs.

The sea has got so much of this town, that there are but few houses left; and its church was in such danger a great many years ago, that men were almost continually employed, to make good the walls or banks. We passed *Hearne Bay*, a little place at which vessels are laden with corn, flour, &c. for the metropolis and other parts of the kingdom: it boasts a secluded situation, and is frequented by those who wish to unite the charms of retirement with the healthful practice of sea-bathing. The sight of *Hearne church* reminded Mr. A—— of its former rector, Mr. *Duncombe*; who, he told us, was

the son of William Duncombe, an English writer. His son John was born in 1730. At the age of sixteen he was entered of Bene't college, Cambridge, where he took his degrees in arts; and in 1750 was chosen fellow. In 1753 he entered into orders, and became assistant-preacher at St. Anne's, Soho. In 1757 Archbishop Herring gave him the united livings of St. Andrew and St. Mary, Canterbury. In 1763 he married the daughter of Mr. Highmore, the painter. Archbishop Secker appointed him one of the six preachers in Canterbury cathedral in 1766; and his successor, Dr. Cornwallis, gave him the living of Hearne. He died in 1785. Mr. Duncombe wrote several fugitive poems, and a translation of Horace, part of which had been done by his father. Feeling at that moment, surrounded by so agreeable a party, the pleasures arising from social intercourse, these lines which he wrote occurred to my mind :—

"Seek not to draw me from this calm retreat,
In loftier sphere unfit—untaught to move;
Content with *plain domestic life*, where meet
The sweets of friendship, and the smiles of love!"

We ate our dinner with a good appetite under the cliff, and in the evening walked upon the sand, the children picking up shells and pebbles. Our walk reminded Adelina of these verses in

that entertaining book of Conversations, by Charlotte Smith; and she repeated them:

'Tis pleasant to wander along on the sand,
Beneath the high cliff that is hollow'd in caves;
When the fisher has put off his boat from the land,
And the prawn-catcher wades thro' the short rippling waves.
While fast run before us the sandling and plover,
Intent on the crabs and the sand eels to feed,
And here on a rock, which the tide will soon cover,
We'll find us a seat that is tapestried with weed.
Bright gleam the white sails in the slant rays of even,
And stud as with silver the broad level main,
While glowing clouds float on the fair face of heaven,
And the mirror-like water reflects them again.
How various the shades of marine vegetation,
Thrown here the rough flints and the pebbles among,
The feather'd conferva of deepest carnation,
The dark purple slake and the olive sea-thong.
While Flora herself unreluctantly mingles
Her garlands with those that the Nereids have worn,
For the yellow-horn'd poppy springs up on the shingles,
And convolvulas rival the rays of the morn.
But now to retire from the rock we have warning,
Already the water encircles our seat,
And slowly the tide of the evening returning,
The moon-beams reflect in the waves at our feet.
Ah! whether as now the mild summer sea flowing,
Scarce wrinkles the sands as it murmurs on shore,
Or fierce wintry whirlwinds impetuously blowing,
Bid high maddening surges resistlessly roar;

That Power, which can put the wide waters in motion,
Then bid the vast billows repose at his word;
Fills the mind with deep reverence, while earth, air, and ocean,
Alike of the universe speaks him the Lord.

As we stood gazing at the sea, Robert desired his uncle to tell him what occasioned the tides; which he explained to him in the following words:—"The ocean, it is well known, covers more than one half of the globe, and this large body of waters is near the shores found to be in continual motion, ebbing and flowing alternately, without the least intermission:—for instance, if the tide be now at high water-mark in any port or harbour which lies open to the ocean, it will presently subside, and flow regularly back for about six hours, when it will be found at low water-mark. After this it will again gradually advance for six hours, and then return back in the same manner to its former situation; rising and falling alternately twice a day, or in the space of about twenty-four hours. This is chiefly owing to the moon, which, passing over any particular part of the ocean, attracts and raises the water in that place. She likewise produces the effect of raising the water, both upon that part over which she is passing, and upon that which is immediately opposite.

" The sun likewise affects the tides in some degree; and when, at the time of the new and full moon, the sun and moon acting together upon the water, elevate it more considerably, they are called *spring-tides*; but at the moon's first and last quarters, the sun and moon acting contrary to each other, the water does not then rise so high; and these are called *neap-tides*."

The carriages and horses being now ready, with reluctance we left the sea to return; but our ride home was pleasant, and it was agreed that we should walk the next day to Sturry, to drink tea with the worthy clergyman and his lady, where Mrs. Benson was found by her uncle. In the morning the gentlemen rode out. The children walked with us early; but after breakfast attended their governess in the school-room. Adelina and I begged not to confine Mrs. Benson, and spent the morning in reading, writing, drawing, and playing on the piano-forte.

We dined early, that we might have a longer afternoon, and then set out on our walk: part of which lay across the fields, and part along a green turf winding lane.

All the children accompanied us, except the two youngest; the scene was truly rural; in one of the fields the hay-makers were making

hay, which diffused a delightful odour, in another was a flock of sheep with fleeces white as snow, scattered here and there; and in passing through a corn-field, our ears were delighted by the warbling of a lark, which the boys startled out of its nest; raising its note as it soared, until it seemed lost in immense heights above us; the note continued, the bird itself unseen; we saw it then descending with a swell, as it came from the clouds, yet sinking by degrees as it approached its nest—the spot where all its affections were centered, the spot that had prompted all its joy. Adelina, who hung on my arm, (our hearts filled with inexpressible satisfaction and delight) repeated these lines of Waller:

"The *lark*, that shuns on lofty boughs to build
Her humble nest, lies silent in the field;
But if the promise of a cloudless day,
(Aurora smiling) bids her rise and play,
Then strait she shows 'twas not for want of voice,
Or pow'r to climb, she made so low a choice;
Singing she mounts, her airy wings are stretch'd
Towards heav'n, as if from heav'n her note she fetch'd."

The lark you know is of the sixth order, Passeres, or the sparrow kind. Mr. A—— told us, that all the beautiful and vocal tribes of birds, which adorn and enliven our fields and groves, are comprehended under the sparrow kind.

There are various species of the lark, as the common or sky-lark, the wood-lark, the tit-lark, and the field-lark. The sky-lark and the wood-lark, are the only birds that sing as they poise themselves in the regions of ether.

Charles, who had run swiftly through a narrow path, came hastily back, bringing in his handkerchief a hedgehog which he had found. "Pray, papa," said he, "tell me all about the hedgehog, for I never saw one alive before:" his father told him, it was of the first class, Mammalia, and the third order, Feræ, or animals whose cutting teeth vary from ten to two: he added, "few animals are more innoxious than the hedge-hog, yet few are exposed to such various injuries and insults. Children frequently learn the rudiments of cruelty in torturing it; and it seldom finds a protector among those who are more advanced in years. Humanity, however, is due to the meanest reptile; and whoever is capable of exercising unnecessary barbarity, even toward the noxious creature that has life, must possess obtunded feelings at least, and probably a vicious heart."

"Shall I let it go?" said Charles; "do, my dear," said his father, "as soon as we have all well examined it." "Though the hedgehog has a formidable appearance," said Mr. A——,

" from the sharp spines with which its upper parts are covered, it is one of the most harmless creatures in the universe. Incapable or unwilling to injure, all its precautions are directed only to its own security; its armour is adapted not to invade, but to repel an enemy. While other animals trust to their force, their cunning, or their swiftness, the hedgehog, destitute of all these, has but one expedient for its protection: as soon as it perceives itself attacked, it draws back and concentrates all its vulnerable parts, rolls itself, as you see, into a kind of ball, and presents nothing but its prickles to the foe; and thus, while it refrains from attempting to injure any other quadruped, it renders itself proof against the annoyance of most creatures, except man. The enraged dog may bark, and roll it along with his paws; it still patiently submits to every provocation, in order to remain secure.

" Like most other wild animals, the hedgehog spends the greatest part of the day in sleep, and forages for worms, insects, and other petty spoil, principally in the night. It prefers small thickets, hedges, or bushy ditches, for its retreat, where it makes a hole about six or eight inches deep, and lines it with moss, grass, or leaves. It sleeps during winter; and, at all seasons, is

satisfied with a small quantity of food. The flesh, by some, is esteemed very delicate eating; but it is only epicures of a peculiar taste who make the experiment."

Mr. Mansfield observed, that in order to justify the ill usage which this creature generally receives, it has been accused of sucking the teats of cows and mares, and of injuring their udders, as they lie at rest. From this charge it cannot be wholly exculpated. The common species is widely diffused over Europe; and other varieties of the same animal are found in every quarter of the globe. Mr. Benson desired Robert to repeat the verses of Charlotte Smith on the Hedgehog seen in a Frequented Path, and then to let it have its liberty.

"Wherefore should man or thoughtless boy
Thy quiet harmless life destroy,
Innoxious urchin?—for thy food
Is but the beetle and the fly,
And all thy harmless luxury,
The swarming insects of the wood,

Should man, to whom his God has given
Reason, the brightest ray of heaven,
Delight to hurt, in senseless mirth,
Inferior animals?—and dare
To use his power in waging war
Against his brethren of the earth?

Poor creature! to the woods resort,
Lest lingering here, inhuman sport
Should render vain thy thorny case;
And whelming water, deep and cold,
Make thee thy spiny ball unfold,
And show thy simple negro face!

Fly from the cruel; know, than they
Less fierce are ravenous beasts of prey,
And should perchance these last come near thee,
And fox or martin cat assail,
Thou, safe within thy coat of mail,
May cry—Ah! noli me tangere."

As we continued our walk, Elizabeth amused herself with chasing butterflies; and at last, having caught one, she brought it to her father. You know the butterfly is of the third order of insects, Lepidoptera, and that insects of this order have four wings, all of them imbricated with scales.

"My dear Elizabeth," said Mr. Benson, "where these worms are bred, they no sooner leave the eggs than they are fed with mulberry-leaves, with which they are supplied every morning, when the old leaves are carefully removed. This insect, when first produced, is extremely small, and entirely black. In a few days it assumes a new habit; which is white, tinged with the colour of its food. And before it goes into its Chrysalis state, it assumes two other dresses.

At this time, it appears disgusted with the world, and voluntarily retires to its solitary grave, which is most admirably formed with its thread. How wonderful must be the structure of its body, to furnish such a thread! how astonishing the instinct, which teaches it to make, of this self-produced material, its own tomb! And how much must it diminish the pride of man, to consider that he is indebted, for his most gaudy array, to a substance, of which a worm forms its sepulchre! Reflect on this, ye potentates of the earth! acknowledge, with humble gratitude, your debt to the silk-worm; and divest yourselves of the vain arrogance which you assume, when arrayed in the robes of majesty!

"When the Chrysalis state begins, the insect proceeds to spin its silk, in which it is buried. Like the pierced iron plates of a wire drawer, this worm produces the thread through a pair of holes in an instrument placed under its mouth. Two drops of gum serve it as distaffs, supplying the substance of which she spins the thread; for the gum is no sooner in the air, than it loses its fluidity, and changes to the silk, in the due size of which the worm is never deceived. She always proportions the thread to the weight of her body. The cone of silk being formed, and opened, is found to consist of the worm, changed

to a nymph, and buried in its centre, a down or flue, which is the bad part of the silk, and the perfect part, all arranged with great compactness and propriety. It may be a matter of wonder how so small a moth as this little worm must necessarily produce, should be able to burst the million-fold barriers of her place of regeneration.

"The same omniscient Being who taught it how to erect this place of rest, taught it, at the same time, to find an easy access to her aërial existence. The new animal, with its horns, head, and feet, directs its efforts to that end of the cone which it has left purposely light enough to admit its passage to another world of enjoyment."

Emily, who is quite a little botanist, presented me with a very pretty nosegay of field flowers. I asked her if she could repeat any verses on wild flowers, and she very readily recited the following, written by Charlotte Smith.

"Fair rising from her icy couch,
Wan herald of the floral year,
The snow-drop marks the spring's approach,
Ere yet the primrose groups appear,
Or peers the arum from its spotted veil,
Or odorous violets scent the cold capricious gale.

Then thickly strewn in woodland bowers
Anemonies their stars unfold,
There spring the sorrel's veined flowers,
And, rich in vegetable gold,

From calyx pale, the freckled cowslip born,
Receives in amber cups the fragrant dews of morn,

Lo! the green thorn her silver buds
Expands, to May's enlivening beam;
Hottonia blushes on the floods;
And where the slowly trickling stream,
Mid grass and spiry rushes stealing glides,
Her lovely fringed flowers fair menyanthes hides.

In the low copse or shadowy dale,
Wild cluster'd knots of harebells blow,
And droops the lily of the vale
O'er vinca's matted leaves below,
The orchis race with varied beauty charm,
And mock the exploring bee, or fly's aerial form.

Wound in the hedgerow's oaken boughs,
The woodbine's tassels float in air,
And blushing, the uncultured rose
Hangs high her beauteous blossoms there,
Her fillets there the purple nightshade weaves,
And the brionia winds her pale and scolloped leaves.

To later summer's fragrant breath,
Clemati's feathery garlands dance;
The hollow foxglove nods beneath,
While the tall mullein's yellow lance,
Dear to the mealy tribe of evening, towers,
And the weak galium weaves its myriad fairy flowers.

Sheltering the coot's or wild duck's nest,
And where the timid halcyon hides,
The Willow-herb, in crimson drest,
Waves with Arundo o'er the tides;

And there the bright nymphea loves to lave,
Or spreads her golden orbs upon the dimpling wave.

And thou! by pain and sorrow blest,
Papaver! that an opiate dew
Conceal'st beneath thy scarlet vest,
Contrasting with the corn-flower blue,
Autumnal months behold thy gauzy leaves
Bend in the rustling gale, amid the tawny sheaves.

From the first bud whose venturous head
The winter's lingering tempest braves,
To those which mid the foliage dead
Sink latest to their annual graves,
All are for food, for health, or pleasure given,
And speak in various ways, the bounteous hand of Heaven."

As Emily finished this line, Arthur came to us with a dead mole, which he had found, and begged his uncle to tell him what class it was. Mr. Benson informed him that it was of the same class and order as the hedgehog. "You see," said he, "that the mole has broad, strong, and short fore feet, which are inclined sideways; answering the purpose as well as form of hands. With these the mole scoops out the earth, to form its habitation, or to pursue its prey. The mole flings the loose earth behind her; her hind parts are small and taper, enabling her to pass with ease through the earth which her fore feet have flung behind. The smallness of the mole's eyes is a peculiar happi-

ness to the animal; had they been larger, they would have been liable to injury, by the earth falling into them; to prevent this, the eyes are not only small, but closely covered with fur: we are likewise assured that this animal has the power of withdrawing or exerting them, according to its occasions. The senses of smelling and hearing are very keen; the one to direct the animal to its food in its dark abode; the other to give it notice of the most distant approach of danger.

"The nose of the mole is long and slender, well formed for thrusting into small holes in search of the worms and insects which inhabit them. The mole makes its nest of moss, and that always under the largest hillock, a little below the surface of the ground. The mole is observed to be more active, and to cast up more earth immediately before rain, and in the winter before a thaw; because at those times the worms and insects begin to be in motion, and approach the surface; on the contrary, in very dry weather, this animal seldom forms any hillocks, as it penetrates deep after its prey, which retires far into the ground. The mole skins a worm before he eats it. Moles injure us by loosening the roots of plants."

We then crossed over a style into the field where they were making hay, and I repeated to Adelina these lines of Gay:

" When the fresh spring in all her state is crown'd,
And high luxuriant grass o'erspreads the ground,
The lab'rer with the bending scythe is seen,
Shaving the surface of the waving green,
Of all her native pride disrobes the land,
And meads lays waste before his sweeping hand;
While with the mounting sun the meadow glows,
The fading herbage round he loosely throws.
But if some sign portend a lasting shower,
Th' experienc'd swain foresees the coming hour.
His sun-burnt hands the scatt'ring fork forsake,
And ruddy damsels ply the saving rake;
In rising hills the fragrant harvest grows,
And spreads along the field in equal rows."

I believe the children would gladly have stayed here all the day, so delighted were they; but while we stood admiring the scene of haymaking, a violent shriek from Maria alarmed us; occasioned, however, by nothing but a grasshopper which had jumped on her frock. Mrs. Benson told her that she was surprised at her weakness; and when she had made her learn those lines of Cowley, which she was going to repeat to her, she hoped she would no longer be afraid of a harmless grasshopper.

" Happy insect! What can be
In happiness compar'd to thee?
Fed with nourishment divine,
The dewy morning's gentle wine!
Nature waits upon thee still,
And thy verdant cup does fill.
Thou dost drink and dance and sing,
Happier than the happiest king!
All the fields which thou dost see,
All the plants, belong to thee,
All that summer hours produce,
Fertile made with early juice,
Man for thee does sow and plow,
Farmer he, and landlord thou!
Thou dost innocently enjoy,
Nor does thy luxury destroy:
The shepherd gladly heareth thee,
More harmonious than he;
The country hinds with gladness hear,
Prophet of the ripen'd year!
To thee, of all things upon earth,
Life is no longer than thy mirth.
Happy insect, happy, thou
Dost neither age nor winter know.
But when thou'st drunk and danc'd and sung
Thy fill the flowery leaves among,
Sated with thy summer feast
Thou retir'st to endless rest.

Mrs. Benson then begged Mr. A—— to give us the history of the grasshopper; which he did, by informing us, that it was of the second order, Hemiptera, insects with four wings; the

two superior semi-crustaceous and incumbent, that is, the interior edges lie above each other. Of this variegated tribe, the little grasshopper, that breeds in such plenty in every meadow, and that continues its chirping through the summer, is best known to us; and, by having its history, we should be possessed of all the rest. This insect is of the colour of green leaves, except a line of brown which streaks the back, and two pale lines under the belly, and behind the legs; "this you may look at now, while I hold it in my fingers, my dear Maria."

A short time after the grasshopper assumes its wings, it fills the meadow with its note; which, like that among birds, is a call to courtship. The male only of this tribe is vocal; and upon examining at the base of the wings, we shall there find a little hole in its body, covered with a fine transparent membrane. This is thought, by Linnæus, to be the instrument it employs in singing; but others are of opinion, that the sound is produced by its rubbing its hinder legs against each other, however this be, the note of one male is seldom heard, but it is returned by another; and the two little animals, after many mutual insults of this kind, are seen to meet and fight desperately. The female is generally the reward of victory; for, after the

combat, the male seizes her with his teeth behind the neck, and thus keeps her for several hours.

Towards the latter end of autumn the female prepares to deposit her burthen; and her body is then seen greatly distended with her eggs, which she carries to the number of a hundred and fifty. In order to make a proper lodgment in the earth for them, nature has furnished her with an instrument at her tail somewhat resembling a two-edged sword, which she can sheathe and unsheathe at pleasure: with this she pierces the earth as deep as she is able; and into the hole, which this instrument has made, she deposits her eggs, one after the other.

Having thus provided for the continuation of her posterity, the animal herself does not long survive; but, as the winter approaches, she dries up, seems to feel the effects of age, and dies from a total decay. Some, however, assert, that she is killed by the cold; and others, that she is eaten by worms: but certain it is, that neither the male nor female are ever seen to survive the winter. In the mean time, the eggs which have been deposited continue unaltered, either by the severity of the season, or the retardation of the spring. They are of an oval figure, white, and of the consistence of horn:

their size nearly equals that of a grain of anise; they are enveloped in the body within a covering, branched all over with veins and arteries; and, when excluded, they crack, on being pressed between the fingers: their substance within is a whitish, viscous and transparent fluid.

Generally, about the beginning of May, every egg produces an insect, about the size of a flea; these at first are of a whitish colour; at the end of two or three days they turn black; and soon after they become of a reddish brown. They appear, from the beginning, like grasshoppers wanting wings; and hop among the grass, as soon as excluded, with great agility.

These insects are generally vocal in the midst of summer; and they are heard at sun-setting much louder than during the heat of the day. They are fed upon grass; and though unwilling to fly, and slow in flight, particularly when the weather is moist or cool, they are sometimes seen to fly to a considerable distance. If they be handled roughly, they will bite very fiercely; and when they fly they make a noise with their wings. They generally keep in the plain, where the grass is luxuriant, and the ground rich and fertile: there they deposit their eggs, particularly in those cracks which are formed by the heat of the sun. Such are the habits and nature of

these little vocal insects, which swarm in our meadows and enliven the landscape.

The grasshopper having many stomachs has caused several authors to assert that they chew the cud, like some other larger animals.

Mr. A—— now desired us to observe the variegated colours in the clouds. "With what diversity of colours," said he, "do the beams of the sun adorn the wandering clouds! Here he dyes them with scarlet, there with purple; and yonder the violet appears with the most enlivening aspect. The skirts of some are painted with silver, while others are teinted with gold. Through that variety which continually awaits his presence, how many pleasing and entertaining scenes do we behold in the heavens! What wild and rude, yet beautiful and agreeable, prospects of craggy rocks and steep mountains do they often present to our view! Adelina, my dear, repeat to Mrs. Benson those lines which you recollect in a description of the West Indies."

"O'er the bright firmanent a thousand forms,
Floating, are lost in momentary change;
In marble skies imagination shapes
Aerial palaces, temples superb,
The fiery dragon, or the griffen wing'd;
Beasts, birds, and trees, mountains with flying caps,
And fleets of sailing ships; till by degrees
The vision melts.

We were roused from our contemplation of the clouds by Emily, who, taking her mamma by the hand, said, "What a number of little hillocks there are in this path, mamma! how curiously they are thrown up! they appear as if something more than chance had formed them; I could almost conceive that they had been piled bit by bit, they lay so regularly." "Do you not know," said Mrs. Benson, "that they are the nests of ants, whose residence, in fine dry weather, is pretty deep in the ground; but who, in a wet season, contrive to pile a small mass of earth or gravel over the entrance of their habitations, to defend them from the damage which they might otherwise sustain? I think I need not tell you that this little creature is rendered famous, and actually held up to man as a proverb of industry; even Solomon has immortalized it, by saying, 'Go to the ant, thou sluggard, consider her ways and be wise.' Their nests are well worth the inspection of the curious; so much art, so much design, and so much utility, are at the same time evident in their construction. Their residence has all the appearance of a little city; drains are here and there formed to carry off the water, which might otherwise occasion them great damage, by overflowing their granaries, and destroying not only

the produce of their present labours, but the hope of future subsistence; for the provident foresight of these little creatures is such, as to direct them to lay up a proper store of provisions for winter."

"Then, mamma," said Emily, "they never experience a famine." Mrs. Benson told her that on this account they are indefatigable in their exertions during the course of the summer. Not one of this vast community is idle; should there be one found, the others drag him to the mouth of their habitation, and cover him with gravel or sand, or beat him till he is either incapable of bearing his post in the general labour, or willingly executes his charge. Their care too of their young is admirable; it is, indeed, a lesson of instruction to parents: thus these insects display so much genuine wisdom in the arrangement of all their little concerns, that they have been thought worthy the attention of the greatest moralists, as well as naturalists, who have been at much pains to examine into their peculiarities with even critical attention. "Observe, mamma," said Charlotte, "here are a number of them ascending that tree." Mrs. Benson, taking a small microscope from her *ridicule*, desired her to look through it, and tell her if she observed any thing worthy of attention in them.

Charlotte took the glass, and presently called her sisters and brothers to participate her pleasure. "Dear Emily, do but look," said she, "every one is loaded; see, see, here are four carrying a small grain of corn; they are fatigued, and are resting it upon the bark of the tree: there are some others coming to relieve them, but still they proceed with their charge." Mr. Benson desired her to follow them with her eye to the nest, and observe how carefully they would drag it to their repository. Elizabeth said, she should like to see their granary. Mr. Benson told her, that, to do so, would be the ruin of their whole colony; the care and anxiety, the solicitude and fatigue, of the foregoing months, would all be rendered useless. He added, that he wished them to investigate causes and effects, but not by any acts of wanton or premeditated cruelty, to inflict sufferings even upon a reptile. "Is an ant a reptile?" said Emily. "Yes, my dear," answered her father, "and a very mischievous one. It is, as your mother has told you, an emblem of prudence and industry; by its care and foresight it provides against the wants of winter, when it is, from its nature, incapacitated from providing for its existence; cold, snow, or hail, or even heavy rains, would inevitably destroy an entire nation; it therefore provides against the season in which

such weather is expected, by loading its little habitation with such provisions as are necessary not only to its future preservation, but for defending it, by every means in its power, from the inclemency of the weather. It is, however, a mischievous little animal, and is dreaded as an inveterate enemy to the vegetable world. Of their utility in the scale of creation I can give you but little information; yet, of this we are assured, that *nothing was made in vain*; and I am inclined to think so; for, take the whole creation, animal, vegetable, and mineral, you will find that one creature depends upon another; that the existence of all depends upon all; and therefore, that the ant, who to us appears a tyrant and destroyer, has been suffered to exist, not merely for itself, but as a necessary link in the great chain: but were they of no other use, the admirable lesson which they hold up to mankind of the uses of foresight and economy, should be sufficient to render them valuable.

"Their industry and perseverance serve to instruct man in his duty to himself, to teach him that the season of youth, frittered away in idle pursuits, or vain search after the phantom *pleasure*, exposes him, in the winter of life, to a variety of troubles, and leaves him to an ineffectual struggle with fortune and his passions;

but when, like the industrious ant, he shall apply his youth and strength to the purposes of industry; or rather, to hold out the metaphor more strongly, he shall, in the summer of his days, endeavour to provide against the winter that is approaching, his remnant of life shall be made comfortable; reaping the peaceful harvest of industry, he shall be gladdened by its produce, and repose in security under the vine of his own planting.

"This metaphor too, my dear children, is analogous to our future state; it may teach us to remember, that in our youth we should fortify our minds with such virtues as may make the down-hill of life pleasant to us; that, by walking faithfully in the ways of God, we may not leave our repentance to a death-bed, or see our starving souls upon the point of expiring for that celestial food, which in youth we should have stored up as a provision for the well-closing of this life, and the hope of immortality in that which is to come."

Mr. Benson then desired Robert to repeat a few lines on the ant from Dryden's Virgil, which I send you:

——"The *ants*,
Fearful of winter, and of future wants,

Invade the *corn*; and to their *cells* convey
The plunder'd forage of their yellow prey;
Some set their shoulders to the pond'rous grain,
Some guard the spoil, some lash the lugging train,
All ply their several tasks, and equal toil sustain.

You remember, my dear sister, that ants are of the fifth order, Hemenoptera; or insects having four wings, interwoven with veins like a piece of net-work, and are armed with a sting.

As we crossed the style into the green lane, Elizabeth was stung by a gnat, which she said she should bear very patiently, if her papa would tell her the history of gnats.

"My dear little Elizabeth," said Mr. Benson, "you are now convinced by painful experience, that gnats live by sucking blood. They lay their eggs in standing water; which you may have an opportunity of observing, and all its changes, which are very curious. In the summer, if water be exposed a few days in a tub, and some taken into a glass, the larvæ may be seen by the naked eye; they continually rise to the surface of the water to breathe; as soon as they become chrysalids, they keep at the surface of the water to draw breath: they do not then eat any thing; but if the water be moved, they unroll themselves and plunge to the bottom: after three or four days they become gnats. The covering

which they burst becomes a sort of ship, on which the insect floats till it can rise into the air: when the gnat spreads his wings for that purpose, a breath of wind would overset him, and he would perish: he can no longer live in water; but is fitted to be an inhabitant of air. The glass must be open at the top; if they be in a phial, it is difficult for them to escape, and many will be drowned.

"The gnat is of the 6th order, Diptera. The diptera have two wings, as the term imports, and two clavated halteres, or balances, behind each wing."

We were entertained all the way through this lane with the note of the cuckoo, and various other birds. When the winged inhabitants of the air send forth their invitation to tread the dewy lawn, how heightened is the scene! Not a tree nor a hedge but contained more or less of those tuneful warblers, who poured out their very souls to harmonize and celebrate the praise of the great Author and Upholder of the universe. The thrush and woodlark ran through the sweetest length of notes, and strove to be heard superior in the enchanting choir. From the thorny brake the blackbird whistled; the bullfinch answered from the grove; while the linnet, as he sat on the flowery furze, deigned to be numbered

among the harmonious songsters. Nor was the harsh pipe of the rook and daw silent, as we approached the parsonage; while the stockdove breathed a pleasing murmur through the whole. Adelina sung the song of the cuckoo; her voice is truly harmonious.

" Now the sun is in the west,
Sinking slow behind the trees,
And the cuckoo, welcome guest,
Gently wooes the ev'ning breeze,
Cuckoo! cuckoo! cuckoo! cuckoo!
Gently wooes the ev'ning breeze.

Sportive now the swallows play,
Lightly skimming o'er the brook,
Darting swift, they wing their way
Homeward to their peaceful nook,
Whilst the cuckoo, bird of spring,
Still amidst the trees doth sing;
Cuckoo! cuckoo! cuckoo! cuckoo!
Still amidst the trees doth sing.

Cheerful see yon shepherd boy
Climbing up the craggy rocks,
As he views the dappled sky,
Pleas'd the cuckoo's note he mocks;
Cuckoo! cuckoo! cuckoo! cuckoo!
Pleas'd the cuckoo's note he mocks.

Now advancing o'er the plain,
Evening's dusky shades appear,
And the cuckoo's voice again
Softly steals upon mine ear,

While retiring from the view,
Thus she bids the day adieu;
Cuckoo! cuckoo! cuckoo! cuckoo!
Thus she bids the day adieu."

I was afterwards desired to repeat Logan's beautiful verses on the cuckoo.

"Hail, beauteous stranger of the grove!
Thou messenger of Spring!
Now heaven repairs thy rural seat,
And woods thy welcome sing.

What time the daisy decks the green,
Thy certain voice we hear;
Hast thou a star to guide thy path,
Or mark the rolling year?

Delightful visitant! with thee
I hail the time of flowers;
And hear the sound of music sweet
From birds among the bowers.

The school-boy, wandering through the wood,
To pull the primrose gay,
Starts—the new voice of Spring to hear,
And imitates thy lay.

What time the pea puts on the bloom,
Thou fly'st thy vocal vale,
An annual guest in other lands,
Another Spring to hail.

Sweet bird! thy bower is ever green,
Thy sky is ever clear;
Thou hast no sorrow in thy song,
No winter in thy year!

Oh! could I fly, I'd fly with thee;
We'd make, with joyful wing,
Our annual visit o'er the globe,
Companions of the Spring."

Alexis, who had listened attentively to the song and the verses, wished to know the history of that bird. "My dear Alexis," said Mr. A——, "I will with pleasure gratify your wish. The cuckoo is a bird of the second order, Picæ; or the pye kind. Birds of the pye kind are distinguished by having a beak in some degree resembling a wedge, and formed for cleaving; their legs short and strong; their bodies slender, and impure, by their subsisting on miscellaneous food. They generally breed in trees, and the females are fed by the males during the season of incubation.

"The note of this bird is known to all the world; but its history and nature remain undiscovered.

"The claws and bill of the cuckoo are much weaker than those of other rapacious birds. It is distinguished from all others by its note, and the round prominent nostrils on the surface of the bill. The head, the upper part of the body, and the wings, are beautifully striped with tawny colour and transparent black; the legs are very short, clothed with feathers down to the feet;

and it has a large mouth, the inside of which is yellowish.

"This bird is the harbinger of spring; at which time it returns, to gladden the husbandman with its wonted notes, as a signal that nature now resumes her vernal beauties. The note, which is a call to love, is used only by the male, and continues no longer than the pairing season.

"The young are generally nursed by a water-wagtail, or hedge-sparrow, their parents always unnaturally deserting them.

"The note of the cuckoo is pleasant, though uniform; and owes its power of pleasing to that association of ideas which frequently renders things agreeable, that would otherwise not be so in themselves.

"Were we to hear the cuckoo on the approach of winter, we should think it a most lamentable noise; but, hearing it as we do, at the approach of spring, we cannot avoid thinking it the most agreeable, from its being attached to all those enjoyments with which we know nature is then teeming for our accommodation.

"It is about fourteen inches in length, twenty-five in breadth, and weighs five ounces, little more or less.

Alexis thanked Mr. A———, and then ran away, saying that he did not like the

cuckoo because she was unnatural to her young.

Arthur just then came running up to us. "Pray, uncle," said he, "how do the field spiders carry their first thread from tree to tree, or across the lanes? Pray look how I am covered over with them."—"She places herself," said his uncle, "upon the end of a branch, or some other projecting body, and there fastens her thread: after which, she presses out more long threads, which she leaves floating in the air. These threads are wafted by the wind, from one side to another, and are there fastened by their natural glew; she afterwards draws them to her, to try if they are well fixed, and then they become a bridge, over which the spider passes and repasses at pleasure." Arthur then enquired, if spiders were of any use? Mr. Mansfield answered, "Our aversion to spiders, arises from their ejecting a poisonous matter, with which they kill their enemies. But I believe the quantity they can eject, though fatal to insects, would not produce any great injury to us. Spiders, however disagreeable to us, are not without their use. They catch and destroy many flies. The webs which they spread over the trees in summer, in some degree preserve the fruit. And in our houses they may be

more useful than we are aware of. They may inhale some noxious qualities of the air, which might otherwise become prejudicial to us. The web, which spiders form, particularly in gardens, are exceedingly curious, and deserve your accurate inspection, my dear boy." Robert, who had been listening attentively, asked Mr. A—— to give him the history of spiders. "That I will with pleasure. Spiders are of the seventh order, Aptera. The characteristic of animals in this order is, that they are destitute of wings. All spiders have eight legs, and two arms; two pincers on the fore-part of the head, from whence they emit their poison: the substance that supplies the web is contained in a little bag, and may be drawn into threads: each thread that we see, consists of five, that are drawn out of five orifices, and often doubled.

"When the reservoir for making webs is exhausted, the spider hunts for one who is young and weak, and drives it out; or else, being reduced to subsist on accidental depredations, in two or three months dies of hunger.

"A pair of gloves has been made of the strongest thread they ever make; which is for their eggs, and four or five times as strong as the web. The old spider lines it with down plucked from her breast; sticks it, by means of a glu-

tinous fluid, to her body; and the young, when hatched, remain in the bag till the old one knows it is proper to set them at liberty: she then bites open the bag, and takes the little fly on her back. Some kinds hang their bag up, and place before it a dry leaf, to conceal it from birds and wasps.

"There are five kinds of spiders: house; garden; black; vagrant or wandering; and the field spider, called long-legs.

"The house spider is that whose web we see in corners. The garden spider weaves a little circular web, and in the day rests in the centre. The black spider builds in cellars and old ruins. The vagrant spider has no settled habitation. The field spider is seen mounting web and all, into the clouds. They have many eyes placed all round their heads. If they lose a leg, it will grow again. On each leg they have three crooked moveable claws; one is placed higher up, like the spur of a cock by which it is able to adhere to the thread of its web; two larger, meeting like a lobster's claw, by which they catch hold of the smallest depressions; and if they walk on looking-glass, they squeeze a sponge near the end of their claws, and diffuse a glutinous substance, so that they can adhere to the surface till they make a second step. The thread of the

spider is four or five times finer than that of the silk-worm; so that sixty thousand would be wanted to make a pound. There is likewise a water-spider, that can live by water as well as by land, and can spin in either element: they are inclosed in a bubble of air surrounding them like a box, and looking like quick-silver: their food is, probably, the insects of either element."

"I thank you, sir," said Robert. "How do I wish that I understood natural history well; pray may I seek for any more animals?" "As many as you please," said Mr. A——; "but before you go, Adelina will repeat to you some lines from Dryden, on the Spider:

"The treach'rous spider, when her nets are spread,
Deep ambush'd in her silent den does lie,
And feels, far off, the trembling of her thread,
Whose filmy cord should bind the struggling fly;
Then, if at last she find him fast beset,
She issues forth, and runs along her loom;
She joys to touch the captive in her net,
And drags the little wretch in triumph home."

Mr. A—— then observed, that insects, though so much inferior to other animals in bulk, do not all fall short of them with respect to form and ornament; and whoever will examine them without prejudice, will, with a little attention, discover them to exhibit the most finished

pieces of divine workmanship. The bulk of the body contributes nothing to its excellence; and there is no less wisdom and power in the formation of a fly, or a worm, than in the unweildy elephant, or more enormous whale.

With how exact a proportion and harmony of parts do their little bodies unite, and what philosophical nicety appears in the formation of their different species! Not any thing superfluous or unnecessary can be seen in them; and although some walk, some creep, some fly, and others swim, each is possessed of such members and organs as best suit the element it resides in, or the use for which it is designed. Nor are they at all inferior to any other part of the creation with respect to the countless variety of their species. There is not a thing that we can see or mention, not even the very stone in its inmost recess, the pure air, or transparent stream, but contains multitudes. In which constitution of things we have a wonderful instance not only of divine goodness to those minute beings, in giving them a capacity for animal gratifications; but of its tender care for mankind in making them imperceptible to our senses.

Robert now returned, bringing with him a worm and a snail; of which he eagerly asked Mr. A—— to indulge him with the histories.

"My dear boy," said he, "Vermes, or Worms, are the sixth and lowest class of animated nature, and in them we perceive the *last link* in the GRAND CHAIN. Worms include five orders. Order the first, Intestina. The characteristics of this order are, that the animals are both perfectly naked, and without any kind of limbs. There are twenty-one genera; in which the most remarkable species are, the various intestinal worms of men and other animals, the earth-worm, and the leech. A description of the common earth-worm, such as you have in your hand, may suffice to give you a general idea of the whole.

"This creature has a spiral muscle running round the whole body, from the head to the tail; by means of which it performs its progressive motion, alternately contracting and dilating itself, and easily keeping the ground which it has gained, by means of the slime pertaining to the forepart of its body.

"Formed for a life of obscurity, the worm is wisely adapted to its situation. It is armed with sharp spines or prickles, which it occasionally erects or depresses; and under the skin is a slimy juice, which it ejects through certain perforations between the rings of the muscles, as occasion requires. It has also breath-apertures

along the back, and is furnished with a mouth and an alimentary canal. The latter is always found replete with a very fine earth.

"Worms unite both sexes in themselves at once; impregnating, and being impregnated in their turn. Their eggs are laid in the earth, and become hatched in twelve or fourteen days by the genial warmth of their situation. During winter, these animals bury themselves deeper in the earth, and appear in some measure to partake of the torpidity of the insect tribe; but, in the spring, they revive, and pursue the universal purpose of propagating their kind."

"And now, my dear Robert," said Mr. Benson, "I will tell you something about the snail, as I fear you will weary Mr. A——."—"What a curious house it has got!" said Emily. Mr. Benson continued. "Every animal in nature has its habitation. The roof under which the snail resides has two properties, which appear difficult to be united, solidity and lightness; without which, its inhabitant could neither be protected from injury, nor transfer its habitation from place to place. At the approach of winter, she retires into some cavity, and her body distils a certain glutinous matter, which closes up the aperture of the shell. Thus shrouded up, she passes the cold winter in safety. When the

spring season commences, she opens her door, and ranges at her pleasure."

"Pray, where are its eyes?" said Alexis.

"As they creep upon the ground, and have the weight of their apartment upon them, if their eyes where not somewhat elevated, they could not well distinguish what they were to avoid, nor what they might approach. To prevent this inconvenience, they are furnished with what we may term telescopic eyes. Those which you call the snails horns, are four tubes, with a glass at the extremity of each; or, if you will, you may call them four optic nerves, which end in as many beautiful eyes. These she can elevate, and turn about in every direction, and lengthen or contract them, as we do the telescope."

Elizabeth observing that the snail had no feet, Mr. Benson continued. "To show the diversity of the divine works, they have two large muscular skins, which they can lengthen and contract at pleasure; by which means they move and draw their castle, which rests upon their backs. And, to prevent accidents, they are provided with a viscous humour, which, by its cohesion, secures them from falling, and renders them impenetrable to moisture, by an oily matter with which they close all the pores of their skin."

"Pray," said Charles, "how is the shell made?"

"The snail has a very small shell, rather soft when she leaves the egg: This shell forms the basis of a second, which is gradually increasing. The first is the centre of the other: and the whole is formed by adding new circles to the first shell. And as her body can only be extended towards the aperture, this must consequently be the part which receives the fresh accessions. The materials from which the shell is made, are lodged in the body of the animal; and formed by a viscous fluid, and sandy particles of exquisite fineness, which thicken into a consistence round the extremity of the shell, and become incrustated. This will give you some idea how the shells of all sorts of fishes are formed. Snails are of the sixth class and third order, Testacea, or animals having soft, simple bodies, but covered with a coat of a calcareous nature."

"How much I thank *you*, my dear father, and Mr. A——," said Robert, "for the trouble you have taken, in giving me these instructions, which so much enlarge my ideas of the wisdom, power, and goodness of the Creator!"

The boys afterwards brought several beautiful insects and flies for us to admire; as the three gentlemen were busily engaged in conversation,

they did not interrupt them to make enquiries, but set their prisoners at liberty, and contented themselves with listening to some verses on Insects, which I repeated to them from Mrs Barbauld:

" Observe the insect race, ordain'd to keep
The lazy sabbath of a half-year's sleep,
Entomb'd beneath the filmy web they lie,
And wait the influence of a kinder sky,
When vernal sun-beams pierce their dark retreat,
The heaving tomb distends with vital heat,
The full-form'd brood, impatient of their cell,
Start from their trance and burst their silken shell,
Trembling awhile they stand, and scarcely dare
To launch at once upon the untried air.
At length assur'd, they catch the fav'ring gale,
And leave their sordid spoils, and high in ether sail.
Lo! the bright train their radiant wings unfold,
With silver fring'd and freckled o'er with gold,
On the gay bosom of some fragrant flower
They idly flutt'ring live their little hour;
Their life all pleasure, and their task all play,
All spring their age, and sun-shine all their day.
Not so the child of sorrow, wretched man:
His course with toil concludes, with pain began,
That his high destiny he might discern,
And in Misfortune's school this lesson learn:
Pleasure's the portion of th' inferior kind;
But glory, virtue, Heaven for man design'd.
What atom forms of insect life appear!
And who can follow nature's pencil here?

Their wings with azure, green, and purple gloss'd,
Studded with colour'd eyes, with gems emboss'd,
Inlaid with pearl, and mark'd with various stains
Of lively crimson thro' their dusky veins.
Some shoot like living stars athwart the night,
And scatter from their wings a vivid light,
To guide the Indian to his tawny loves,
As thro' the woods with cautious step he moves.
See the proud giant of the beetle race;
What shining arms his polish'd limbs enchase,
Like some stern warrior formidably bright,
His steely sides reflect a gleaming light;
On his large forehead spreading horns he wears,
And high in air the branching antlers bears;
O'er many an inch extends his wide domain,
And his rich treasury swells with hoarded grain."

Mrs. Benson was so pleased with these verses, that she begged me to write them out for the children to learn. Just then Charles brought in his hand to Adelina a little field-mouse which he had caught. She told him that these animals were found only in fields and gardens; in some places they are called *bean mice*, from the havock they make among those seeds when first sown. They feed also on nuts, acorns, and corn; forming in their burrows vast magazines of winter provision. The hog often turns up the earth in search of the concealed hoards of the field-mouse. Field-mice generally make a nest for their young very near the surface of the

earth; and often in a thick tuft of grass. Mice are of the first class, Mammalia, and the fourth order, Glires, or animals which have only two cutting and no canine teeth.

Charles now called out, "A rat! a rat!" and indeed there was a monstrous rat running in the ditch at the end of the lane. "This," said Mr. Benson, "is a fine subject for your inspection, my dear children. Rats are of the same class and order as mice. The black rat, which was formerly common in this country, was a harmless and small animal compared with that of the Norway and Muscovy rat, by whom it is now almost, if not wholly, extirpated. The form of this hideous invader is frightful and ugly, and all his habits are voracious and nasty to an extreme degree. His body is about nine inches long, his eyes large, black, and wild, and his head of a most savage and furious make. The whole upper part of the body is of a dusky brown, and the tip of his nose, his throat and belly greyish, his feet and legs are almost bare, and have a dirty pale fleshy colour. His tusks are sharp and strong, and there is some reason to think his bite poisonous. He destroys weaker animals indiscriminately; kills rabbits and poultry, dives with celerity, and soon thins the fish-ponds; it abuses every eatable thing, and in a state of as-

sociation will even fly at a man. It may be some consolation to add, that his appetite for slaughter is often glutted on those of his own species; otherwise his fecundity and noxious disposition, might in time render him too powerful for human society. With all the traps we can make, and all the assistance we have from dogs, cats, and weasels, to shield us from their ravages, they still seem to be on the increase; and their violence seems to heighten in proportion as their number augments.

We now drew near the house, delighted with our walk, which had teemed with amusement and instruction, and spent an exceedingly pleasant afternoon with the worthy clergyman and his lady. Their abode I have already described. After tea, we females walked into the flower-garden; which, though not very large, is the most profuse in beautiful and sweet-scented flowers that I ever saw; and put me in mind of these lines of Thomson:

——————"Array'd
In all the colours of the flushing year,
By Nature's swift and secret working hand,
The garden glows, and fills the liberal air
With lavish fragrance."

I cannot help writing down the dialogue which took place between Mrs. Benson and some of

the children; though it was so strongly impressed on my memory, that I shall not easily forget it. The children were allowed to gather some flowers.

Emily. Mamma, I have gathered my favourite flower; and Eliza and Alexis have each one for you also.

Mrs. Benson. Thank you, my dears; let me see them: a tulip, a sun-flower, and a lily of the valley. Eliza, the tulip was your choice, was it not?

Eliza. Yes, mamma, do you not think it beautiful?

Mrs. Benson. I think it is a very showy flower, my dear; but I own it is too gaudy, too staring, to meet my taste. Its colours are lively; and many, I dare say, would agree with you in thinking them beautiful; but I cannot look upon it without feeling regret, that the folly of man should squander away such vast sums upon the propagation of a root that only produces a flower to charm the eye; it has no smell, or, if any, a very disagreeable one: to me, it is a bold assuming flower, which courts the eye of day. I never see it without applying Mrs. Smith's beautiful lines:

> "With bosom bar'd to meet the garish day,
> The glaring tulip, gaudy, undismay'd,
> Offends the eye of taste."

It is true, I pretend to no great deal; but I own it gives offence to mine; it is so like a beautiful woman, without one other virtue or accomplishment to make her respectable, that I cannot see it without making the comparison. Useless, frivolous, vain, and trifling, she sets herself forth to charm by the mere aid of a pretty face. While the meridian of her beauty lasts, she may please the eye; but, believe me, it requires something more than mere beauty to retain affection. We may look upon a fine picture to admire it, but we can do no more; we cannot bestow our affections upon canvas: we may regard it for a time with admiration; but it has neither sense, understanding, nor virtue to excite us to love.

So it is with beauty; alone, it cannot long retain its power over our senses; familiarised to us, it becomes no longer valuable, except it boasts, in addition, a good heart, virtuous principles, and an amiable disposition; we cannot then deny our esteem and affection.

Acquaintance, by revealing the character, enhances the value of such a friend or companion; but, unaccompanied by these essentials, we have no stable foundation on which to build for happiness. The beauty which allured, fades as years accumulate, and no other resource supplies its place. Of how little consequences then are

external charms, how uncertain their tenure! a trifling fit of sickness, the small pox, accidents, a thousand causes may arise to deprive us of this so much valued acquisition, and leave us regretting the want of those internal qualities, which make beauty but a secondary consideration.

The tulip shines for a short time, glowing with all the brilliant and vivid colours that can attract the eye. Its reign is short and arbitrary; its so much boasted colours very soon lose their brilliancy; its leaves droop, fall off, and die. And what remains?—a stem without strength or beauty; no longer able to support itself, it bends its body to the earth, and drops forsaken and despised.

This flower is so striking an emblem of many young women, whose whole delight centers in ornamenting themselves, and displaying their persons to every observer, purposely to be admired, that I never fail considering it as useful in pointing out the instability and shortness of that period of vanity, which misleads the senses, and leaves remorse and sorrow on the mind. The tulip is of the class Hexandria, six stamens. Monogynia, one pistil.

Alexis. Here, mamma, I brought this sunflower.

Eliza. Mamma, I am sure that is a bold

staring flower; it is of a deep yellow, and always courts the sun.

Mrs. Benson. It is a flower that grows high and wide; the size of it is answerable to that of the leaves: do you think, my dear, a small flower, upon such a stem, adorned with such leaves, would be uniform? How do you think a child's head would look upon the shoulders of a man?

Eliza. Oh! mamma, I did not think of that; I see I am wrong; but is it not a bold flower?

Mrs. Benson. I believe, my dear, it is a flower more sensible of the sun's influence than almost any other that adorns the garden. According to my mode of thinking, it is an emblem of gratitude: the sun is its benefactor, from that luminary it derives health and strength. What is due to those who confer favours on you? are you not obliged to them? do you not feel gratitude to them?

Eliza. Oh! mamma, I wish I had plucked a sunflower, I feel ashamed of my choice.

Mrs. Benson. You have no occasion, my dear; at your age, the eye is more generally engaged than the understanding. It is natural in youth to be taken by glittering baubles; you are not yet of an age to moralize upon subjects of this nature, or to feel them, as we do who have

arrived at maturity. The best lessons of wisdom are acquired by experience. Perhaps, when a few more years have passed over your head, fine clothes, and fine colours, may have lost their effect upon your senses, and you may think as I do. The sunflower is of the class Syngenisia-polygamia-frustranea.

Your's, Emily, is indeed a lovely little flower; what a delicate colour! White is the emblem of purity and modesty.

What a sweet perfume it dispenses! such as this should woman be;—retiring, modest, diffident, anxious rather to conceal than display her beauties; she should cultivate her mind, and enrich it with the firm principles of virtue and good sense; she will then dispense a perfume that shall never leave her, but will be preserved even when time shall have robbed her cheeks of their bloom, and her form of its elegance. Observe, my dear, how delicate is the shape of this little plant! look at the leaf, which shelters it from sight, and obscures it from the eye of the rude gazer; so it is with a truly modest woman; she shrinks from the eye of observation; her perfections must be drawn forth to view; she will never wantonly display them; but, content within the shade of obscurity, will live happy.

Genius and merit, however, can never be wholly hidden from sight; they may for a short time be concealed; but some favouring circumstance at last brings them into notice, and they obtain the praise they deserve. Lily of the valley, Convallaria, is of the class Hexandria, six stamens; Monogynia, one pistil.

Charlotte presented Adelina and me with a rose; and her mamma desired her to repeat the lines she had that day learnt, which were these:

"Child of summer, lovely rose,
In thee what blushing beauty glows!
But, ere to-morrow's setting sun,
Thy beauty fades, thy form is gone;
Yet, though no grace thy buds retain,
Thy pleasing odours still remain;
Ye fair, betimes the moral prize,
'Tis lasting beauty to be wise!"

Charles came and asked Mrs. Lucas, if he might see the bee-hives; we all followed, and I shall give you the dialogue that passed between Mrs. Lucas and the children.

Charles. How busy they are, ma'am; every one is employed; what a buzzing they make!

Mrs. Lucas. They are the truest emblems of a well-regulated community; not one but has its allotted task, which it fulfils with incredible alacrity.

Caroline. How much larger some of the bees are than others!

Mrs. Lucas. Those are the drones, or male bees; they have no stings; but, by the loudness of their noise, united with their strength, they frighten away enemies that might come to annoy the hive. The drones are totally under the regulation of the female bees, who never suffer them to leave the nest till about two o'clock; at which time their labour for the day is done. You may then see them fly about to enjoy themselves, gathering honey for the nest, which these carefully deposit in cells made for the purpose. You have all seen a honey-comb; did you ever observe any thing more regular and beautiful?

Emily. Are all those little recesses the residence of the bees?

Mrs. Lucas. All those cells which you see are arranged with the utmost exactness, and are filled with honey, extracted from various flowers and brought home by this industrious little insect, in a bag which nature has adapted for the purpose. This bag, which is placed in the hinder parts, is frequently emptied, and as frequently filled. These insects are never idle. Observe, my dears, every member of this little colony is at work: some are building their cells; some kneading the wax; some gathering honey,

and depositing it in those cells; others are employed in the care of the young, while another set are repairing their little habitations. What a lesson does this insect convey to man! How does it instruct him in the value of time, and teach him so to employ every hour of his life, that it may prove serviceable to himself and his fellow-creatures. What can excite us more to activity and industry, than the patient labours of this little creature? And shall we, endowed with reasoning faculties and powers, which have placed us at the head of the creation, be outdone by an insect? Shall we consume our allotted portion of time in supineness and indolence; or, what is worse, give ourselves up to vain and useless dissipation; while this, one of the smallest of God's creatures, shall set us such an example of industry. Think for what we shall have to answer at the great day of final judgment, if we wantonly waste and trifle away that invaluable portion of existence which was given for nobler purposes, for the mutual assistance of our fellow-creatures, and for exertions to render ourselves useful in our respective stations.

Eliza. Your hives, ma'am, are much handsomer than those in Mr. Brown's Garden.

Mrs. Lucas. Persons, in general, keep bees in straw hives; but I have preferred glass ones,

because I did not wish to be necessitated to destroy them as soon as they had filled their cells. I cannot help thinking it an ungrateful return for their labours, and for the benefits they confer on society, to burn them when they can work no longer. Observe, now, how they are flocking out of that nest; it is a cast. A cast is less than a swarm. The parent bees now see that their young ones are no longer in need of assistance from them; they therefore unite to drive them out of the hive; which is, in plain terms, to tell them that they must no longer depend upon them for subsistence, but go and get their own bread. Elizabeth, my dear, go and tell the gardener to bring a shovel and key, and ring them. It is a strange noise, to be sure, but it induces them to settle, and then they can be hived.

Emily. Pray ma'am, let me ring them; let me hive them.

Mrs. Lucas. If you please you may ring them, but you had better let the man put them into their hive, as you, from want of knowledge and practice, may disturb them. The hive must be rubbed round with ale and soft sugar, and the sweetness induces them to stop and fix their abode in it. Every bee knows its own residence; were it to go to another, the drones would

beat it almost to death; but see, they are settling upon a branch of that apple-tree; in what a cluster they hang! they are very heavy. Emily, your task is not over; the queen bee has not settled yet.—Oh! now, now, she too has fixed upon the same bough.—Your task is finished, my dear, you may call the man. Oh! here is Thomas with the hive; now see how he shakes them off the bough—the queen bee is alarmed, she flies to a little distance; I hope she will not go far.—Oh! Thomas has her, she has settled again, the bees are safely hived. All the eggs that are laid are by the queen bee; she is the general mother of the hive; from her eggs proceed small worms, which the working bees feed with their trunks: this worm lies dormant for fifteen days, enclosed in a cell, fitted with a little wax lid; this is called a *nympha*, and when arrived at maturity comes out a young bee.

Bees have two horns to guard their eyes; their fangs and claws serve them in working, and a hollow tube or trunk with which they pierce to the very bottom of the cups of the flowers, assists them to draw up the honey into their bag. They have six feet, the middle ones are nearly in the shape of a spoon, and furnished with hair, which enables them to retain their wax; with their fore feet they knead and work

it into their cells, which are set apart for different uses.—What cannot the wonder-working hand of the Almighty perform! how inimitably has he arranged every article of nature, and every proportion of men and animals! not a limb, not a member, vein, nerve, or artery, but has its particular use, its particular sphere of action. The more we see of nature, my dear children, the more we shall find to admire, to adore, and reverence in its great author, whose attentive care and ever watchful solicitude for the preservation of his creatures, is proved by every circumstance that occurs; not a day, not an hour revolves, but serves to confirm us in the belief that God has made nothing in vain.

Mrs. Benson, who now seemed impatient to visit her nursery, made a motion to return to the house and prepare for departing: the chariot and chaise were at the door; and, after eating some strawberries and cream, we wished good-night to this worthy couple, well pleased with our visit. Mrs. Benson returned home in the chariot with the younger children. Mr. Mansfield and Mr. A—— in the chaise. Adelina, Caroline, and I, preferred walking. Mr. Benson and Robert gladly escorted us: as we were afraid the grass might be wet before we reached Rose-hill, after so hot a day, we returned by a plea-

sant road shaded with trees on both sides. On passing by a gate at the end of a large farm-yard, we found standing there two pretty neat girls. They looked for a moment in Mr. Benson's face, and, turning away from him, theirs expressed their disappointment. "You seem, my dear children," said Mr. Benson, "not very well pleased with my appearance; may I request to know the reason of your apparent disapprobation of my looks?"

"Indeed, sir," answered one, with the greatest sweetness, "we were not displeased with you, but disappointed at not finding you the person we were looking for."

"Well, my sweet maid," returned Mr. Benson, "You are so fairly spoken, that I should not forgive myself if I did not try to soften your chagrin; here is some money to buy you any trifles that your fancy may fix upon."—"Thank you, sir; but we must not take money without our mother were to give us leave; for sometimes when we have been presented with gifts for behaving well, my mother has said, 'My dear children, I am sorry to see you eager to receive a reward for doing your duty; by accepting one you lessen the credit of your parents."

"What is your father's name, my dear? Was it him you expected?"

"No, sir, it was my brother; we have been looking for him these many days, but he is not yet come. My father's name is Johnson; that is our house, yonder, that peeps through the trees."

"Well, my good girls," said Mr. Benson, "I promise you shall not be long disappointed, for there he comes."—It was really their brother whom Mr. Benson saw. After being witness of the joy of their meeting, we wished them good night, and walked on, discoursing about the happy party; till Robert, who seldom let any object escape him, observing the swallows skim lightly along, desired his father to give him their history. "With pleasure, my dear boy, I indulge your taste for natural history, and beg you will observe attentively every thing that you see in your walk. I always prefer travelling on foot, as the most instructive. In a carriage, the variegated prospects of nature pass too rapidly before the sight; there is not time to examine anything. On foot, if a pleasant prospect, a cultivated field, a tree loaded with fruit, or a flower, present themselves to the traveller, he stops to contemplate them; and he determines to tear himself from the delight that he feels, and to continue his road, only by the hope of being soon fixed by some new object.

You would not have seen the swallow had we been in the carriage; its flying so high indicates fine weather. The swallow is of the sixth order, Passeres, or the sparrow kind: it is a long, small, slight made bird, with large wings and a forked tail. Its frame is slim, but fibrous; and, as it lives by its dexterity in flying, its chief strength lies in its wings. Its body is invested with an inner coat of fine small feathers, or down, of a bright white delicately tinged with a slight red. The neck, back, and rump, with the upper part of the head, are of a deep, shining bluish purple. They build almost every where in the sides of rocks, the banks of rivers, precipices, and buildings of all kinds. Flies are their only food, which accounts sufficiently for their winding motion and open mouth. To hunt their prey successfully, they must turn with the same quickness that flies do. We still know but little about their winter retreat. That many of them migrate to warmer climates, is a fact no longer doubted; and that others of them remain with us in a torpid state, is not less certain. Satisfied that these are real dispositions of nature, we leave it for others to solve the phenomenon.

"When autumn scatters his departing gleams,
Warn'd of approaching winter, gather'd, play

The swallow-people, and toss'd wide around,
O'er the calm sky, in convolutions swift,
The feather'd eddy floats: rejoicing once,
Ere to their wintry slumbers they retire,
In clusters hung, beneath the mould'ring bank,
And where unpierc'd by frost the cavern sweats.
Or rather into warmer climes convey'd,
With other kindred birds of season, there
They twitter cheerful, till the vernal months
Invite them welcome back :--------"

"The changes of the weather may be generally predicted from the swallow's flying high or low in pursuit of its prey; but it is rather the insect than the bird that appears to have this prescience of futurity."

After we had walked two miles, we sat down under the shade of a large oak, which was on one side of the road, to listen to the sweet warbling of the nightingale, and view the setting sun. "But see," said Mr Benson,

"The setting sun
Puts on a milder countenance, and skirts
The undulated clouds that cross his way
With glory visible. His axle cools,
And his broad disk, tho' fervent, not intense,
Foretells the near approach of matron night.
Ye fair, retreat!"

We arose to proceed on our walk, still listening to the sweet bird.

Robert begged of his father the history of the nightingale. Mr. Benson told him the nightingale was of the sixth order, Passeres; adding, "the nightingale has been so long celebrated for the delightful melody with which it charms the ear, that its very name seems to embellish poetical description, and to convey a sort of pleasure to the mind, which words cannot easily depict. Almost every modern versifier mentions it with congenial rapture; and the ancient bards, who so closely painted from nature, have exerted themselves to raise its reputation.

"But, sweet as is the music of Philomel, it has little external beauty to attract the eye, and charms most when it is unseen. The head and back are of a pale tawny colour, flashed with olive; the throat, breast, and upper part of the belly, are of a light glossy ash-colour, and the lower belly is almost white. The exterior webs of the quill feathers are of a reddish brown, the tail is of a deep tawny red, and the eyes are remarkably large and animated.

"This bird, the most celebrated of the feathered tribe for the variety, length, and sweetness of its notes, visits England about the beginning of April, and leaves it in August. It is found only in some of the southern and midland counties, and is said to be unknown in Scot-

land, Ireland, and North Wales. It commences its song in the evening, when other birds are generally at roost, as if it disdained to waste its music in the throng, and continues it by intervals during the whole night. If undisturbed, it will sit for weeks together almost on the same tree. It builds its nest near the bottom of some hedge, so artfully secreted, that it generally eludes the inquisitive eye of the school-boy; and surely, robbing it or other birds of their eggs and young, without any intention to rear them, is a pitiful gratification, compared with the pain that is inflicted. The poet of nature, Thomson, thus paints the feelings, and pleads the cause, of the songster under consideration:

"But let not, chief, the nightingale lament
Her ruin'd care, too delicately form'd
To brook the harsh confinement of the cage.
Oft when, returning with her loaded bill,
Th' astonish'd mother finds a vacant nest,
By the hard hand of unrelenting clowns
Robb'd; to the ground the vain provision falls,
Her pinions muffle, and, lo! drooping, scarce
Can bear the mourner to the poplar shade;
Where, all abandon'd to despair she sings
Her sorrows through the night, and on the bough
Sole sitting, still at every dying fall,
Takes up again her lamentable strain
Of winding woe, till wide around the woods
Sigh to her song, and with her wail resound."

"Is not this what is called the twilight?" said Caroline; "pray, Jeannette explain it to me."—"My dear Caroline," said I, "if it were not for the atmosphere, as soon as the sun sets, we should lose the benefit of his light, and be in an instant in darkness; but though the sun by setting is hid from our view, it still continues to give light to the upper part of the atmosphere, which reflects it down upon us, and gives the twilight."—"Atmosphere," said Caroline, reflecting, "and pray, what is the atmosphere?"—"It is a thin fluid mass of matter," said I, "which presses towards the earth in all its revolutions; and is thinner, or more rarefied, the further it is from the earth's surface."—"I thank you, my dear Jeannette; and as I would not be too troublesome, I will ask Adelina what is the cause of the dew, which now falls."—"My dear girl," said Adelina, "Dew is a heavy moist vapour, falling on the earth in form of a drizzling rain, while the sun is below the horizon. In summer, when the weather is fair and very dry, and the fields have been for a considerable time parched by the heat of the sun, then the watery and other less volatile particles, as the oily, and the saline, or salt, are, by the power of the sun's beams, raised above the surface of the earth. As long as these ex

halations are kept in agitation by the heat of the sun, they are invisible; but as soon as the heat of the sun (which acts with the greatest force about three in the afternoon) begins to remit, there is left a white, dense vapour, called dew, which remains on the grass till it is dissipated in the morning by the heat of the rising sun."

Mr. Benson and Robert, who had gone in search of a bat, which had flown in our sight, returned with it for our inspection; and with an owl also: after we had examined them closely, and made our observations, Mr. Benson gave us their histories.

"Linnæus places the bat in the first class, Mammalia, and first order, Primatis, or animals having two canine and four cutting teeth, and furnished with two pectoral teats. The animals of this species partake so much of the nature both of the bird and beast, that naturalists have been at a loss in which rank to place them; but these doubts existing no longer, they are now universally allowed to take place among the quadrupeds, to which they are evidently allied, both by their having hair and teeth, bringing forth their young alive, and the rest of their habitudes and conformations, for it suckles them likewise: the mouth is also furnished with teeth;

its lungs are formed like those of quadrupeds, while its intestines and skeleton bear the most perfect resemblance to them.

"The species most common in England, is about the size of a mouse, being nearly two inches and a half in length. The members, usually called wings, are, in reality, no other than the four interior toes of the fore feet; extended to a great length, connected by a thin membrane, which also extends to the hind legs and the tail. The first toe, as you may perceive, is quite loose, answering the purpose of a heel when it walks, and a hook when it wants to adhere to any thing. The hind feet, which are divided into five toes, nearly resemble those of a mouse. The skin or membrane by which it flies, is of a dusky colour; the body is covered with a short mouse coloured fur, tinged with red; the eyes are very small, the ears short, and the extent of the wings nine inches.

In England, this creature makes its first appearance early in the summer, beginning its flight in the dusk of the evening. It usually haunts the sides of woods, glades, and shady walks; and frequently skims along the surface of the water, in pursuit of gnats and other insects. They fly in a very irregular direction, and with much seeming labour, which, when

once interrupted, it is with difficulty they can prepare for a second elevation; so that if it should happen to fall to the ground by any accident, as was the case with this, it is almost impossible for it to escape. It is the only creature that will venture to remain in caverns, and frightful subterraneous abodes, where it continues in a state of torpidity, unaffected by every change of weather.

"Though the bat may, generally speaking, be considered inoffensive and harmless, yet it will, when opportunity offers, sometimes steal into a larder, and prey upon fat bacon, tallow, &c; but as this circumstance does not often happen, it being principally employed in pursuing insects much more noxious than itself, we may pronounce it rather serviceable than otherwise." Robert released the poor bat, and Mr. Benson proceeded to inform us of these particulars concerning the owl:

"The owl is of the first order of birds, Accipitres, or the rapacious kind. That no link in the chain of Nature should be incomplete, these birds employ the night in devastation; thus preventing any chasm in the round of time.

"They are distinguished from all other birds by their eyes, which are better adapted for the purposes of darkness than of light. Like tigers

and cats, which subsist by nocturnal watchfulness, they are endued with the power of discerning objects, at a time when we should conceive it to be totally dark. The idea, however, that they see best in total darkness, is erroneous; twilight, which is the medium between the glare of day, and the gloom of night, being the time when they see with the greatest perspicuity. But the faculty of sight differs greatly in the different species.

The note of the owl is truly hideous; and such is the antipathy of the small birds to it, that, if one appears by chance in the-day time, they all surround, insult, and beat him. So great, however, is the utility of this bird, that one owl will destroy, in the same space of time, more mice than six cats.

The white, or barn owl, which is the most domestic, can see the smallest mouse creep from its hole; while the brown owl is frequently observed to have a sight strong enough to seek its prey in the day-time. Destined to appear by night only, Nature seems to have thought it unnecessary to lavish on them any beauties, either of form or plumage, as they would have been lost to general contemplation.

"As an emblem of vigilance, this bird was consecrated to Minerva.

"But," said Mr. Benson, "let the owl fly, Robert, and behold a new spectacle of wonder! "The moon makes her entry on the eastern sky, and, shadowy, sets off the face of things. She rises in clouded majesty, and opens, as it were, to rule over the night. She brightens as she advances; delighting every eye, and cheering all the world with the beauty of her appearance, and the softness of her splendours.

"At this period we have an instance of the wisdom of divine Providence, in nourishing the seeds of the earth. The drops of dew, like so many liquid crystals, that sparkle upon the eye with the most brilliant and unsullied lustre, now descend, and cheer the fields, meads, and plains, parched by the noon-day heat.

"They steal down in the serene evening air by slow degrees, and with insensible stillness—so slow, that they deceive the nicest eye; so silent, that they escape the most delicate ear; and, when fallen, so very light, that they neither bruise the tenderest, nor oppress the weakest, flower. They are thrown so profusely, and scattered with such lavish abundance, that they hang on every hedge, twinkle from every spray, and adorn the whole herbage of the fields. There is not a blade of grass, nor a single leaf, but wears the watery pendants. What a so-

vereign restorative are these cooling distillations of the night! How they gladden and invigorate the languishing herbs and flowers! Sprinkled with these reviving drops, their verdure deepens, their bloom is new flushed, and every place teems with an odoriferous, with a delightful smell.

"The day afforded a variety of entertaining objects for the sight; yet these were all withdrawn at the accession of darkness. The stars, it is true, lend us their aid, but they only serve to alleviate the frown of night, rather than to recover the objects from their obscurity. But when the moon is risen, and has collected all her beams, the veil is taken from off the face of nature, and she again assumes her wonted appearance; the flocks and green hedge-rows croud on the sight; and we see, once more, the world's picture. In a word, the whole face of things is more delicately shaded than by day, and arrayed in softer charms.

"Thus the loss of day is scarcely to be regretted, since it is amply compensated by the opening beauties of the sky. We may now enjoy a full view of the whole hemisphere, without having aught below to detain the exploring sight. What a majestic scene it is, and how boundless in magnificence! The planets, one after the other, light up their lamps; the stars

advance in their glittering train, and adorn the large expanse;—a thousand and ten thousand luminaries shine forth in successive splendours; the moon unveils her face, and sheds a brightening ray; the rocks and floods reflect the quivering gleam;—the whole firmament kindles into the most beautiful glow;—and a continual glory bursts forth from the skies.

"How admirable, as well as useful, is that nightly substitute of the sun, which cheers us in his absence with her borrowed beams! How reviving to the shepherd, as he tends his fleecy charge!—how comforting to the benighted traveller as he pursues his journey! and how advantageous to the mariner as he plows the midnight main, in directing him to avoid the fatal rock! In how many forms, in how many different dresses, does she appear to our eyes! Sometimes she shines over us in a perfect silver orb; or, approaching to the horizon, extends her bulk into a red beamless globe: at other times, when newly returned from her dark apartment, she appears horned, or, like a sickle, edged only on one side with a narrow border of light.

"Who can sufficiently admire the enchanting prospect of the sky, when thus beautified and adorned, which way soever we turn our eyes?

How incomparably grand and exquisitely fine! The moon appears like an immense crystal lamp; pendant in the magnificent ceiling of the heavens;—while the stars, like so many thousand tapers, seem fixed in their azure sockets. In a clear night it has been compared to a vast roof of sapphire, studded with innumerable gleaming spangles, and illumined with ten thousand times ten thousand shining lamps; some of which glow with intense flames, others glimmer with fainter beams; while all in their different degrees tend to enamel the cope of heaven, and embroider the robe of night. From these what a lustre is sent forth on spacious cities and lofty mountains; and how pleasing to the view while glittering on the ocean, or darting on the forest!—It is clearer than the limpid stream, purer than the transparent crystal, and more curiously refined than the polished mirror.

"Thus we see night opens one of the noblest scenes. It sheds an awe on the mind, which must give it full weight and deep reception. When, perhaps, not a breath is heard, nor a cloud in sight, as at this time, to interrupt the solemn prospect; then the twinkling orbs peep through the dark, like spies, and show its grandeur by their light;—'tis then that we may view more than description can paint—more

than imagination can conceive. In a word, from such numberless urns they stream down the steep of heaven, and concentre in the sight such a multitude of lustres, that it may be compared to a road whose dust is gold, and pavement rubies or diamonds of the highest polish."

Mr. Benson ceased speaking; but I could have listened for ever to the music of his mellow voice, and his fine language: he asked Caroline, if she could repeat that beautiful hymn of Addison's; which, he said, he could never help thinking of, when he saw the sky bespangled with these luminaries. Caroline had forgot them; but Adelina recollected them:

"The spacious firmament on high,
With all the blue etherial sky,
And spangled heavens, a shining frame,
Their great original proclaim.
The unwearied sun from day to day,
Does his Creator's power display,
And publishes to every land,
The works of an Almighty hand.

Soon as the evening shades prevail,
The moon takes up the wond'rous tale,
And nightly to the listening earth,
Repeats the story of her birth,
While all the stars which round her burn,
And all the planets in their turn,
Confirm the tidings as they roll,
And spread the truth from pole to pole.

What though in solemn silence all,
Move round this great terrestrial ball?
What though no real voice nor sound,
Amid their radiant orbs be found?
In reason's ear they all rejoice,
And utter forth a glorious voice,
For ever singing, as they shine,
"The hand that made us is divine."

As we passed several frogs and toads, Robert desired his father to give him the history of them. "Frogs and toads, my dear Robert," said he, "are of the third class, Amphibia, or Amphibious animals, and of the first order, Reptiles. To describe an animal so well known as the frog is needless; but some of its habits and properties are too interesting to the naturalist, to remain wholly unnoticed. Its spring, or power of leaping, compared with its bulk, is remarkably great, and it is by far the most expert swimmer of all quadrupeds. While in a tad-pole state, it is wholly an inhabitant of the water, and the work of generation is also performed in that element; but, as soon as the young animal is transformed into its permanent state, it immediately takes to the land, and, if the weather has been hot, and refreshing showers fall, the whole ground is sometimes covered with these little animals. A single female is capable of producing a thousand eggs at a time; and there-

fore the immensity of their numbers cannot excite our wonder. They subsist on insects, and are themselves devoured by a variety of other animals. The frog is remarkably tenacious of life.

"The croaking of frogs is a certain indication of approaching rain, and is sometimes so loud in marshy countries, such as Holland, as to be stunning and unpleasant to the auditory nerves. In very dry weather, however, they become mute, from a deficiency of moisture, and consequently of the food in which they delight.

"The common toad bears a general resemblance to the frog; but is much more unsightly in its appearance, and can seldom be viewed without disgust. Yet it is said, by those who have resolution to examine it with attention, to have very fine eyes. Its natural deformity, and the abhorrence with which mankind generally regard it, have given rise to many fictitious qualities, that confirm the prejudices conceived against it.

"Like the frog, it is amphibious; and, like that animal, lives on worms and insects, which it seizes by darting out its tongue. It crawls about, chiefly toward the close of day, in moist weather; and the young undergo the same changes as the tad-pole of the frog.

"During the severity of winter, like all the frog kind, it becomes torpid. It is also very long lived, and extremely tenacious of life.

"There are several varieties of the toad."

We reached Rose-hill about ten o'clock. Never shall I forget the walk to and from the parsonage, which was replete with instruction. How do I wish that every walk I take in future may be equally so! At least, I am determined, henceforth, to view every object with an attentive eye; and if I cannot gain information from my companions at the time, I will endeavour to retain in my memory whatever I see, and have recourse to books, to satisfy my inquiries in the pursuit of knowledge.

We retired to rest this evening quite out of spirits; though delighted with our walk, and not in the least fatigued; but the thoughts of parting with this happy, amiable family, gives us extreme pain. I shall send this to-morrow

In the morning Adelina and I arose early, to visit once more every nook of this charming abode; when Caroline gently tapping at the door, with the greatest animation in her countenance, told us that she, her father, uncle, and brother Robert, were to accompany us to Margate: this, in some measure, softened the grief of parting; but yet we bade a sorrowful adieu, after break-

fast, to the amiable Mrs. Benson, her lovely children, and the mild Rosamond.

The two old friends and Adelina occupied one chaise; Mr. Benson, Caroline, and I, the other; Robert was our escort on horeback. After parting from Rose-hill, we leave on the right the ancient town of *Fordwich*, a member of the port of Sandwich; it was anciently incorporated by the stile of barons of the town of Fordwich, but more lately by the name of mayor, jurats, and commonalty, who enjoy the same privileges as the cinque ports.

The manor was given by Edward the Confessor to the monks of St. Austin's, Canterbury; but being vested in the crown by the dissolution of the monasteries, it there remained, until Edward VI. granted it to Sir Thomas Cheyney: it has now the honour of giving the title of viscount to Earl Cowper.

This place is famous for excellent trouts in its river Stour. I begged Mr. Benson to give us the history of the trout: he told me that with pleasure he would oblige me; but first he should desire me to favour him with the biography of Edward the Confessor. I readily complied.

"Edward, King of England, called, on account of his piety, "the Confessor," was the

son of Ethelred, and succeeded Canute in 1041. He was very partial to the Normans, whom he employed and raised to rank and station, in preference to his own subjects, which opened the way to the Norman conquest. He conquered Macbeth, the Scottish tyrant, and reduced the Welch. He was weak enough to consult William of Normandy about the choice of a successor; this furnished that prince with a plea for invading the kingdom after the death of Edward, which happened in 1066. He rebuilt Westminster-abbey, in which he was the first who was buried. He was canonized by Pope Alexander III."

Mr. Benson said, he hoped Caroline would, after my example, make herself well acquainted with the history of England, and the characters of the different personages in it: then turning to me, "I think," said he, "you were fond of our trout, Jeannette; they are a delicious fish, and we often amuse ourselves by catching them with a net. The trout is of the fourth class, Pisces, or fishes: and of the fourth order, Abdominales. This order is distinguished by having the ventral fins placed behind the pectoral, in the abdomen. It is covered with small scales, usually streaked with red. There are several species of this fish, which live in various

places, and differ in colour and size. Some are found in deep and rapid rivers, others in lakes; some are of a blackish colour, others reddish, and rather of a gold colour, and variously marked with spots of a vermillion die; but on the belly they have a yellowish cast.

"This fish swims with much agility and swiftness; and is said to be so astonished on hearing thunder, as to become immoveable. It feeds upon worms, slime, mud, insects, and small fishes, which it pursues with so much eagerness, from the bottom to the surface of the water, that it sometimes throws itself into the boats passing near it.

"The trout is of a longish form, and resembles the salmon more than any other fish. The head is short and roundish; the nose blunt, the body thick, and the tail broad. The mouth is wide; and it has teeth, not only in the jaws, but on the palate and tongue. The eyes are large, with a reddish circle round the pupil; the rest of the iris being of a silver colour. The skin readily falls into wrinkles, and separates from the flesh. In the larger trouts, the black is of a dusky hue, and full of black spots, which in some are mixed with red.

"The trout is a voracious fish, and affords excellent diversion to the angler. These fish shift

their quarters to spawn, and, like the salmon, make up towards the heads of rivers to deposit their spawn. They delight in cool and small streams, which descend from rocky hills; and seem particularly fond of swimming against the course of the water. They are found in small rivers among the Alps, the waters of which are so exceedingly cold, that no fish can accompany them.

"Trouts are not in the highest season when they are fullest of spawn; for they are fattest, and have the most delicious taste, in July and August. They begin, however, to be in season in March, and become so in some rivers much sooner than in others.

"In winter they are lean, sick, and unwholesome, breeding a kind of worm with a large head, which in some degree resembles a clove. At that time the beautiful spots disappear, and the lively colour of the belly becomes dusky and disagreeable. But toward the latter end of March he rouses from his lethargy, rubs off his ill-bred foes against the gravelly bottoms, and soon after recovers his former strength and vigour. The flesh is drier and less tender than that of the salmon; it is, however, esteemed the most agreeable of all those fish which reside continually in fresh water."

As we rode in Mr. Benson's chaise, and with his own horses, of which the groom is very proud and careful, we did not go quick: they are beautiful animals; and, after thanking Mr. Benson for his history of the trout, I told him he would greatly oblige me by giving me that of the horse, while we journied on to Sarre, or Sarre-street, in St. Nicholas parish, in the Isle of Thanet; which is said to have had anciently a haven, but now there only runs a small brook, with a wooden bridge over it, by which there is a passage to the island for carriages. It was lately the manor of the Wentworths. It is so near the marshes, and the air so unhealthy, that the parish has been much deserted.

"The horse," said Mr. Benson, "is of the first class, Mammalia, and the sixth order, Bellu, or quadrupeds with cutting teeth in each jaw. The horse is less useful to us when dead than some other animals are; but pray tell me, Jeannette, what use it is of?"

"The chief use of its skin," answered I, "is for collars, traces, and other parts of harness. The hair of the mane is of use in making wigs; of the tail in making the bottoms of chairs, and floor-cloths, besides supplying the angler with fishing-lines."

Mr. Benson then continued. "The various

excellencies of this noble animal, the grandeur of his stature, the elegance and proportion of his parts, the beautiful smoothness of his skin, the variety and gracefulness of his motions, and above all, his usefulness, entitle him to a precedence in the history of the brute creation.

"There are few parts of the known world where the horse is not produced; but, if we would see him in the enjoyment of his native freedom (unsubdued by the restraints which man has imposed upon him), we must look for him in the wild and extensive plains of Africa and Arabia, where he ranges without controul, in a state of entire independency. In those immense tracts the wild horses may be seen feeding together, in droves of four or five hundred; one of them always acting as centinel to give notice of approaching danger: this he does by a kind of snorting noise; upon which they all fly off with astonishing rapidity. The wild horses of Arabia are esteemed the most beautiful in the world; they are of a brown colour; their mane and tail of black tufted hair, very short; they are smaller than the tame ones, are very active, and of great swiftness. The most usual method of taking them is with traps concealed in the sand, by which they are entangled and caught.

"It is probable, there were once wild horses in Europe, which have long since been brought under subjection. Those found in America were originally of the Spanish breed, sent thither upon its first discovery; these have since become wild, and spread themselves over various parts of that vast continent. They are generally small, not exceeding fourteen hands high; with thick heads and clumsy joints; their ears and necks are longer than those of the English horses. They are easily tamed; and, if by accident they are set at liberty, they seldom become wild again, but know their master, and may easily be caught by him.

"Although the horse is endowed with vast strength and powers, he seldom exerts either to the prejudice of his master; on the contrary, he seems to participate in his pleasures, and shares with him in his labours: generous and persevering, he gives up his whole powers to the service of his master; though bold and intrepid, he represses the natural vivacity and fire of his temper, and not only yields to the hand, but seems to consult the inclination, of his rider.

"But it must continue to be matter of regret to every feeling mind, that these excellent qualities should be often shamefully abused in the most unnecessary exertions; and the honest

labours of this noble animal thrown away in the ungrateful task of accomplishing the purposes of unfeeling folly, or lavished in gratifying the expectations of an intemperate moment.

"The horse, in his domestic state, is generous, docile, spirited, and yet obedient; adapted to the various purposes of pleasure and convenience, he is equally serviceable in the draught, the field, or the race. And yet, notwithstanding all the good qualities of this noble and generous animal, when he is so enfeebled by age, and worn down by the severe drudgery of his lordly master, as to be incapable of contributing any longer to his pleasure, his ambition, or his avarice, he is (as if ingratitude were peculiar to the human species) sold for scarcely the worth of his bridle. In this state of lamentable existence, he is consigned to the cruel treatment of some inhuman wretch, who chastises him for that weakness incident to his old age, or which he has acquired in the servitude of his former master, and thus tortures the remnant of his life, which should, were it only for past services, be cherished with the most tender care and attention.

"In Arabia there is scarcely a man, how poor soever in other respects, but is possessed of his horse, which he considers as an invaluable treasure. Having no other house than a tent

to dwell in, the Arabian and his horse live upon the most equal terms: his wife and family, his mare and her foal, are often seen lying indiscriminately together, while the little children frequently climb without fear upon the body of the inoffensive animal, which permits them to play with and caress it without injury. The Arabs never beat their horses; they speak to and seem to hold friendly intercourse with them; they never whip them, and seldom, but in cases of necessity, make use of the spur. Their agility in leaping is very great; and, if the rider happen to fall, they are so tractable as to stand still in the midst of the most rapid career. The Arabian horses are of a middle size in general, less than those of this country, easy and graceful in their motions, and rather inclined to leanness.

"It is worthy of remark, that, instead of crossing the breed, the Arabs take every precaution to keep it pure and unmixed; they preserve with the greatest care, and for amazing length of time, the pedigrees of their horses. Those of the first kind are called Nobles, being "of a purer and ancient race, purer than milk." They have likewise two other kinds, which have been degraded by common alliances, and sell at inferior prices.

"From Arabia the race of horses has probably extended into Barbary, and other parts of Africa; those being considered as next to the Arabian horses in swiftness and beauty, though they are still smaller. The Spanish Genette is also held in great estimation; like the former, they are small, but beautiful, and extremely swift. The horses of India and many parts of China are extremely small and vicious: one of these was some years ago brought into this country as a present to the queen, which was very little larger than some mastiffs, measuring only nine hands in height.

"In Great Britain the breed of horses seems to be as mixed as that of its inhabitants. By great attention to the improvement of this noble animal, by a judicious mixture of several kinds, and by superior skill in management, the English race-horse is allowed to excel those of the rest of Europe, or perhaps the whole world. For supporting a continuance of violent exertion (or what is termed, in the language of the turf, *bottom)*, they are superior to the Arabian, the Barb, or the Persian; and for swiftness, they will yield the palm to none. An ordinary racer is known to go at the rate of a mile in less than two minutes; but there have been instances of much greater rapidity. The famous horse

Childers has been known to move eighty-two feet and a half in a second, or near a mile in a minute; he has run round the course at Newmarket, which is little less than four miles, in six minutes and forty seconds."

The Isle of Thanet is in the north-east part of the county of Kent, and lies open to the sea on the north and east, with the river Wantsam on the west and south. It is about nine miles long, and eight broad, and in general very fertile. The small village of Sarre, which I have already mentioned, is the first place that a traveller comes to in this island.

Mr. Benson informed us, that it was in this isle that Hengist and Horsa, two brothers of the race of Odu, landed in 449. He desired that I would tell him what I knew of Hengist.

"Hengist was the first monarch of Britain; he laid the foundation of the monarchy in 455; and defeated Vortimer, at Crayford, in January, 457. It is said that Vortigern, the father of Vortimer, who was reinstated upon the throne after his death, accepting of a festival from Hengist, on Salisbury Plain, three thousand of his nobility were treacherously slaughtered, and himself detained as a captive, May 1st, 474. Hengist bore in his standard the white horse, blazoned in the same manner as borne by the

Dukes of Brunswick. He was born at Angria in Westphalia, reigned thirty-four years, and died in 484."

To the left of the road, and six miles from Margate, is the Church of St. Nicholas, which we went to see. It is a handsome building; but there are no monuments in it prior to the year 1500. About the same distance from Margate, to the right of the road, is the small town of Monkton, or Monktown; so called from its being the property of the Monks, who usually resided at this place.

As we were in no haste to arrive at Margate, but had sent a servant to order a late dinner, we stopped at this place also. There are collegiate stalls in the church, and the heads of several priors in the remains of painted glass in the windows. The church has been larger than it now is.

As we drove on to Birchington, Mr. Benson told us, that the north part of this isle is all arable, except some barren land, that is sown with Saintfoin, which produces a load, and sometimes two loads of hay upon an acre; by which means land, that otherwise is not worth half a crown an acre, yields thirty or forty pounds.—I begged pardon of Mr. Benson for interrupting him to ask of what class Saintfoin was: he said it

was of the seventeenth class, Diadelphia, two brotherhoods; adding "except the class Triandria, none is of such importance, as furnishing food to men and animals, as this. It includes the leguminous plants, and is distinguished at first sight by its papillionaceous flowers. None of the varied productions of this class are noxious, and most of them are esculent by the different tribes of animated nature. The character of the orders is derived from the number of Stamens, which are generally divided into two sets.

"There are three orders and nineteen Genera; Saintfoin, Hedysarum, is of the third order, Decandria, ten Stamens. It is cultivated, like clover, for feeding cattle. It loves a dry chalky soil; the leaves are winged, and the shells covered with prickles, each shell containing a single seed." I thanked Mr. Benson, and he continued.

"The south and west parts of this isle are most of them marsh or pasture lands. You were yesterday inquiring about Romney Marsh, Jeannette; it is a tract of land about twenty miles long and eight wide, containing between forty and fifty thousand acres of land, of the richest pasture in England, where great quantities of sheep and herds of black cattle are fed, which

are sent from different parts: the sheep exceed in size those of Leicestershire and Lincolnshire, and the oxen are the largest in England. You know how good and valuable sheep are; the skin is of so much worth, that were the flesh not eatable, they still would be much esteemed; for, after the wool is taken from the skin, the last is sold to the curriers, and the wool disposed of in pockets, according to its quality; each fleece of which contains three different sorts; the first, called mother-wool, is that off the back and neck; the second the wool of the tails and legs; the third that of the breast and under the belly. The sheep is of the first class, Mammalia, and the fifth order, Pecora, or animals which are hoofed, and have no cutting-teeth in the upper jaw. The sheep have eight cutting teeth in the lower jaw. And now," said Mr. Benson, "my dear Jeannette, enumerate to me the several uses of the sheep."

"First, then," said I, "sheep supply us with food; they supply us with clothes too; the wool is made into cloth, flannel, and worsted-stockings. The skin is leather, which is of use to wear, and for covers of books. The entrails are twisted into strings for fiddles. The dung is spread upon the earth to enrich it, and is called manure."

"You have often told us, my dear papa," said Caroline, "what valuable animals oxen are, and have often excited our curiosity by saying that there is no part of that creature but what is useful; as you have just mentioned that those of Romney Marsh are the largest in England, I think this a very good opportunity to beg you to explain to us the different articles in which any part of them is used, and at the same time give us some account of the animal itself."

Mr. Benson. "I love to oblige you, my dear Caroline, it is agreeable to my design in the descriptions which I give you; as they are meant to point out to you the different sources from which wealth springs, and how far human industry has exerted itself to find out the means of acquiring it. The ox is of the same class and order as the sheep; the characteristics of this genus are, eight cutting teeth in the lower jaw, and none in the upper; the skin along the lower side of the neck pendulous, and the horns bending out laterally.

"The bull is naturally a fierce and terrible animal; when angry, he has an air of sullen majesty, and often tears up the ground with his feet and horns; although he might be trained to labour, his obedience cannot be depended on;

his sleep his short and slight; he wakes at the least noise; as he generally lies on the left side, the kidneys of that side are larger than the other. Those of a reddish or black colour are most esteemed. It has four stomachs, and eats very quick; when the first is filled he lies down to ruminate; the second stomach is a large bag, a continuation of the first; when the grass has been chewed over again, it is reduced to a kind of mash, like boiled spinach, and sent into the third stomach, where it digests; but not completely till it comes to the fourth. The age of the animal is known by the teeth and horns; at four years old the horns are small, pointed, and smooth, and thickest near the head; the next year, the thick part is pushed further from the head by a horny ring, which is ended by another swelling part; and every year the ox lives, the new ring grows from the base of the horn; so that the age is easily known by counting four years at the first ring, and then one for every succeeding ring; they generally live fourteen or fifteen years. You will see that I was not mistaken when I told you that every part of this animal was useful. The cow, you know, is the female of the species; from her we have milk, that makes butter, cheese, puddings, and other articles of our food: and we should find

it very difficult to supply the want of it; she gives us calves likewise, which, when killed, are excellent veal. The fat, suet, and tallow, are made into candles; and are also used in refining salt. The blood is a good manure for fruit trees, and a principal ingredient in making Prussian blue. The hair is mixed with mortar. Of the horns are made combs, boxes, handles for knives, and drinking cups; and when softened by water they form a transparent coat for the sides of stable lanterns. Chips of the hoofs, and parings of the hide, make carpenter's glue. The bones are used to make little spoons, knives and forks for children, buttons, &c. which look like ivory, and are cheaper. The guts are used in beating gold into thin leaf; and when applied to fresh wounds, we call it gold beater's skin. The dung, besides being a fine manure, is used in dyeing calico. The marrow, liver, gall, and spleen, also have their use in manufactures, commerce, and medicine. The skin, when tanned and curried, serves for boots, shoes, and every other convenience of life in which leather is employed.

"Vellum is made of the thinnest calf skin. The very dust and filings of the horns are found serviceable in manuring cold lands; the matter they are formed on (called the slough), when dry,

makes walls and fences, which if kept from moisture will last a long time: mixed with gravel, it is excellent for mending roads, and a good manure; it is also employed in hardening and giving a proper temper to metal. There is an oil extracted from the bones used by coach-makers in dressing and cleaning harness, and whatever belongs to a coach; when calcined, they are used in the smelting trade. The sinews are made into a kind of thread used by sadlers in sewing. The hair of the tail is mixed with horse-hair, and spun or woven into ropes; the short hair serves to stuff saddles and seats of different kinds, mattresses, &c."

Caroline. You have given us a very wonderful account; I should never have imagined that the ox was useful in such a diversity of employments, and shall for the future set a great value on him. You said, sir, that the parings of the hides, and scrapings, were made into glue; be so good as to tell us how it is done, as I do not comprehend it.

Mr. Benson. The parings, &c. are soaked for two or three days in water and washed; then they are boiled to the thickness of a jelly; this jelly is passed, while hot, through osier baskets, to part it from the ordures; when it has stood long enough for all the filth to settle at the bot-

tom, it is boiled a second time, poured into flat frames, and left till it is pretty hard and solid, and then cut into square pieces; it is afterwards dried in the wind in a coarse net, and hung up on a string that it may dry thoroughly.

"And now," said Mr. Benson, "I shall return to the subject that I was upon; an account of this isle. The soil is generally very fertile, especially in the best of barley and other sorts of grain, of which it is computed above twenty thousand quarters are sent hence to London in a year, besides what is sold to other places. Barley is of the third class, Triandria; three stamens. The verdant carpet which covers the earth is principally composed of plants belonging to this class. It comprehends the greatest part of the grasses, and some congenerous vegetables, which are well known to be of indispensable necessity to the support of men and animals; and, though the least striking, are by far the most valuable of all the productions of nature. There are four orders and forty-five genera. Barley, Hordeum, is of the second order, Digynia; two pistils.

"The *Alga marina*, or sea ore as they call it, is the chief manufacture of this isle. This they dry on the shore, and burn it, in order to make kelp, which the potters use in glazing their ware.

But the smell of the rotten ore upon the soil, and the smoke of it when burning, is very noisome. The gentlemen's families are for the most part gone from this part of the country, having sold their estates; so that their mansion seats are converted into farm houses: But then, on the other hand, many of the yeomen and farmers have good estates, on which they live very genteely. In this island are six parish churches and one chapel. It has given the title of earl to the family of Tufton, ever since the reign of Charles the 1st.

"We read, that Egbert, the 8th King of Kent, gave one third of the island to a lady whom he had much injured; and that she built a monastery upon it, to which the other Kentish kings were very liberal; but the Danes ruined it. My dear Jeannette," said Mr. Benson, "you will oblige me, by giving me the biography of Charles the first, and of Egbert."

"With pleasure," I rejoined. "That unfortunate monarch Charles the first, King of England, was the second son of James the first, he was born in 1600, and succeeded his father in 1625. The seeds of the civil war which raged so violently in his reign were sown in the preceding; and the pacific days of the father may be considered as the cause of the misfortunes

and death of the son. His unjustifiable proceedings at the beginning were more than compensated by his subsequent concessions and generosity; but when the sword of civil war is once drawn, it is not easily sheathed. His giving up of Stafford was not only impolitic but unjust; and this want of steadiness proved his own ruin: his military operations appear also to have been conducted with more courage than skill, and he was singularly unfortunate in his confidants. Charles, after the battle of Naseby, imprudently put himself under the protection of the Scotch, his own countrymen and natural subjects; who, regardless of honour or honesty, sold him to the English patriots, as Judas sold his master, for a paltry sum of money. The artful Cromwell forced him out of the hands of the parliament, and having the army at his command, made them insist upon a trial; a measure adopted merely to put a legal face on a murder which was already resolved upon. The conduct of the king before his brutal judges was dignified and modest. After suffering an unparalleled series of insults, he was brought to the scaffold, and endured his fate like a hero and a christian martyr, January 30, 1648. Much has been said of his character by his enemies. It is certain that he had his faults; but it is as certain that he had

more virtues. If the English nation had profited by the advantages which were obtained at the beginning of the struggle, Charles would have been a glorious monarch, and the people would have been happy. He was a man of polite taste, and a liberal encourager of literature and the arts. In his private life, he was religious, an affectionate husband, and a tender father; so that, let party opinion be what it may, he deserves to be admired as a man, though he may bear censure as a monarch. He married Henrietta Maria, a Princess of France, by whom he had several children."

Mr. Benson observed, that Charles the first was endued with many virtues and good qualities, but was of a wavering disposition; that he attacked the privileges of the parliament, and in that was unfortunate.

"Egbert was the seventeenth king of the West Saxons, and nineteenth (but first sole) monarch of the English. He conquered Kent, and laid the foundation of the sole monarchy in 823; which put an end to the Saxon Heptarchy, and was solemnly crowned at Winchester; when, by his edict, he ordered all the south of the island to be called England in 828. He died February 4, 837, and was buried at Winchester."

Mr. Benson thanked me; and, after making some remarks on Egbert, he said, that in some of the low marshes near the sea, a large field was open to the observation of Adelina and me, who were both, he found, curious in botany; many rare and valuable plants being found there. That the prodigious quantity of fennel, which grows wild, forms in some places near the sea, hedges of almost a mile in length. Fennel, Anethum, is of the fifth class, Pentandria; five stamens; of the second order, Digynia; two pistils. We now reached *Birchington*, which is a member of the town and port of Dover; and we were glad to join our fellow-travellers in the church, which is a neat building, and contains several ancient and modern monuments of the Queke and Crispe families, who resided at the ancient mansion in this parish called Quekes or Quex. At this house, Mr. A—— told us, King William the third used to reside, until the winds favoured his embarking for Holland. A room, said to have been the bed-chamber of the royal guest, is still shown, together with an adjacent inclosure in which his guards encamped.

We then drove to the ancient but small town of Minster, on the right hand, near the marshes, about four miles from Margate. Mr. A—— informed us, that Domneva, daughter of Er-

combert, King of Kent, built and founded an abbey at this place, about the year 670, and furnished it with veiled virgins to the number of seventy; herself becoming the first abbess. Mildred, her daughter, succeeded her; and so far excelled her mother in piety, that she was canonized a saint, and the nunnery ever after was called by her name. It was destroyed by the Danes about the year 990. Minster church, which Mr. Benson told us was the most ancient in the island, is a handsome structure, consisting of three aisles, and has eighteen collegiate stalls in the choir. On the floor, and in the church porch, are several flat grave-stones, which are very ancient. The man who showed us the church said, that in the last century a pot of Roman silver coins was ploughed up near Minster: Mr. Mansfield had some in his pocket, they were chiefly of Lucius Aurelius Verus.

We again ascended the carriages. Between Minster and Margate is Cleve-court, an elegant building belonging to J. T. Farrer, Esq. Beyond Minster are several downs, which afford extensive and delightful prospects. We alighted to walk. Canterbury cathedral, the isle of Sheppey, the Essex shore, Dover cliffs, and the town of Sandwich, may be each distinctly discerned from this pleasant spot. We sat down

and made sketches. Mr. A—— said, that (as the Monks inform us) from these downs started Domneva's deer, which ran an irregular course quite across the island, in the ancient map of which this tract is marked. King Egbert gave Domneva so much ground as the deer would run over at one course, which cut off the east end of the island, where she built her nunnery. This tract, from the name of her daughter, was called Mildred's Lynch, and was a bank of earth thrown up, describing the ancient bounds of the two great manors of Monkton and Minster, and is yet visible in some places.

After drawing, &c. above an hour, we set off for Margate. Mr. Benson told us, that East Kent, and the Isle of Thanet, have long been reckoned the best cultivated part of England; and that this tract of country has no slight pretensions to that character. The drill husbandry is very general here, and is carried on in a very complete and judicious manner. The planting of hops throughout East Kent, is a very important branch of husbandry; and madder is here cultivated by farmers more than in any other part of the kingdom.

I told Mr. Benson, that he would greatly oblige me, by giving me some account of madder, of which I did not know any thing; but

that I recollected perfectly well what had been said about hops, when we were at Canterbury. He said, that Madder, Rubia, was of the fourth class, Tetrandria; four stamens; and of the first order, Monogynia; one pistil. In the class Tetrandria the stamens are all of equal length; by which it is distinguished from Didynamious plants, where two of the stamens are long and two short. This class contains four orders, and twenty-eight genera; which are by no means useless or uninviting. Several of them are medicinal, as well as necessary in the arts. Madder is a long and small root, remarkable for its red colour, the thickest part seldom exceeds the bigness of a goose quill; it has very little smell, but a remarkable taste of sweet and bitter; it is used in great quantities by the dyers for dying red, and other colours.

We arrived at Margate about four o'clock, and ate our dinners with a good appetite. Our conversation naturally turned on what we had seen on the road, as no incident had occurred: the evening was remarkably fine, and we sallied out to view the place, which I shall describe to you.

Margate is situated on the north side of the Isle of Thanet, within a small bay, in a breach of the cliff, where is a gate to the sea, from

whence it has its name : it is seventy-two miles from London, and about sixteen from Canterbury. In summer it appears to be a pleasant and agreeable situation. Its principal street runs north and south near a mile in length, and terminates at the pier, with a gentle descent; by which means the streets are always neat and clean. But what has given Margate so great an eclat in the beau monde, is its conveniency for bathing: the shore being level, and of fine sand, is extremely well adapted to this purpose. On the wharf are several bathing-rooms, to which the company resort to drink the water, and from whence they enter the machines, which are afterwards driven out two or three hundred yards into the sea, under the conduct of careful guides. There is a door in the machine, which being opened, they descend into the water, by means of a ladder; an umbrella of canvas is let down which conceals them from public view. Since Margate has been so much frequented by the nobility and gentry, many considerable additions and improvements have been made to the town. A large square has been erected, consisting of very convenient houses for the accommodation of the company who resort to this place; the square is paved after the same manner as the streets in London, and contains a noble and

commodious assembly-room, finished with great elegance and taste; and being eighty-seven feet in length, and forty-three in breadth, is supposed to be the largest in England; it also commands a beautiful view of the harbour and roads. Adjoining to this are very convenient apartments for cards and tea; in the latter of which is a camera obscura of large size, which reflects in a delightful manner the surrounding scenery, &c: on the lower floor is a billiard-table, and a large room for public entertainments, with a piazza which extends the whole length of the building; in the upper floor are ranges of bedchambers. Here is also a theatre. The number of subscribers to these rooms has amounted to near a thousand in a season. The amusements are conducted with great regularity by Mr. Le Bas, master of the ceremonies, who has the happiness to give general satisfaction. In the square is an elegant tavern, which communicates with the room for public entertainments.

Besides the tavern in this square, there is another called the New Inn, situated on the parade; where are two hot salt-baths, which are said to have a very salutary effect in nervous and paralytic cases, and numbness of the limbs. Provisions are very plentiful, and great quantities of fish are daily caught. In short, there

is every requisite to render this place a genteel and delightful summer residence. I should like to stay a month here.

Two machines set out for Canterbury every morning, to meet the coaches from London, and return to Margate the same evening. The hoys sail from Wool-key near the custom-house, London, on Wednesdays or Thursdays, and with a west-north-west wind get to Margate in twelve hours; but when it is unfavourable, they may be three days on the passage. They go from Margate on Fridays or Saturdays; the fare is five shillings. They bring great quantities of goods from London, for the town and country. As a proof of the safety of this passage, they told us, that there had not been a hoy lost for upwards of one hundred and forty years.* Into these vehicles they crowd people of all descriptions: Dr. Walcot, I remember, under the name of Peter Pindar, has played off his wit upon their peculiarities with his usual freedom:

"Go, beauteous hoy, in safety every inch;
That storms should wreck thee, gracious Heaven forbid!
Whether commanded by brave captain Finch,
Or equally tremendous captain Kidd!
Go with thy cargo!—Margate town amuse,
And God preserve thy Christians and thy Jews!

* One was wrecked Feb. 7, 1802, and 23 persons perished.

Soon as thou gett'st within the pier,
All Margate will be out I trow—
And people rush from far and near,
As if thou hadst wild beasts to show!"

This town is under the same jurisdiction as the port of Dover, the mayor being represented here by a deputy. Its church is dedicated to St. John the Baptist, which was the ancient name of the parish. It was formerly a chapel to Minster church, and supposed to have been built about the year 1050, and made parochial since the year 1290. It contains several ancient monuments.

Cecil-square, Hawley-square, and Union Crescent, are modern piles of building, which recommend themselves to visitants by the elegance and airiness of their situation. We rambled till very late. There are many pleasant walks; but the pier, where the hoys are almost continually landing their motley contents, afforded us the greatest entertainment. We walked also to Draper's Alms-houses, a comfortable and pleasant asylum for ten aged men and women. Before we retired to rest, it was agreed that we should make an excursion on the sea the next day.

We had a delightful sail from nine o'clock till within a few minutes before four, when we landed, and had just time to dress before dinner.

At five o'clock we prepared to walk to *Dandelion* (so called after a family of that name), a famous tea-house, in the vicinity of this place, with gardens which are much frequented. After taking coffee, we walked along the shore, and amused ourselves with gathering shells, pebbles, sea-weeds, &c. and were gratified with the most glorious and curious spectacle that I ever beheld, the *Sun-setting on the Ocean.* The rays, striking horizontally on the liquid element, gave it the appearance of floating glass. With entertainment and with wonder we saw the curling waves, here glittering with white, there glowing with purple; in one place wearing an azure tincture, in another gleaming a cast of green: on the whole, exhibiting a piece of fluid scenery, that might vie with the most exquisite tapestry, though wrought in the loom, and tinged with the dyes of heaven.

In the morning we went to Kingsgate, a little distance from Margate, on the coast, near the North Foreland, to see a seat built by Lord Holland, in imitation of an Italian villa; particularly that of Cicero, near the bay of Baiæ, in the Augustan age, when the polite arts were in their glory. There is a noble portico fronting the sea. We went all over the house. It contains several elegant apartments with a variety

of marble columns, busts, vases, &c. brought from Italy. His lordship has also erected with chalk stones several buildings resembling Gothic towers, convents, &c. in ruins, and planted ivy round them to encrease the deception. Near this seat are Hackendown banks, or the field of battle-axes, being the place, Mr. A—— told us, where a fierce battle was fought in the year 854, between the Danes and Anglo-Saxons, which conflict was so near the cliff that many fell into the sea; and some historians say, that both commanders were slain, and the victory was left doubtful. Here are two barrows, or hills of earth, thought to have been the tombs of certain great officers killed in that battle. Mr. Benson informed us, that these barrows were lately opened, and found to contain bodies bent together and thrust into graves dug out of the chalk, a little below the surface but not above three feet long. Several earthern urns, containing about two or three quarts, were also found, in which were ashes and charcoal, but they would not bear the air. Lord Holland has erected a monument, with an inscription in the style of antiquity, to perpetuate this action. We returned much pleased with our ride; in the evening, after walking for some time, we stood upon a high hill, from which we had a prospect

of a large extent of land and sea: and, it being about sun-set, we sat down, viewing with pleasure the objects that lay before us. The earth clothed in the brightest verdure; the trees loaded with the richest blossoms; the tenants of the groves chanted forth their sweetest lays beneath their branches; the lambs sported in the meads; the peasant whistled as he drove his team; and the ships, wafted along by the gentle gale, were going toward their harbours. Spring gave life to the whole scene; and joy appeared to pervade every human breast.

On a sudden, a dreadful storm arose; the winds gave vent to all their fury, and whole forests of oak lay stretched on the ground. The gentlemen hurried us to the inn.

The sky became dark; hail and rain poured down in torrents; lightning and thunder added horror to the gloom. The sea, now rising in mountains, bore aloft the largest vessels; while the uproar of its waves drowned the shrieks of the wretched sailors. It was a most dreadful night. The gentlemen requested us to retire to our chambers; but we could not persuade ourselves to go to bed, and spent the night in dreadful anxiety. The gentlemen sat up; the town was in an uproar: a vessel was sunk; the darkness of the night and the violence of the storm

preventing any assistance being afforded, it is to be feared that every soul on board is buried in the briny waves.

This morning a dreadful scene was presented to view; a vessel wrecked, and several bodies found on the shore: among the rest a man, who, by letters found in his pocket-book, was known to be a rich planter from Jamaica, coming to England with his negro slave; the name of the vessel also (which came last from Scotland), and who it belonged to, were marked down. The poor negro is not yet found. Mr. Mansfield recollected that the planter was an old acquaintance of his, and that his slave had been singularly unfortunate.

"This negro," said he, "was a powerful prince of Congo; and, being at war with the King of Loango, was taken prisoner, and sold by him to Ganna, of Dacard, a noted man-stealer, employed as such by the slave-merchants there. Being thus taken, he was brought to Goree, where he was sold to a planter, one of the greatest of tyrants. This poor prince, after suffering unheard-of cruelties inflicted on him by this wretch, in a fit of despair stabbed himself; but the wound not proving mortal, he was again sold to this planter, and now met his death in a watery grave." The last master, Mr.

Mansfield said, was a worthy, humane man, and, he had no doubt, had ever treated him with lenity.

We were so much affected by the melancholy catastrophe, that we could not sit down to study; the gentlemen were out all the day, with the hopes of saving some one who might have escaped the wreck; but their search was fruitless; they returned to take a late dinner; and in the evening, being desirous that we should walk out, we accompanied them on the sea shore: after walking to some distance, we thought we saw something in a cleft of the rock; the gentlemen approached, and found it to be the dead body of the poor negro. After lamenting his unhappy destiny, Mr. A—— observed, that it afforded a fine subject for a poet: he then begged Robert to accompany us back to the inn, and to return with some persons to convey the poor negro; for Mr. Mansfield resolved that he should be decently interred. Adelina was very silent as we returned; and, desiring I would leave her alone that evening, retired to her chamber, and in the morning, putting a paper in my hand, she desired me to read: it was some verses that she had written on the Dying Negro. Adelina has often shown her poetical turn, and these verses are so *à-propos*

to the subject, that I must transcribe them for your perusal :

Ye waving groves, which from this cell I view ;
Ye meads, now glitt'ring with the morning dew !
Ye flowers, which blush on yonder *hated shore,*
That at my baneful step shall fade no more ;
A long farewell !——I ask no vernal bloom,
No pageant wreaths to wither on my tomb.
Let serpents hiss, and nightshade blacken there,
To mark the *friendless victim of despair !*
And better in th' untimely grave to rot,
The world and all its cruelties forgot,
Than dragg'd once more beyond the western main,
To groan beneath some dastard planter's chain,
Where my poor countrymen in bondage wait
The *slow enfranchisement of ling'ring fate.*
Oh ! my heart sinks, my dying eyes o'erflow,
When mem'ry paints the picture of their woe !
For I have seen them, ere the dawn of day,
Rous'd by *the lash,* begin their *cheerless way,*
Greeting with groans unwelcome morn's return,
While rage and shame their bloody bosoms burn ;
And, chiding ev'ry hour the slow-pac'd *sun,*
Endure their toils till all *his* race was run :
No eye to mark their suff'rings with a tear,
No friend to comfort, and no hope to cheer,
Then, like the dull, unpitied brutes, repair
To stalls as wretched, and as coarse a fare ;
Thank Heav'n *one day* of misery was o'er,
And sink to sleep, and wish to wake no more.
Sleep on ! ye lost companions of my woes,
For whom in death this tear of pity flows !

Sleep, and enjoy the only boon of Heav'n
To you in common with your tyrants giv'n!
Oh! while soft slumber from their couches flies,
Still may the balmy blessing steep your eyes;
In sweet oblivion lull awhile your woes,
And brightest visions gladden the repose!
Let fancy, then, unconscious of the change,
Thro' our *own fields* and *native forests* range;
Waft ye to each once-haunted stream and grove,
And visit ev'ry long lost scene ye love!
---I sleep no more---nor in the midnight shade
Invoke ideal phantoms to my aid;
Nor wake again abandon'd and forlorn,
To find each dear delusion *fled* at *morn*;
A slow consuming death let others wait,
I *snatch* destruction from unwilling fate;
Yon ruddy streaks the rising sun proclaim,
That never more shall beam upon my shame;
Bright orb! for others let thy glory shine,
Mature the golden grain and purple vine,
While *fetter'd Afric* still for *Europe* toils,
And nature's plund'rers riot on her spoils,
Be their's the gifts thy partial rays supply,
Be mine the *gloomy privilege* TO DIE.

Poor Yanko is to be interred to-morrow.

In the morning we arose very early, and walked a considerable way on the sea-shore. Caroline complaining that she was rather weary, Mr. Mansfield said he thought we had better sit down in a small hovel which we saw a little farther on, whose mud-built walls served to

screen its inhabitants from the piercing winds, though the waves from the sea often threatened their destruction. In this hovel lived an old man and his wife, who, used to rough fare, and fearless of the turbulent elements, could sleep at ease; for their days had passed from youth to age in innocence and peace. They were sitting down to a comfortable breakfast; for, though coarse their fare, every thing was clean. On the woman's knee sat a lovely child, whom she was fondly caressing. They, in the most friendly manner, begged us to rest ourselves; we were no sooner seated, than, looking at the child, "Ah! what a lovely little creature," I exclaimed; "pray who does it belong to?" "That," says the man, I fear we shall never know."

Mr. A—— begging him to explain himself, "I will readily tell you all we know about it," says Jonathan. "Returning home the other night later than usual, after hanging up my nets to dry, I lamented that the storm had rendered my labours fruitless; 'Never grieve, child,' said Martha, 'thank God thou art safe; to-morrow may bring better luck: here I have prepared thee a dry jacket, and I will get thee some supper in a moment; do be contented.' Martha was reaching down some fish which

hung about the walls, when a sudden gust of wind shook our dwelling. 'Dear me, Jonathan,' said she, letting it fall, 'what a storm! the pieces that I patched the casement with, are all beat out, and we shall be chilled to death with the cold.'

"Sit thee down, Martha, said I; I will try to secure the window; mercy upon us, the sea is all in a foam! Martha stood beside me at the window: 'hark,' said she, 'is it the roaring of the sea, or poor souls in distress, that I hear;' I listened. Surely, returned I, it is signals of distress; I will venture forth.

"Do not, pray;' said Martha, I would not send a dog out in this storm.'

"Then how dost think, woman, I could be at peace, when I perhaps could serve a distressed fellow-creature? Besides it grows lighter, and I will not stay long.

"So saying, I ventured out of the cottage, while poor Martha drew her stool upon the earth, and, resting her elbows upon her knees, endeavoured to shut out the noise of the tempest by covering her ears with her hands.

"Martha sat fretting at my stay somewhat better than half an hour; when, finding the winds hushed, and the sea more calm, she ventured to

the door, and descried me bringing a parcel in my arms. 'I am happy to see thee safe, Jonathan; what hast thou got there?'

"An infant, dame; I picked the poor thing up as a wave threw it on shore; but I fear too late to save its life!

"Let us do what we can, however,' said my dame. She then took the child, and laying it on her lap, began to chafe it; while I employed myself in rekindling the fire, and warming clothes to apply to its stomach and limbs. 'There, Jonathan, the little creature begins to feel warm!'

"I fear, Martha, it will not recover for all that; and it is only your rough handling that makes it appear so.

"No such thing,' returned she, 'its limbs are not so stiff: if we could contrive some warm drink for it to swallow, it might also be of service.

"Martha kept on rubbing the child, till at length it showed signs of life, and, after voiding a quantity of water, opened its languid eyes.—'Thank Heaven!' said Martha, 'it will live, poor thing! what can we give it to eat?'

"To eat, you simple woman! the child will not feel hungry in a hurry; let it lie as it does

now for some time, and I will warm a blanket to wrap it in when we go to bed.

"Finding the child breathe more freely, Martha began to question me about the other sufferers. Ah! said I, it was a dreadful sight; I could just discern a vessel sinking. The moment before, I thought I heard a boat; but lost sight of her, it was so dark, and the waves rolled so high. I then went round to the north cliff, and, fearful of standing, as I could do no good, was about to return, when I beheld this child thrown upon the shore; the other poor souls, Heaven receive them! are long past deriving aid from man. As I concluded, I drew my hand across my eyes, and Martha's tears fell fast on the face of the infant that she held. 'This poor child, Jonathan, may have lost its parents, and may not have another friend in the world,' said she, sobbing, 'but you and I; and, do the best we can, it will fare but badly.'

"Do not fret thyself, dame; it is true, our power is small; but there is a wise providence that orders all for the best; it has to-night thrown this innocent child on our care; I do not murmur, we must try to do our duty.

"We then retired to rest; but Martha got up several times during the night to look at her

charge; and finding her sleep tolerably easy, she at length composed herself.

"In the morning Martha put some meat in an earthen vessel, and made a gruel for her little guest, who, she concluded, would make but an indifferent breakfast on the coarse bread and dried fish which served her and myself. Martha felt her pains requited when her nursling ate and smiled; her pretty mouth displaying good-humoured dimples.

"She does not know her loss, poor thing!' said she, addressing me. How should she understand her misfortunes, Martha? she cannot be above two years old, at most; I question if she knows her own name.

"The child, being asked her name, replied, 'Letty;' which was almost the only word she could speak plain. I went out to see if any vestige of the night's disaster was visible; but not even a plank was to be seen, and the sea was now smooth as it had before been turbulent. I felt my heart too heavy to work, and continued to walk along the sands for the space of two miles, when my attention was arrested by the sight of several fishermen examining some bodies which the tide had thrown up. Having satisfied their curiosity, they were preparing to be gone, when I entreated their assistance to bear the

bodies farther on shore that they might be out of the reach of the waves. The men at length complied; and when they had done, took leave of me, scarcely paying any attention to the recital I gave them of my finding the child.

"Ah! said I, as they departed, these men are disappointed at not finding aught to repay their trouble; they do not consider that the term of their lives and mine may be equally uncertain as that of these poor creatures. I returned to my wife. Suppose, my dear, said I, we take the child to see the bodies; young as she is, she may have some recollection of her friends if she saw them even in their present state.

"Now do not, Jonathan, go to grieve and fright the little lamb: if you set her crying it will not awake the dead.'

"That is true, dame; but you must not always have your way; besides, I do not think any of these can belong to her, for there are only two men in sailor's clothes, and an old woman, thrown on the shore: you know if I had been led by you last night, this infant would not have been alive now.

"Thou wert always wisest; so do as thou wilt, Jonathan; I believe thy way is best.'

"No, no, dame, I have often learnt from thee, so say no more.

"Suppose, then, I go with thee and carry Letty,' said Martha; 'she is very fond of me already.'

"Then I am sure there is no love lost, returned I, so come along wife.

"Letty grieved the fisherman's kind-hearted wife; for the moment she led her to the spot where the bodies lay, she struggled to get out of her arms, and clasping her's round the cold neck of the woman, distinctly called out, 'Nurse is asleep! nurse is asleep!' Martha was angry with me the whole day through; for the child seemed to feel the loss of her old friends, and appeared uneasy in the presence of her new ones; but another night's sleep has reconciled her to us again."

I have given you this interesting narrative, my dear sister, nearly in the old man's own words.

Jonathan supposed that her parents had perished in the storm; and while he lamented his inability to do enough for her, did not regret an additional guest at their before-scanty board.

The three gentlemen commended the humane couple for the benevolence of their hearts; and all, as one, agreed to give them twenty pounds a-year, which Mr. Benson undertook to pay Jonathan quarterly himself. Adelina, Caroline,

and I, begged to furnish the child with clothes; and, after chatting some time longer to these worthy people, and caressing the lovely Letitia, we walked back again to Margate, where it was agreed we should stay a week longer. We hastened to buy necessaries for Letitia. Mr. Benson wrote to Mrs. Benson to inform her what detained us. Letters were also sent to the owners of the vessel, who live in Scotland.

We have walked early every morning this week to the hut: the servant took provisions for us, and, sitting by Martha, we employed ourselves till night-fall in making clothes for the sweet child. If her friends are not to be found, she is to be left at the cottage till she is eight years old; at which time, with the approbation of her father, Adelina is to have her under her own care. We let Martha nurse, that the child might be more attached to her, while we worked: one of us sometimes read a little, or played on the flageolet; but now the week is elapsed, no tidings have arrived; we are to leave Margate to-morrow, and part with our amiable friends, as well as the worthy old couple and the sweet child, who are all attached to us. We should take the latter with us, but for the chance that some of her friends may come to this place in search of her. Jonathan is acquainted with

our route. Mr. A—— has deposited a sum of money in Mr. Benson's hands for the use of the inhabitants of the hovel: we left them with tears, while they loaded us with blessings. We shall often think of them; for we really spent a very pleasant week with Martha, who is a sensible old woman: The gentlemen amused themselves with Jonathan, in walking, sailing, and fishing.

This being the last evening that we should be together, we ate a light supper after we returned from the hovel, and then took a walk on the sand to talk over the several little incidents that had occurred during our short acquaintance; when Robert, who had walked a little quicker, approaching with a mass of some dark-looking heavy substance in his hands, said, "I have found something that resembles coal, only it is harder, and is veined and spotted with yellow, which looks almost like gold." His father told him it was coal; but that it had been long hardened by immersion in the sea-water, and beaten by the waves till its softer parts were washed away. Those veins which seemed to run through it, were formed of some mineral mingled with it in its bed.

"Pray," said Caroline, "what is coal?"

Mr. Benson. It is an inflammable substance

which lies in beds in the earth, generally mingled with sulphur and oil. There are several sorts of it; and it is in more general use in England as fuel, than in any other country. On the continent of Europe they seldom burn it, but for the fires necessary in their manufactures; and both the French and the Italians have a strong prejudice against it, as being unwholesome, and particularly prejudicial to the lungs. An ingenious French author observes, that "the air of London is so surcharged with the sulphureous spirits of the sea coal which is daily burnt in that populous city, that a suit of clothes, after it has been worn there for any considerable time, will preserve a sulphureous smell for whole years together, though they should be sent afterwards by sea to the most distant plantations.

Caroline. Pray tell me what are minerals and metals.

Mr. Benson. The principal metals, properly so called, are gold, silver, platina, lead, copper, iron, and tin. Gold, silver, and platina, are distinguished by the names of the precious metals: *gold* is the heaviest; it is brought from New Mexico, in North America; some parts of South America; and many places in the East Indies. *Silver* is chiefly found in the mines of Potosi, in South America, but there are some

good mines in Norway and Sweden. Platina, or platinum, is found only in South America. When pure, it resembles silver, though not so bright; its beauty, ductility, and indestructibility, make it little inferior to gold and silver: neither air nor water can act upon it.

Lead is the heaviest of all metals, it abounds most in England; the best mines are in Cornwall, Devonshire, Derbyshire, Northumberland, and Durham; Cumberland has a mine of the best black lead, for pencils.

There are three kinds of *copper*, the common copper, rose copper, and virgin copper; copper mixed with a large quantity of tin makes what we call *bell metal*; with a small proportion, *bronze* for statues, &c. and when mixed with zink *pinch-beck*. The best and purest comes from the Swedish mines; that worked upon Paris Mountain, in the Isle of Anglesea, is said to be the largest yet discovered.

Iron, the most useful of all metals, is found in most European countries: the best iron mines in England are, those of Colebrook-Dale, in Shropshire; and those in the forest of Dean, Gloucestershire.

Tin is the lightest of all metals. Tin is a whitish metal, not so hard as silver, nor so soft as lead: but though not so soft, is yet more

easily melted. The stannaries of tin-mines in Cornwall and Devonshire furnish the greatest part of the tin that is consumed in all Europe.—Six pounds of brass, and fifteen pounds of lead, to a hundred pounds of tin, makes the composition which is called pewter.

Gold and silver are called perfect metals, because they lose nothing from the heat of the fire. The imperfect metals decrease by the heat of the fire, and can be easily dissolved or corroded by acids. Of the minerals, which are also produced in the bowels of the earth, the list is more numerous: quick-silver, sulphur, alum, salts, antimony, vitriol, ochre, zink, bismuth, &c.

Quick-silver is an imperfect metal, resembling melted silver, found in Hungary, Italy, Spain, and South America: it is of great use in manufactures and medicine.

Sulphur, in natural history, is a genus of fossils, defined to be dry, solid, but friable fossile bodies.

The word sulphur becomes the name of a regular genus of fossils, of which there are four known species. 1. The native yellow sulphur, which in its purest state is of a pale straw colour, and as pellucid as the finest amber, but is more frequently found coarser, and more opake. It

is met with in the gold mines of Peru, in Hungary, and in some other places. 2. The green native sulphur. This is harder than the other, and is usually found in small masses composed of several crusts. It is found, so far as is known, only about Mount Vesuvius. 3. The grey native sulphur, which is common in Ireland, and many other places, and is the coarsest and worst of all the kinds. And 4. the most rare and beautiful of all the kinds, the red native sulphur. This is of a fine glowing red, like cinnabar, and very bright and transparent, and is found, as far as is yet known, only in the gold mines of Peru.

Beside the great use of sulphur in medicine, chemistry, metallurgy, and the making of gunpowder, it is of great service for whitening silks, and woollen stuffs.

Alum, Alumen, in natural history, is a peculiar kind of salt separated by art from various substances. In Italy, it is obtained from a soft reddish stone; about Puteoli, from several kinds of earth; and in England, from a whitish or bluish stone, called Irish slate. In some parts of the world, alum is found pure; having been washed from its ore by water, and afterwards, on the evaporation of the water, left in a dry form. There are still mines of native alum in

the island of Chio, consisting of a kind of vaults, or apartments crusted over with alum, which may be looked upon as exfoliations from the rock.

Beside its value in medicine, alum is used in colouring and dyeing: it not only serves to bind the colour upon the stuffs, and has the same use there that gum-water and glutinous oils have in painting, but likewise disposes stuffs to take colour, and adds a briskness and elegance to them. It also preserves paper that has been dyed in its water, from sinking when written upon.

Salt, sal, in natural history, is the name of a series or subdivision of fossils, naturally and essentially simple, not inflammable, and soluble in water.

Of the fossils of this class, nature affords us three distinct orders; and under those they are distinguishable into five genera. The salts of the first order are those found native and pure, either in the earth or without its surface, and exhibiting all other natural characters, though often without their proper form. Of the second, are those found not native, but in form of ores; never pure, but distinguishable by their taste, and immersed in and blended with the constituent matter of earths and stones in extremely small particles. And of the third are those na-

turally found suspended in waters, and in a fluid form, but ready to assume their proper figures on the evaporation of a part of that water.

Antimony, in natural history, is one of the semi-metals, as they are called, separated by fusion from a very hard and heavy lead-coloured substance, called antimony ore: this ore is composed of a number of extremely small sparkling granules, which give it the appearance of a lump of the purest steel, when fresh broken.

Antimony is of considerable use in medicine, chemistry, and mechanics. It promotes the fusion of metals, but makes every thing brittle with which it is mixed. It is also an ingredient in pewter, bell-metal, and the mixt metal of which types for printing are made.

Vitriol, in natural history, is a compound body formed of the particles of metals dissolved by the acid of sulphur, and that either by the operations of nature, within the earth, or in the chemist's elaboratory by proper admixtures and assistances, and afterwards, by the help of water, brought into the form of a salt.

The vitriols, therefore, very much approach the nature of metals, and, in some instances, are found to have taken up other substances, particularly some of the semi-metals, among them; as the white vitriol, which contains zink.

The other metals that we find dissolved in this manner in the bowels of the earth, and there formed into vitriols, are iron and copper. These, therefore, are the great bases of those salts; and, according as they belong to one, or the other of them, are to be divided into the cupreous and the ferrugineous vitriols.

The naturalist, who collects for his amusement, will meet with vitriols containing these two metals, in various proportions, in the same mass. The blue green vitriol of Hungary and Transylvania, and many other of the fossiles of this class, are of that kind.

Ochre, ochra, in natural history, is a genus of earths, slightly coherent, and composed of fine, smooth, soft, argillaceous particles, rough to the touch, and readily diffusible in water.

Ochres are of various colours; as red, yellow, blue, brown, green, &c. All of which have, at one time or other, been used in painting. The earths of this kind, used in medicine, are only three.

Zink, in natural history, is the name of a very remarkable fossile substance, resembling bismuth in appearance, but of a bluer colour.

It is a very extraordinary mineral, and one that has never been well understood, as to its origin, till of late; for though the world well

knew for a long time both zink and lapis calaminaris, and knew that both of them had the remarkable property of turning copper into brass, which one would think might have given a hint to the discovery of a natural alliance between them; yet have they been ever treated of as two different substances by the writers on these subjects; and Dr. Lawson was the first who ever publicly declared and proved lapis calaminaris to be the ore of zink.

Bismuth, in natural history, is a genus of the semi-metals, as they are called; the most usual appearance of which is in form of an ore, intimately mixed with silver, a large quantity of arsenic and an earthy matter which yields a blue colour.

Bismuth attenuates the parts of all other metals; and thereby promotes their fusion. It is soluble in vinegar, like lead: dissolved in strong acids, it yields the famous cosmetic magistery, and is a very valuable ingredient in the mixed metals used in casting types, and for bell-metal.

Bismuth is very common in Germany, and is not unfrequently found in the tin-mines of Cornwall, though little known.

The magnet is also a mineral.

"What an extraordinary thing the magnet

is!" said I. "I do not very well remember what I have heard about it."

Mr. A——. The *magnet*, or *load-stone*, *magnes*, in natural history, is a very rich iron-ore, found in large detached masses, of a dusky iron grey. It is found in iron-mines in Germany, Hungary, England, Arabia, Bengal, and China. It has the singular property of attracting iron; and if you break and divide a large mass of it into innumerable parts, each of these will point north and south; a quality, as well as that of attraction, which it communicates to other pieces of iron, if they are rubbed on it for a considerable time. In consequence of this extraordinary power, it has become of the most essential use in navigation. The ancients knew no means of finding their way at sea, but by the stars: of course, when those celestial bodies were not visible, the wandering sailor was frequently at a loss how to steer. The mariner's compass, of which the needle constantly points north and south, now instructs the seaman in all weathers how he is to guide his ship.

The first knowledge of this useful application of the magnet is supposed to have come from Marco Polo, a Venetian, in the 13th century: but it is said to have been known to the Chinese.

"But beside the minerals which you have mentioned," said Adelina, "there are diamonds, are there not, and other jewels, found in the earth?"

Mr. A——. You have heard of diamond-mines, but *diamonds* are not therefore minerals. The best are in the mines of Golconda. This precious stone was called adamant by the ancients.

"Pray," said Robert, "what is steel and also pewter?"

Mr. Benson. My dear Robert, *steel* is only refined iron, condensed so as to receive a finer polish, and manufactured in a different manner. The metal so prepared, and cut with the exquisite skill which our workmen have acquired, has been sold in trinkets and ornaments at the price of gold.

Pewter is a composition of brass, lead, and tin, mixed in different quantities. *

At this moment a large fish rising to the surface of the water turned the discourse.

"The manners and instincts of those animals which inhabit the ocean," said Mr. A——, "are greatly concealed from us by their situation; but those few which have offered themselves to our observation, display instances of the same

* See page 416.

admirable wisdom that has formed the inhabitants of the earth and air. Should man ever be enabled, by any future discovery, to traverse the bottom of the sea, what wonders would be opened to his view! what numberless examples would appear of contrivance and sagacity, directed by the same wisdom that has instructed the bee to gather honey, and the beaver to construct his habitation! The different contrivances that several species of fish, whose manners are known, discover, in the modes of catching their prey, are so wonderful and curious, that I cannot deny myself the pleasure of relating a few instances.

"The sturgeon is without teeth, and his mouth is placed under the head, like the opening of a purse, which he has the power of pushing suddenly out or retracting. Before this mouth, under the beak or nose, hang four tendrils some inches long, and which so resemble earth-worms, that at first sight they may be mistaken for them. This clumsy toothless fish is supposed by this contrivance to keep himself in good condition, the solidity of his flesh evidently showing him to be a fish of prey. He is said to hide his large body amongst the weeds near the sea-coast, or at the mouths of large rivers, only exposing his irrhi, or tendrils, which small fish or insects mistaking for real worms, approach for plunder,

and are sucked into the jaws of their enemy. The flesh of the sturgeon was so valued in the time of the emperor Severus, that it was brought to table by servants with coronets on their heads, and preceded by music; which might give rise to its being in our country, when caught in the River Thames, presented by the lord-mayor to the king. At present it is caught in the Danube, and the Wolga, the Don, and other large rivers, for various purposes. The skin makes the best covering for carriages; isinglass is prepared from parts of the skin, caviare from the spawn; and the flesh is pickled or salted, and sent all over Europe. There is a sea insect described by Mr. Huges, whose claws or tenacles, being disposed in regular circles, and tinged with variety of bright lively colours, represent the petals of some most elegantly fringed and radiated flowers; as the carnation, marigold, and anemone; these beautiful rays serve them as a net for inclosing their prey. The sturgeon is of the third class, amphibia, or amphibious animals, and of the fourth order, nantes, or swimming amphibia, which are pinnated, and respire by lateral branchiæ or gills."

Mr. A—— pausing, Mr. Mansfield said, "these entertaining subjects have insensibly led us on till it is late: I think we had better re-

turn." We did so. Robert presently taking up a plant, his father told him it was *Kali*, a marine plant used in making glass: and that from the name of this plant, those substances which ferment with acids, are called alkalies: the mixture of alkali with uncturous substances makes soap; with silicious (or flinty earths,) glass.

"Pray, father," said Robert, "is sponge a zoophyte; surely it cannot be the habitation of insects. I have often wondered what it is, but have never been able to satisfy my curiosity."

Mr. Benson. *Sponges* are marine substances, which are found sticking to rocks and shells, when covered by the sea water; they are supposed to be the habitation of some animal, and are brought chiefly from Constantinople, the states of Barbary, and some of the isles in the Archipelago. Sponges are used both in the arts and in surgical operations. Mr. Peyssonnel has discovered and described the worms that form four different species of sponges; he thinks the sponge is formed from the juice, or slaver, which is deposited by the worms that inhabit them.

"Pray," said I, "are corals and corallines to be ranked in the vegetable or the animal kingdom?"

Mr. A——. Linnæus has classed them among the zoophytes, which are a kind of intermediate

body, supposed to partake both of the nature of an animal and a vegetable; as the Greek words, from which it is derived, indicate, signifying plant animal. The best coral comes from the Persian Gulf, Red Sea, coasts of Africa, towards the bastion of France, the isles of Majorca and Corsica, and the coasts of Provence and Catalonia.

Adelina. I suppose it is but lately that the real nature of coral has been ascertained; was it not formerly reckoned a vegetable?

Mr. A——. It was formerly ranked among the number of marine plants; but the discoveries of modern naturalists have raised it to the animal kingdom; since their observations satisfactorily prove that it is the structure and habitation of certain sea animals, and designed for their protection and support.

This morning, after breakfast, we parted with our agreeable friends; first settling a regular correspondence. They returned to Rose Hill. Keeping along the coast, we soon reached the *North Foreland*, the extreme east point of England; ascertained by act of parliament to be the most southern part of the port of London, which is thereby extended north in a right line to the point called the Nase, on the coast of Essex, and forms that properly called the Mouth of the

Thames. It projects far into the sea, after the form of a bastion, on which a *light-house* exalts its head; whence patent lamps, with reflecting lenses impart a strong and brilliant light, for the guidance of ships traversing this part of the ocean. The light, attended by two men, who watch in turns, may be seen, in clear weather, more than ten leagues off: the whole building being white washed, is seen farther in the day and becomes more illuminated throughout the night. All vessels that pass on the south side of this headland are said to enter the Channel, which is the name for the narrow sea between England and France; and all the towns or harbours between London and this place, whether on the Kentish or Essex shore, are called members of the port of London. The owner of every ship belonging to Great Britain that sails round this *Foreland* pays two pence per ton, and every foreigner four pence. It is under the regulation of the Trinity House, Deptford.

Proceeding on the road to Ramsgate, on the left we perceived *Broad-stairs*, a small neat place in a retired situation. Here a number of vessels are fitted out for the North Sea, and Iceland cod-fishery. A whale, we were told, came on shore here, in 1762, of prodigious dimensions.

Broadstairs has been lately visited by the more genteel classes of company, who wish to be withdrawn from the bustle in which Margate and Ramsgate are generally involved.

As we journeyed on, I begged Mr. A—— to give us some account of the cod and cod-fishery, which occasioned the following dialogue,:—

Mr. A——. The cod is of the fourth class and the second order, Jugulares, having the ventral fins placed before the pectoral. It is a fish of passage, and is found from eighteen inches to three or four feet long, with a great head, and teeth in the bottom of the throat; its flesh white, its skin brownish on the back, and covered with a few transparent scales. It eats excellently when fresh; and if well prepared and salted will keep a long time. Salt-fish, or stock-fish, commonly eaten in Lent, is cod thus prepared.

There are two kinds of salt cod, the one called green or white, the other dried or cured. The most essential thing in the green cod-fishery is the skill of the persons employed to open the fish, to cut off the heads, and to salt them; upon which last, the success of the voyage chiefly depends. The principal fishery for cod is on the banks of Newfoundland, in North America; and the best season, from the be-

ginning of February to the end of April, when the cod-fish, which during the winter had retired to the deepest part of the sea, return to the bank and grow very fat. Each fisher takes but one cod at a time; yet the more experienced will catch from three hundred and fifty to four hundred every day. This is a very fatiguing employment, both on account of the weight of the fish, and the extreme cold which reigns on the bank. They salt the cod on board. The head being cut off, the belly opened, and the entrails taken out, the salter ranges them in the bottom of the vessel, head to tail; and having thus made a layer of them a fathom or two square, he covers them with salt, over this he places another layer of fish, which he covers as before, and thus he disposes all the fish of that day, taking care never to mix the fish of different days together. By the time they have lain three or four days thus to drain, they are removed into another part of the vessel, and salted again; then they are left untouched till the ship has got its load, unless they put them in vessels for the conveniency of room.

Jeannette. I thought the curing and taking of cod must be less disagreeable and dangerous than whale-catching. I had no idea that the catching of fish alone employed so many men.

Mr. A——. We are apt, my dear Jeannette, to use and consume the necessaries and conveniences of life, without reflecting on the pains and labour necessary to obtain them. The smallest domestic accommodation is frequently not to be had, without the assistance of several hands: a pin or needle, for instance, employs a great number of workmen before they are brought to the degree of perfection in which we receive them. And the supply of a common table, if we consider the resources from which it is drawn, most probably employs the time and labour of thousands.

"I should like to have seen the whale that came on shore at Broadstairs," said Adelina. "Pray, sir, is not the whale found in the seas toward the north pole?"

Mr. A——. Yes, my dear, they chiefly inhabit the seas toward the north pole; though many whales are caught in the South Seas toward that pole; but the chief fishery has been near the coast of Spitzbergen, Nova Zembla, and Greenland; whither many ships from this country go every year, for the sole purpose of catching whales.—We may admire the goodness of providence, who leaves not the most obscure corner of the globe without its peculiar riches. Those countries, which scarcely supply food for

their wretched inhabitants, and are covered with snow full nine months in the year, are visited by people from distant parts of the world, who brave every danger for the sake of taking the whales which are found in their seas. The substance called whale-bone adheres to the upper jaw, and is formed of thin parallel laminæ, called whiskers; some of the longest are four yards in length; they are surrounded by strong hair to guard the tongue from being hurt, and also to prevent the return of their food, when they discharge the water out of their mouths.

Adelina. Whiskers four yards long! what a fierce look the whale must have! pray what size is he himself?

Mr. A——. The common whale is the largest of all animals, of whose history we have any certain account; it is sometimes found ninety feet long, and those which inhabit the torrid zone are said to be much larger. The size of the head is about one-third of the whole fish, the under lip is much broader than the upper, which is narrow and oblong; the tongue is a soft, spongy, fat substance, sometimes yielding five or six barrels of oil; the gullet or swallow is very small for so large an animal, not exceeding four inches in width; but that is proportioned to the food it eats, which is a particular

kind of small snail; or, as some say, it varies its repast with the Medusa, or sea-blubber, an insect which is found in the sea.

Jeannette. I always thought that the whale was a fish of prey, and would devour men if they fell in their way.

Mr. A——. They are quite harmless and inoffensive to every thing but insects. Remember, Jeannette, that it was not a *whale*, but a *large fish*, that swallowed Jonah. The only danger to be apprehended from them is, the starting of a plank in a ship, or the overturning of a boat, with their huge bulk.

Adelina. What can induce men to incur such dangers?

Mr. A——. There are many strong reasons that prevail with thousands to undergo a life of hardship, toil, and danger. The necessity of earning a living, to which you, who are brought up in the enjoyment of plenty, are a stranger, is one strong inducement. Providence has wisely endued mankind with as great a variety of inclinations and pursuits, as there is diversity in their persons: some show a very early inclination for a sea-life, that no danger can deter, nor persuasions prevail with them to give up; which appears to be implanted for the purpose of providing the means of an intercourse between the

inhabitants of distant countries, by which each party may reap advantage from interchanging the superfluous produce of distant climes, and exercising the mutual good offices of love and kindness. But to return to the whale: it has two orifices in the middle of the head, through which it spouts water to a great height, and, when it is disturbed or wounded, with a noise like thunder. Its eyes are not larger than those of an ox, and placed at a great distance from each other. There is no fin on the back; but on the sides, under each eye are two large ones, which serve it for rowing. The colour varies, the back of some being red, others black, and another variety is mottled; the belly is generally white. They are extremely beautiful in the water; the skin is very smooth and slippery. Under the skin the whale is covered with fat or blubber, from six to twelve inches thick, which sometimes yields from one to two hundred barrels of oil. All Europe is supplied with oil for lamps, and many other purposes, from this blubber. The flesh is red and coarse, somewhat like beef; the Greenlanders eat it, and the Icelanders soak it in sour whey.

Jeannette. It must be very disagreeable food. I should think that the oil would make it very greasy and strong.

Mr. A——. So it does; but the poor people who live in countries so far north, have but little variety of meat to tempt their appetite. In winter, the ground is covered with snow, and affords no vegetation but a little moss, which is found on the bodies of trees; consequently the larger animals, such as cattle, &c. cannot subsist there. The rein-deer is peculiar to those parts, and supplies his master with a scanty provision during that dreary season; but as they are valuable for many other purposes, they are unwilling to kill them, but from necessity; the flesh of the whale is therefore reckoned a dainty; which may afford us a lesson, to be contented with beef and mutton, and to discourage that spirit of gluttony and sensual indulgence, which prevails too glaringly at the tables of the rich, who are seldom satisfied with one or two plain dishes, but cover their tables with a profusion, that invites a false appetite, and wastes the good things that are provided for our use.

Adelina. Do whales ever stray so far from their usual haunts, as to be found on our coasts?

Mr. A——. There have been instances of a few that have been left on shore at low water; they, however, occur but seldom; when it happens, they are called royal fish, and become the property of the king and queen. Notwithstand-

ing its vast size, the whale swims swiftly, and generally against the wind. The female brings but one, or at most two young ones at a time, which are nine or ten feet long; they suckle their young; and, if pursued, show the same maternal solicitude for the preservation of their offspring, as land animals, by wrapping them up in their fins close to their bodies.

Jeannette. Pray, sir, does the whale yield any other produce to man besides oil and whalebone?

Mr. A——. Yes, Jeannette; Spermaceti is prepared from the oil that is found in the head of a whale. It is melted over a gentle fire, and put into moulds like those wherein sugar-loaves are formed; when cold and drained, it is taken out, and melted over again, till it be well purified and whitened; it is then cut with a knife into flakes, and is used as a medicine for various complaints of the lungs; it is also used for making candles, which are but little inferior to those made of wax. Do you remember Dr. Darwin's verses on the whale, Adelina?

——— "Warm and buoyant, in his oily mail
Gambols, on seas of ice, th' unwieldy whale;
Wide waving fins round floating islands urge
His bulk gigantic thro' the troubled surge;
With hideous yawn the flying shoals he seeks,
Or clasps with fringe of horn his massy cheeks,

"Lifts o'er the tossing wave his nostrils bare,
And spouts the wat'ry columns into air;
The silver arches catch the setting beams,
And transient rainbows tremble o'er the streams."

We now soon reached *Ramsgate*, about five miles from Margate, situated in a cove of a chalky cliff. It is a very neat seaport town, has good inns, a toy-warehouse, and an extensive library. The new pier, on which we have been walking a long time this evening, must attract the admiration of all strangers, being the finest of its kind in England, or perhaps in the world. It is built chiefly of white Purbeck stone, and extends itself into the ocean near eight hundred feet, before it forms an angle. Its breadth at top is twenty-six feet, including a strong parapet, which runs along the outside of it. Its depth admits of a gradual increase from eighteen to thirty-six feet. The angles, of which there are five on a side, of one hundred and sixty feet each, joined to the works carried on in straight lines, complete the whole design, leaving an entrance of two hundred feet into a noble and capacious harbour, capable of receiving two hundred sail of ships. It has been of late raised in its importance, by its trade to Russia, and the East country. Noble families have for some years past honoured it with their residence during

the summer season. We are to stay here a week; so that I shall have an opportunity of describing some of the company, which I had not at Margate; our time there being so entirely devoted to the inhabitants of the hovel, that we did not enter into any other society.

We have been this morning to Manston, in this parish, a very large cavern, cut out of the chalk, and supported by pillars of the same: it is, I think, a very great curiosity. At noon we called upon Mr. and Mrs. Fersett, who were once neighbours of Mr. A——: they are an extraordinary couple. Mr. Fersett was, in the days of his celibacy, one of those pert creatures who have much vivacity and little understanding: Miss Ferguson, whom he married, had all that the fire of youth and a lively manner could do towards making an agreeable woman. These two people, of seeming merit, fell into each other's arms; but passion being sated, and no reason or good sense in either to succeed it, their life is now at a stand; their meals are insipid, and their time tedious; their fortune has placed them above care, and their loss of taste reduces them below diversion. They appeared delighted to see us; any little change of society being agreeable to those who have no resources in themselves. They live in the same house which

the Princess of Wales occupied when at Ramsgate: her affable behaviour has endeared her name to all the inhabitants of this place. As we returned to the inn, I begged Mr. A—— to give us some account of this amiable princess.

He told us, that Elizabeth Carolina Princess of Wales, daughter of the reigning Duke of Brunswick, was born May 7, 1768, and received the advantages of polished education, which are necessarily attached to an elevated state. A strong personal resemblance exists between this princess and the present royal family, to whom she is nearly allied; and in 1794, a match was proposed between her and the heir apparent, which the prince is said to have consented to, by the persuasions of the Duke of York; who, during his residence upon the continent, had been highly delighted with his royal cousin's personal and mental charms. The king and council having consented to this alliance, Lord Malmesbury was appointed to conduct the princess to her future lord; and, in the following year, on the fifth of April, her royal highness first put her foot upon English land. The yacht which conveyed her landed her at Greenwich, where the princess stayed but a short time; she then proceeded to St. James's palace, and in three days afterwards became a bride. On the

seventh of the following January she presented his royal highness with a daughter, the only pledge between them of mutual affection. This amiable princess seems to entertain a partiality for retirement; the greater part of her time being spent at her seat upon Blackheath, where the benevolence of her disposition is displayed in a variety of instances, which evince the amiable propensity of her heart.

I am already tired of this place, for we are always in company; yet I could select a very agreeable small party from among them, with whom I should wish to be upon terms of intimacy. I will describe some of the characters to you; for as to the manner in which we have passed our time here, I have little more to say than that it has been spent in walking, riding, dancing, playing, singing, and in a variety of company.

Miss Howard, the first character I shall describe to you, has been in town but one winter, and is greatly improved in the arts of good-breeding, without leaving nature. She has not lost the native simplicity of her aspect, to substitute that patience of being stared at, which is the usual triumph and distinction of a town lady. In public assemblies you meet her careless eye diverting itself with the objects around

her, insensible that she herself is one of the brightest in the place. You remember her being upon a visit at Mr. Stanley's.

Miss Mordaunt is quite of a different disposition; she is almost a beauty by nature, but more than one by art. If it were possible for her to let her fan, or any limb about her rest, she would do some part of the execution that she meditates; but though she designs herself a prey, she will not stay to be taken. No painter can give you words for the different aspects of Miss Mordaunt in half a moment, whenever she appears; so little does she accomplish what she takes so much pains for, to be gay and careless.

Miss Davis is attended by all the charms of woman, and the accomplishments of man. She has certainly a great deal of wit, if she were not such a beauty; and she would have more beauty had she not so much wit. Affectation prevents her excellencies from walking together. If she has a mind to see any thing, it must be done with such an air of her body; and if she has an inclination to look very careless, there is such a smart thing to be said at the same time, that the design of being admired destroys itself. Thus the unhappy Miss Davis, though a wit and a beauty, is allowed to be neither, because she will always be both.

Miss Neville has the skill as well as the power of pleasing. Her form is majestic, but her aspect humble. All good men should beware of the destroyer. She speaks to all the gentlemen like a sister, till she has them sure; but is the most vexatious of tyrants when they are so. Her familiarity of behaviour, indifferent questions, and general conversation, make the silly part of her votaries full of hope, while the wise fly from her power. She well knows that she is too beautiful and too witty to be indifferent to any one who converses with her, and therefore knows that she does not lessen herself by familiarity, but gains occasions of admiration, by seeming ignorance of her perfections.

For fear you should say that I am satirical, I shall describe no more of the characters. There are many gentlemen: of them, some are old, some young; some lively, some sad; some sensible, some foolish; some well-informed, some illiterate.

Adelina and I retired early this evening, to prepare for our departure to-morrow. We have been earnestly entreated by two gentlemen to stay longer; but Mr. A—— having fixed the day for our arrival at Mr. Mansel's, we shall set off to-morrow. We came to Sandwich to breakfast. Mr. A—— being a great friend to early rising.

Sandwich, the last of the Cinque Ports, built in 957, lies between Ramsgate and the South Foreland, at the bottom of its bay, near the mouth of the Stour, and is principally built with wood: it is eight miles from Margate, ten from Canterbury, sixty-seven from London, and near a mile and a half from the sea. It was formerly one of the chief ports of England, and walled round, but now only on the north and west sides, with a rampart and ditch on the other. The walls command a pleasant and extensive view of the adjacent country. In these walls are several semicircular projections which overlook the ditches; there were also some pieces of ordnance; but being quite unserviceable they have been removed. The river and quays are on the north side of the town. There are several gates belonging to it, which are in a ruinous condition. Before the gates are two Roman tumuli; and on the south side, by the shore, are six large broad Celtic tumuli, at equal distances. Mr. A—— said, that near this place Cæsar, probably, landed in his first descent upon Britain.

It appears, from the remains of fortifications about this town, that it was anciently a place of great strength; and, before the use of cannon, was capable of enduring a vigorous siege. Mr.

A—— told us, that it suffered much by the wars with the Danes, &c. whose King Canute here slit the noses and cut off the hands of those Englishmen who were given as hostages to his father Swain. In 1217 it was burnt by the French king, and again plundered and burnt by the French in 1457. It had two monasteries, and other religious foundations. Here are three parish churches, St. Clement's, St. Mary's, and St. Peter's. There was formerly a fourth in the south-west part of the town, dedicated to St. James; but there are no remains of it at present: the church-yard, however, is still enclosed, and is used for the interment of strangers. St. Clement's church is in the east part of the town, and situated upon higher ground than the rest. It is a large and ancient structure, and much resembles the Norman style of architecture; particularly the tower, which is considerably older than the rest of the building. It contains also a free grammar school, built out of the ruins of the Carmelite monastery, by Sir Roger Manwood, who was lord chief baron, with an endowment for sending off two scholars every year to Lincoln college, Oxford. Here are three hospitals, and a town-hall, which is a very ancient structure, and over which is a council-chamber. Sandwich claims jurisdiction over Deal, Ramsgate,

Fordwich, Sarre, and Brightlingsea, in Essex, which are members of this Cinque-port. It used to furnish five ships complete for service. This town was anciently incorporated by the name of the barons of the town and port of Sandwich; but in the reign of Edward III. by the style of mayor, jurats, and commonalty. The mayor carries a black knotted staff; but the mayors of the other Cinque-ports generally have white staves. It sends two members to parliament, who still retain the ancient name of the Barons of the Cinque-ports. It has given the title of earl to a branch of the family of Montague, ever since the time of James the First. The freemen of the Cinque-ports have the privilege of sending a certain number of their own members to support the royal canopy at a coronation. Besides the mayor, there are twelve jurats, and twenty-four common-councilmen, a town clerk, two treasurers, and other inferior officers. The harbour has for many years been so choaked up with sands, and by a ship of great burthen of Pope Paul the 4th, sunk in the Channel, that there is not depth of water enough for vessels of any considerable size. The wool staple was removed hither from Queenborough in the reign of Richard II; and some Walloons and Dutchmen, who fled hither from persecu-

tion in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, set up the manufacture of cloth; but the chief trade of the town now is in shipping corn, malt, fruit, and seeds. The seeds raised from this soil are in much repute. The London markets are supplied from hence with the largest and sweetest carrots, and the seedsmen with most of their seeds. Can you tell me, Adelina, of what class the carrot is?

"The Carrot, Daucus, is of the fifth class, Pentandria, five stamens," said Adelina; "and the second order, Digynia."

Mr. A—— told us, that Canute returned in 1015, soon after he had left England, and landed at Sandwich; and that the Danes landed at Sandwich, in 1047, and carried off much plunder to Flanders; that in 1580 Sandwich harbour was destroyed by an earthquake. There is a good bridge here, which was erected in 1757. It is built with stone, having an arch on each side, and a passage between for the larger vessels that use this port. The middle arch is of wood, divided into two parts, which are easily drawn up or let down. The passage over the stone part of the bridge is secured by a parapet wall on each side, and the wooden arch by Chinese rails. This is a work of considerable utility, not only to the inhabitants of Sandwich and the

Isle of Thanet, but to the eastern part of the county of Kent, and to the public in general.

The streets of Sandwich are narrow and irregular; but there are some good houses, and a handsome square called the Fish-market, which consists principally of shops. Here is also another square called the Corn-market.

Sandwich is for the most part supplied with water from a narrow stream called the Delph, which runs through it.

The shrimps that are caught near this town are remarkably fine. We had some at breakfast. "Pray sir," said I, addressing myself to Mr. A——, "what are shrimps? I do not recollect that Dr. Mavor mentions them in any class." "I am pleased with your proper curiosity, my dear Jeannette. Shrimp, in ichthyology, is the English name of two different species of the squilla, viz. the common shrimp, and the smooth-nosed shrimp. Squilla, in zoology, signifies a genus of insects with ten legs, the foremost pair of which is cheliform, or made for pinching: the eyes are two, and the tail is foliated."

There are several good Inns in *Sandwich*, and many wealthy inhabitants. There is also a large and elegant assembly-room, which has been built within these few years. Since the construction of the bridge, and the resort to

Margate as a bathing-place, the town has been more frequently visited by strangers; a tour from thence to Sandwich, Deal, Dover, &c. being a pleasant and agreeable excursion.

About twelve o'clock we set off again, and soon reached Deal. Between Sandwich and Deal is a large tract of land called the Downs; part of which is level, and part mountainous. Here are those remarkable eminences, which Mr. Camden says were in his time called Rome's work; now they are known by the name of Sand Hills; commencing near Sandown Castle, and stretching toward Sandwich, along the sea-shore. The surface is in general a fine white sand, or thin covering of heath.

I had forgot to mention Richborough Castle, near Sandwich; which is a most noble remnant of Roman antiquity, built in the time of Theodosius. There is also near Sandwich, upon an eminence, the remainder of an amphitheatre made of turf, supposed to have been for the exercise or diversion of the Roman garrison.

About a mile from Sandwich, at a small distance from the road, is the village of Wodensborough; the church contains memorials of the Paramour and Heyse families. Near the church is a remarkable eminence, supposed to have been raised by the Saxons as a pedestal for their

idol Woden, which stood upon it, and from which the place derives its name.

A little beyond Sandwich are a few small houses, the only remains of the ancient town of Stonar, the Lapis Tituli of the Romans.

Deal, four miles from Sandwich, and seventy-two from London, is a handsome large town; it is now become very populous, from the resort of seamen lying in the Downs. Ships bound to and from London, and foreign parts, by way of the Channel, generally stop, if homeward bound, to dispatch letters notifying their arrival, and to set passengers ashore: if outward bound, to take in fresh provisions, and to receive their last letters from their owners and friends. It carries on some foreign trade. This town is a member of the port of Sandwich, and is governed by a mayor and jurats subordinate to that town. It is defended on the north by Sandown castle, a regular fortification erected on the shore within a mile of Deal, and on the south by Deal castle. It was called Dola by Julius Cæsar, who is supposed to have landed here, in his second descent upon Britain. Mr. A.—— told us, that Julius Cæsar landed at Deal, August 26, 55 years before Christ.

Close to the town stands a *Telegraph*; the first of the twelve that connect the Downs with

the Admiralty-office, Westminster; the distance being seventy-two miles. The period of communication up to London, at an average, is only ten minutes! We alighted to see *Deal Castle*, which was built in 1539. It is of a singular form, having walls of an enormous thickness; with the naval hospital, the military hospital, and the royal barracks, each of which boasts of a healthy situation. At a short distance from Deal, is Walmer castle, the occasional residence of the Warden of the Cinque-ports. The three castles were built on this coast by Henry VIII. to secure it from the hostile attempts of his enemies. They are kept in good repair, and are under the government of the Warden of the Cinque-ports. A ridge of cliffs runs seven miles along the coast from Deal to Dover, wich abound with samphire.

As we walked on the sands, Mr. A—— gave us an account of Cæsar's landing, in his own words, from his Commentaries, with which I was so much entertained, that I wrote it down as soon as we came to the inn.

"The *Barbarians* (that is the English) perceiving our design, sent their cavalry and chariots before, which they frequently made use of in battle; and, following with the rest of their forces, endeavoured to oppose our landing.

And, indeed, we found the difficulty very great on many accounts; for our ships being large required a great depth of water; and our soldiers, who were wholly unacquainted with the places, had their hands embarrassed; and, loaded with the weight of armour, were at the same time to leap from the ships, stand breast-high amid the waves, and encounter the enemy; while they, fighting upon dry ground, or advancing only a little way into the water, having the free use of their limbs, and in places which they perfectly knew, could boldly cast their darts, and spur on their horses, well inured to that kind of service. All these circumstances serving to spread a terror among our men, who were wholly strangers to this way of fighting, they did not push on the enemy with the same vigour and spirit as was usual for them in combats on dry ground. Cæsar, observing this, ordered some gallies, a kind of shipping less common with the barbarians, and more easily governed and put in motion, to advance a little from the transports toward the shore, in order to set upon the enemy in flank, and by means of their engines, slings, and arrows, drive them to some distance. This proved of considerable service to our men; for what with the surprise occasioned by the make of our gallies, the motion of the oars, and

the playing of the engines, the enemy were forced to halt, and in a little time began to give ground. But our men still demurring to leap into the sea, chiefly because of the depth of the water in those parts, the standard-bearer of the tenth legion, having first *invoked the gods* for success, cried out aloud—'Follow me, fellow soldiers, unless you will betray the *Roman eagle* into the hands of the enemy; for my part, I am resolved to discharge *my duty* to Cæsar and the common wealth.' Upon this he jumped into the sea, and advanced with the eagle against the enemy; whereat our men exhorting one another to prevent so signal a disgrace, all that were in the ship followed him; which being perceived by those in the nearest vessels, they also did the like, and boldly approached the enemy. The battle was obstinate on both sides; but our men, as being neither able to keep their ranks, nor yet firm footing, nor follow their respective standards, because, leaping promiscuously from their ships, every one joined the first ensign he met, were thereby thrown into great confusion. The enemy, on the other hand, being well acquainted with the shallows, when they saw our men advancing singly from the ships, spurred on their horses, and attacked them in that perplexity. In one place great numbers

gathered round a handful of Romans; others fell upon them in flank, and galled them mightily with their darts; which Cæsar observing, he ordered some boats to be manned, and ply about with recruits. By this means the foremost ranks of our men, having got *firm footing*, were followed by all the rest; when falling on the enemy briskly, they were soon put to the rout. But, as the cavalry were not yet arrived, we could not pursue our advantage far in the island; which was the only thing wanting to render the victory complete."

After this interesting account of Cæsar's landing in Britain, Mr. A—— desired me to give him some outlines of Cæsar's life; which I immediately did as follows:

"Caius Julius Cæsar, the first emperor of Rome, was son of Lucius Julius Cæsar and Aurelia the daughter of Cotta. He was descended, according to some accounts from Iülus the son of Æneas. When he had reached his fifteenth year he lost his father, and the year after he was made priest of Jupiter. Sylla was aware of his ambition, and endeavoured to remove him; but Cæsar understood his intentions, and, to avoid discovery, changed his lodgings every day. He was received into Sylla's friendship some time after; and the dictator told

those who followed the advancement of young Cæsar, that they were warm in the interest of a man who would prove some day or other the ruin of their country and of their liberty. When Cæsar went to finish his studies at Rhodes, under Apollonius Molo, he was seized by pirates, who offered him his liberty for thirty talents. He gave them forty, and threatened to revenge their insults; and no sooner was he out of their power, than he armed a ship, pursued them, and crucified them all. His eloquence procured him friends at Rome; and the generous manner in which he lived equally served to promote his interest. He obtained the office of high priest at the death of Metellus; and after he had passed through the inferior employments of the state, he was appointed over Spain, where he signalized himself by his valour and intrigues. At his return to Rome, he was made consul, and soon after effected a reconciliation between Crassus and Pompey. He was appointed for the space of five years over the Gauls, by the interest of Pompey, to whom he had given his daughter Julia in marriage. Here he enlarged the boundaries of the Roman empire by conquest, and invaded Britain, which was then unknown to the Roman people. He checked the Germans, and soon after had his government

over Gaul prolonged to five other years, by means of his friends at Rome. The death of Julia and of Crassus, the corrupted state of the Roman senate, and the ambition of Cæsar and Pompey, soon became the causes of a civil war. Neither of these celebrated Romans would suffer a superior, and the smallest matters were sufficient ground for unsheathing the sword. Cæsar's petitions were received with coldness or indifference by the Roman senate; and, by the influence of Pompey, a decree was passed to strip him of his power. Antony, who opposed it as tribune, fled to Cæsar's camp with the news; and the ambitious general no sooner heard this, than he made it a plea of resistance. On pretence of avenging the violence which had been offered to the sacred office of tribune in the person of Antony, he crossed the Rubicon, which was the boundary of his province. The passage of the Rubicon was a declaration of war, and Cæsar entered Italy sword in hand. Upon this, Pompey, with all the friends of liberty, left Rome, and retired to Dyrrachium; and Cæsar, after he had subdued all Italy, in sixty days, entered Rome, and provided himself with money from the public treasury. He went to Spain, where he conquered the partizans of Pompey, under Petreius, Afranius, and Varro;

and, at his return to Rome, was declared dictator, and soon after consul. When he left Rome, he went in quest of Pompey; observing, that he was marching against a general without troops, after having defeated troops without a general in Spain. In the plains of Pharsalia, forty-eight years before Christ, the two hostile generals engaged. Pompey was conquered and fled into Egypt, where he was murdered. Cæsar, after he had made a noble use of victory, pursued his adversary into Egypt, where he for some time forgot his fame and character in the arms of Cleopatra, by whom he had a son. His danger was great while at Alexandria; but he extricated himself with wonderful success, and made Egypt tributary to his power. After several conquests in Africa, the defeat of Cato, Scipio, and Juba, and that of Pompey's sons in Spain, he entered Rome, and triumphed over five different nations, Gaul, Alexandria, Pontus, Africa, and Spain, and was created perpetual dictator. But now his glory was at an end; his uncommon success created him enemies; and the chief of the senators, among whom was Brutus, his most intimate friend, conspired against him, and stabbed him in the senate-house on the ides of March. He died pierced with twenty-three wounds, the 15th of March, 44 years

before Christ, in the fifty-sixth year of his age. Casca gave him the first blow, and immediately he attempted to make some resistance; but when he saw Brutus among the conspirators, he submitted to his fate, and fell down at their feet muffling up his mantle, and exclaiming, *Et tu Brute!*"

Mr. A—— thanked me, and added, that Cæsar might have escaped the sword of the conspirators, had he listened to the advice of his wife; whose dreams, on the night previous to the day of his murder, were alarming. He also, received as he went to the senate-house a paper from Artemidorus, which discovered the whole conspiracy to him; but he neglected the reading of what might have saved his life. When he was in his first campaign in Spain, he was observed to gaze at a statue of Alexander, and even shed tears at the recollection that that hero had conquered the world at an age in which he himself had done nothing. The learning of Cæsar deserves commendation, as well as his military character. He reformed the calendar. He wrote his commentaries on the Gallic wars, on the spot where he fought his battles; and the composition has been admired for the elegance as well as the correctness of its style. This valuable book was nearly lost; and when Cæsar

saved his life in the bay of Alexandria, he was obliged to swim from his ship, with his arms in one hand and his Commentaries in the other. Besides the Gallic and Civil Wars, he wrote other pieces, which are now lost. The history of the war in Alexandria and Spain is attributed to him by some, and by others to Hirtius. Cæsar has been blamed for his debaucheries and expences; and the first year he had a public office, his debts were rated at eight hundred and thirty talents, which his friends discharged: yet, in his public character, he must be reckoned one of the few heroes that rarely make their appearance among mankind. His qualities were such, that in every battle he could not but be conqueror, and in every republic, master; and to his sense of his superiority over the rest of the world, or to his ambition, we are to attribute his saying, that he wished rather to be first in a little village, than second in Rome. It was after his conquest over Pharnaces in one day, that he made use of these remarkable words, to express the celerity of his operations; *I came, I saw, I conquered.* Conscious of the services of a man, who, in the intervals of peace, beautified and enriched the capital of his country with public buildings, libraries, and porticoes, the senate permitted the dictator to wear a laurel crown on

his bald head; and it is said, that to reward his benevolence they were going to give him the title or authority of king all over the Roman empire, except Italy, when he was murdered. In his private character, Cæsar has been accused of seducing one of the vestal virgins, and suspected of being privy to Catiline's conspiracy; and his fondness for dissipated pleasures produced from among his countrymen some very stinging satires. It is said, that he conquered three hundred nations, took eight hundred cities, and defeated three millions of men, one of which fell in the field of battle. Pliny says, that he could employ at the same time, his ears to listen, his eyes to read, his hand to write, and is mind to dictate. His death was preceded, as many authors mention, by uncommon prodigies; and immediately after his decease a large comet made its appearance."

Adelina then begg'ed me to give her an account of Cæsar's wife, and also of Cleopatra; saying, she would give any thing to have so retentive a memory. I told her that I thought she ought to be content, since she excelled in so many other accomplishments: you know she is quite mistress of music, drawing, geography, and botany; whilst I am indebted chiefly to Watkins,

Pilkington, Jones, &c. for my knowledge of biography.

"Calpurnia was the daughter of Lucius Piso, a man who derived his origin from the kings of Rome; and Cæsar, having obtained a divorce from Pompeia, made this illustrious and amiable woman his wife. The propriety of her conduct preserved her virtue from suspicion; her mind was at once capacious, polished, and refined; and so high an opinion did her husband entertain of her abilities, that he made her acquainted with his most ambitious designs. The triumphs of the conqueror, though they might have excited pleasure in her bosom, produced not the slightest alteration in her mind, for she displayed the same gentleness and affability after his aggrandizements, as when she was merely a senator's wife. Historians have informed us, that the amiable Calpurnia had the most alarming presages of the death of the object of all her affection, and that she used all her rhetorical powers to dissuade him from going to the senate on the fatal ides of March. The dream, which is said to have terrified her imagination, was, that the dome of her house, by command of the senate, fell, and crushed the conqueror of the world to atoms, while she was endeavouring to

shelter him in her arms. When the dreadful tidings of his destruction reached her, she displayed symptoms of the most violent grief; yet, in spite of the anguish of her sensations, she publicly pronounced a funeral eulogium upon the deceased, and then retired to the house of Mark Antony, where she ended her valuable life, about thirty-two years before the birth of Christ."

"My dear Jeannette," said Adelina, "I am afraid I shall weary you; but pray tell me, who was Pompeia, the wife that Cæsar divorced."

"A daughter of Pompey the Great; she was accused of incontinence, because Clodius had introduced himself in women's clothes into the room where she was celebrating the mysteries of Cybele. Cæsar repudiated her upon this accusation." I continued:

"Cleopatra, Queen of Egypt, was the daughter of Ptolemy Auletes, king of that country; who, dying in the year 51 before Christ, bequeathed his crown to the eldest of his sons, and the eldest of his daughters; ordering them to be joined to each other in marriage, according to the usage of their family, and jointly to govern the Egyptian kingdom. They were both very young; Cleopatra, the eldest, being only seventeen; and thereby he committed them to the

tuition of the Roman senate. As they could not however agree, either to be married, or to reign together, the cause was brought to Julius Cæsar's hearing; and advocates on both sides were appointed to plead the matter before him. But Cleopatra, hearing that Cæsar was unboundedly fond of women, laid a plot to attach him first to her person, and next to her cause. Sending to Cæsar, therefore, she desired that she might be permitted to plead her cause herself before him. This being granted, she came secretly into the port of Alexandria in a small skiff toward the dusk of the evening, caused herself to be tied up in her bedding, and thus to be carried to Cæsar's apartment on the back of one of her servants. Cæsar was too sensible of the charms of beauty, not to be touched with those of Cleopatra; he passed that night with her, and the next morning sending for Ptolemy, he pressed him to receive his sister upon her own terms; but Ptolemy, perceiving that, instead of a judge, he was become her advocate, appealed to the people, and put the whole city in an uproar. A war commenced; and the matter being soon determined by a battle, in which Cæsar came off conqueror, Ptolemy, on his endeavouring to escape over the Nile in a boat, was sunk with it, and drowned in that river. Cæsar thus

settled the kingdom upon Cleopatra. She, however, followed Cæsar to Rome, and was there when he was killed in the senate-house; but being terrified by that event, and the subsequent disorders of the city, fled with great precipitation. After the battle of Philippi, she was summoned by Antony to answer an accusation against her, of having favoured the interest of Cassius. She had indeed done so in some measure; she depended, however, on her wit and beauty; and persuaded herself, that those charms, with which she had conquered Cæsar's heart, were still powerful enough to conquer Antony's; for she was not yet above twenty-six years of age. Full of these assurances, she went to Antony; and by her arts, and the charms of her person, drew him into those snares which held him enslaved to her as long as he lived, and finally caused his death. Having at last fallen into the hands of her enemy Octavius Cæsar, who meant to expose her in triumph to the Romans, she caused herself to be bitten by an asp, which was brought to her concealed in a basket of figs; and thus died this princess, whose wit and beauty made so much noise in the world, after she had reigned, from the death of her father, twenty-two years and lived thirty-nine."

We had set ourselves down upon a piece of rock under the cliff; and as I concluded my history of Cleopatra, a poor lame man came up to us, to implore our charity: on looking at him, Mr. A—— recollected his face; and knowing him, when a boy in the country, to have been honest and industrious, was curious to learn what had reduced him to his present situation. Wherefore, after having given him what we thought proper, Mr. A—— desired to know the history of his life and misfortunes, and the manner in which he was reduced to his present distress. The disabled soldier, (for such he was, though dressed in a sailor's habit,) scratching his head and leaning on his crutch, put himself in an attitude to comply with his request, and gave us his history as follows:

"As for my misfortunes, master, I can't pretend to have gone through any more than other folks; for, except the loss of my limb, and my being obliged to beg, I don't know any reason, thank Heaven, that I have to complain; there is Bill Tibbs, of our regiment, he has lost both his legs, and an eye to boot; but, thank Heaven, it is not so bad with me yet.

"I was born in Yorkshire; my father was a labourer, and died when I was five years old;

so I was put upon the parish. As he had been a wandering sort of a man, the parishioners were not able to tell to what parish I belonged, or where I was born; so they sent me to another parish, and that parish sent me to a third. I thought in my heart, they kept sending me about so long, that they would not let me be born in any parish at all; but at last, however, they fixed me. I had some disposition to be a scholar, and was resolved, at least, to know my letters; but the master of the work-house put me to business as soon as I was able to handle a mallet; and here I lived an easy kind of life for five years. I only wrought ten hours in the day, and had my meat and drink provided for my labour. It is true, I was not suffered to stir out of the house, for fear, as they said, I should run away; but what of that, I had the liberty of the whole house, and the yard before the door, and that was enough for me. I was then bound out to a farmer, where I was up both early and late; but I ate and drank well, and liked my business well enough, till he died, when I was obliged to provide for myself; so I was resolved to go seek my fortune.

"In this manner I went from town to town, worked when I could get employment and starved when I could get none: when happening one

day to go through a field belonging to a justice of peace, I spied a hare crossing a path just before me; and I believe the devil put it in my head to fling my stick at it:——well, what will you have on't? I killed the hare, and was bringing it away, when the justice himself met me; he called me a poacher and a villain; and collaring me, desired I would give an account of myself. I fell upon my knees, begged his worship's pardon, and began to give a full account of all that I knew of my breed, seed, and generation; but, though I gave a very true account, the justice said I could give no account; so I was indicted at sessions, found guilty of being poor, and sent up to London to Newgate, in order to be transported as a vagabond.

"People may say this and that of being in jail, but, for my part, I found Newgate as agreeable a place as ever I was in in all my life. I had my belly full to eat and drink, and did no work at all. This kind of life was too good to last for ever; so I was taken out of prison, after five months, put on board a ship, and sent off, with two hundred more, to the plantations. We had but an indifferent passage; for, being all confined in the hold, more than a hundred of our people died for want of sweet air; and those who remained were sickly enough, God knows.

When we came ashore, we were sold to the planters, and I was bound for seven years more. As I was no scholar (for I did not know my letters), I was obliged to work among the negroes; and I served out my time, as in duty bound to do.

"When my time was expired, I worked my passage home, and glad I was to see old England again, because I loved my country. I was afraid, however, that I should be indicted for a vagabond once more; so I did not much care to go down into the country, but kept about the town, and did little jobs when I could get them.

"I was very happy in this manner for some time, till one evening, coming home from work, two men knocked me down, and then desired me to stand. They belonged to a press-gang: I was carried before the justice, and, as I could give no account of myself, I had my choice left, whether to go on board a man of war, or list for a soldier: I chose the latter; and, in this post of a gentleman, I served two campaigns, and received but one wound through the breast here; but the doctor of our regiment soon made me well again.

"When the peace came on, I was discharged; and, as I could not work, because my wound was sometimes troublesome, I listed

for a land-man in the East-India Company's service. I have fought the French in six pitched battles; and I verily believe that, if I could read or write, our captain would have made me a corporal. But it was not my good fortune to have any promotion, for I soon fell sick, and so got leave to return home again with forty pounds in my pocket. This was at the beginning of the present war, and I hoped to be set on shore, and to have the pleasure of spending my money; but the government wanted men, and so I was pressed for a sailor before ever I could set foot on shore.

"The boatswain found me, as he said, an obstinate fellow; he swore he knew that I understood my business well, but that I shammed Abraham to be idle: but, God knows, I knew nothing of sea-business, and he beat me without considering what he was about. I had still, however, my forty pounds, and that was some comfort to me under every beating; and the money I might have had to this day, but that our ship was taken by the French, and so I lost my money.

"Our crew was carried into Brest, and many of them died, because they were not used to live in a jail; but, for my part, it was nothing to me, for I was seasoned. One night, as I was

asleep on the bed of boards, with a warm blanket about me (for I always loved to lie well), I was awakened by the boatswain, who had a dark lantern in his hand. 'Jack,' says he to me, 'will you knock out the French centry's brains?' I don't care, says I, striving to keep myself awake, if I lend a hand! 'Then follow me,' says he, 'and I hope we shall do his business!' So up I got, and tied my blanket, which was all the clothes I had, about my middle, and went with him to fight the Frenchmen.

"Though we had no arms, one Englishman is able to beat five French at any time; so we went down to the door, where both centries were posted, and, rushing upon them, seized their arms in a moment, and knocked them down. From thence nine of us ran together to the quay; and seizing the first boat we met, got out of the harbour, and put to sea. We had not been here three days before we were taken by the Dorset privateer, who were glad of so many good hands, and we consented to run our chance. However, we had not as much luck as we expected. In three days we fell in with the Pompadour privateer, of forty guns, while we had but twenty-three; so to it we went, yard-arm and yard-arm. The fight lasted for three hours, and I verily believe we should have

taken the Frenchman, had we had but some more men left behind; but, unfortunately, we lost all our men just as we were going to get the victory.

"I was once more in the power of the French, and I believe it would have gone hard with me, had I been brought back to Brest; but, by good fortune, we were retaken by the Viper. I had almost forgot to tell you that, in that engagement, I was wounded in two places. I lost four fingers off the left hand, and my leg was shot off. If I had had the good fortune to have lost my leg and the use of my hand on board a king's ship, and not on board a privateer, I should have been entitled to clothing and maintenance during the rest of my life! but that was not my chance: one man is born with a silver spoon in his mouth, and another with a wooden ladle. However, blessed be God! I enjoy good health, and will for ever love liberty, and old England. Liberty, property, and old England for ever, huzza."

"Poor fellow," said Mr. A——, "thy lot has been singularly unfortunate! but during the remainder of thy life thou *shalt* be comfortably clothed and maintained; for I have interest enough to get thee into an hospital. Come with me to the inn; I will immediately write a letter

to a friend, of which thou shalt be the bearer; (then giving him more money) that will pay thy expences on the road, till thou arrivest at that asylum where thy misfortunes will be at an end.

After we had rejoiced the heart of this poor unfortunate man, who left us in admiration of his intrepidity and content, and having taken a little refreshment, we went to *Waldershire*, six miles and a half from Sandwich, to see the seat of the late Lord North. The house is large and spacious; and the park full of picturesque views, Statuesof heathen deities were interspersed at various avenues; while the hare and rabbit, springing from their retreats, bounded along with rapidity! A Chinese temple, placed in a secluded situation, though verging to decay, attracted our attention. It was a delightful solitary spot, surrounded by trees. Adelina said, it put her in mind of Cowley's verses on Solitude, which Mr. A—— desired her to repeat.

"Hail, old patrician trees, so great and good!
Hail, ye plebeian underwood!
Where the poetic birds rejoice,
And for their quiet nests and plenteous food
Pay with their grateful voice.

Hail, the poor muses' richest manor seat!
Ye country houses and retreat,

Which all the happy gods so love,
That for you oft they quit their bright and great
Metropolis above.

Here Nature does a house for me erect;
Nature the wisest architect,
Who those fond artists does despise,
That can the fair and living trees neglect,
Yet the dead timber prize.

Here let me, careless and unthoughtful lying,
Hear the soft winds above me flying,
With all their wanton boughs dispute,
And the more tuneful birds to both replying,
Nor be myself too mute.

A silver stream shall roll his waters near,
Gilt with the sun-beams here and there,
On whose enamell'd bank I'll walk,
And see how prettily they smile, and hear
How prettily they talk.

Ah! wretched and too solitary he,
Who loves not his own company!
He'll feel the weight of't many a day,
Unless he call in sin or vanity
To help to bear't away.

Oh solitude, first state of human-kind!
Which blest remain'd, till man did find
Ev'n his own helper's company.
As soon as two (alas!) together join'd,
The serpent made up three.

Tho' God himself, through countless ages, thee
His sole companion chose to be,
Thee, sacred solitude, alone,
Before the branchy head of numbers three
Sprang from the trunk of one.

Thou (tho' men think thine an unactive part)
Dost break and tame th' unruly heart,
Which else would know no settled pace,
Making it move, well manag'd by thy art,
With swiftness and with grace.

Thou the faint beams of Reason's scatter'd light
Dost, like a burning-glass, unite,
Dost multiply the feeble heat,
And fortify the strength, 'till thou dost bright
And noble fires beget.

Whilst this hard truth I teach, methinks, I see
The monster London laugh at me!
I should at thee too, foolish city;
If it were fit to laugh at misery;
But thy estate I pity.

Let but thy wicked men from out thee go,
And all the fools that crowd thee so,
E'en thou, who dost thy millions boast,
A village less than Islington will grow,
A solitude almost."

To the west of the house is erected a high Belvidere, which commands a beautiful and extensive view of the country. We sketched several landscapes, while Mr. A—— gave us the natural history of the hare and rabbit.

" The *Hare* is of the first class and fourth order, Glires. The form of this animal is generally known; but its habits, which are well deserving our attentive notice, are often overlooked. Timid and persecuted, the prey of men and animals for its flesh, and the object of savage sport to the idle or the wanton, did it not owe much to a principle of fear, which is ever awake for its preservation, and to its amazing fecundity, the breed would long ere now have become extinct.

" In order to enable this innocent and delicate creature to perceive the most distant approaches of danger, nature has provided it with very long ears, which, like tubes, convey remote sounds; and with prominent eyes, which receive the rays of light on every side. It is also endowed with extraordinary swiftness, and, from its hind legs being longer than the fore, has the peculiar advantage of an ability to run up ascents, with more facility than any of its pursuers. Every species of dog hunts it by instinct, while the cat and the weasel tribe exercise all their arts to ensnare it; but its most inveterate and destructive enemy is man, who leagues with dogs, or employs the murderous gun to thin its numbers, often more for needless pastime than for the value of the spoil.

"The hare breeds when very young, continues pregnant thirty days, and generally produces three or four, several times every season. In about twenty days, the young are able to provide for themselves. The aliment of this animal is wholly vegetable; and no kind, even the bark of trees, comes amiss to it. They seldom live more than seven or eight years, even should they escape the multiplied dangers to which they are so exposed. They pass a life of solitude and silence, except during coupling time; and are capable, in some degree of domestication: in which state they become fond and caressing; but their attachment to any particular person is extremely weak, and they are sure to watch and lay hold of the first opportunity to regain their native liberty and independence.

"The influence of climate is very perceptible on these animals. In the northern countries they assume a white colour in winter, and assemble in large troops. The hares found in warmer latitudes are smaller than those of Britain, and have a thinner fur. They are generally diffused over every climate, from the hyperborean regions to the line, from the line towards the southern pole.

The fur of hares is an article of considerable importance in the hat manufactory. Their

flesh is reckoned very delicate eating among some nations, although, from superstition or other motives, it is detested among others. The ancient Britons, the Jews, and Mahometans, have considered it as unclean; so difficult is it to establish the criterion even of sensual taste! What mankind, at one time, call beautiful, fragrant, or savory, at another period, or in another country, is regarded as deformed, disgusting, and nauseous. My Adelina, repeat Dryden's verses on the hare."

"So have I seen some fearful hare maintain
A course, till tir'd before the dog she lay;
Who, stretch'd behind her, pants upon the plain,
Past power to kill, as she to get away:
With his loll'd tongue he faintly licks his prey;
His warm breath blows her fur up as she lies;
She trembling creeps upon the ground away,
And looks back on him with beseeching eyes."

"The great similarity between the rabbit and the hare, leaves but little to be said by the natural historian, or the moralist, in its description. Their figure, food, and natural properties, are nearly the same. The hare seeks its safety by flight, while the rabbit runs to its subterraneous burrow, which Nature has taught her to make, with an ingenuity not to be excelled by the most experienced miner. The fruitful-

ness of the rabbit so far exceeds that of the hare, that, according to Pliny and Strabo, they were so great a nuisance in the Balearic islands, in the reign of Augustus, that they were under the necessity of imploring the assistance of a military force from the Romans to extirpate them. A Spanish historian also says, that, on the discovery of a small island, which they named Puerto Santo, or Holy Haven, where they were saved from shipwreck, they put a pair of rabbits on shore, which increased so much in the course of a few years, that they drove away the inhabitants by destroying their corn and plants, who left them to enjoy the island without opposition.

"This animal abounds in Great Britain, where the skin forms a very considerable article in the manufacture of hats. Lincolnshire, Norfolk, and Cambridgeshire, are most noted for the production of them.

"The flesh of the rabbit, as well as the hare, was forbidden to the Jews and Mahometans."

Opposite to Lord Guilford's seat, half a mile left of the road, are the remains of *West Langdon Abbey*. We stopped again at Barson to see the parish church, which is a curious

piece of Anglo-Saxon architecture. The outside is adorned with carved-worked stone, with circular arches and windows. The interior is plain and of small extent: it has, however, two or three old monuments. Long life seems to have been enjoyed by many of its inhabitants, several of whom appear to have attained to a great age.

A number of Roman tumuli, or barrows, in the southern boundary of the parish, show that the spot was formerly a scene of contention.

From this healthy retired spot, after a few miles ride, we reached the romantic village of Buckland, distinguished only by its corn and paper mills, which we did not stop to see, as we had already seen the same kind of mills at Dartford and Sturry; but proceeded to *Dover*, the grand *Key*, or entrance from the continent into the island of Great Britain.

As we are not expected at Mr. Mansel's, who lives half a mile from Dover, till to-morrow, we took a late dinner here, after having walked about a great deal; and I have taken particular notice of every thing, that I may give you an account of a place which calls for your attention. Its situation, extent, and history, offer many particulars to an inquisitive mind. One cannot

fail to be gratified by enquiries relative to a spot so frequently mentioned in the annals of the country.

Dover, six miles from Deal, seventy-two from London, two hundred and eighty-five from the Land's-end, and thirty from Calais, is one of the cinque-ports. Its situation is perfectly romantic, in a valley under a semi-circle; and it is the only one about the coast where water is admitted inwards of the cliffs, which are very bold, and rise to a sublime height; their white sides, visible at a great distance, gave the name of Albion to our island. These cliffs abound with samphire, a plant which is pickled, and sent to London and different parts of England. The entrance into the town has an antique appearance. The castle, on the left, frowns from on high, and the opposite hill boldly facing the ocean preserves the town in perfect security.

Mr. A—— said, that Dover was undoubtedly one of the Roman ports in this country; and it was a town of great repute in the time of Edward the Confessor, when it was the principal of the cinque-ports. It was formerly walled in, and had ten or eleven gates; and the walls are said to have been built by the emperor Severus; but there are now small remains either of the wall or gates. There were formerly seven

churches in Dover, but there are now only two. The church of St. Mary is a handsome structure, consisting of three aisles, and enriched with monuments. The organ is a very good one; and in the tower is a good peal of eight bells. Dover was incorporated in the reign of Edward the Confessor, by the style of mayor, jurats, and commonalty of the town and port of Dover. It sends two members to parliament, and has received many favours from different princes; one of which was the privilege of a licenced packet-boat to France: on account of the narrowness of the channel, it is become the general place of embarkation for that kingdom, and arrival from thence.

One of the streets is called Snare gate, from the dreadful chalk rocks that hang over it; but the inhabitants seem to live in perfect security.

Soon after the Conquest, great part of this town was destroyed by fire; as it was also in the reign of Edward I. by the French, who landed in the night. Though the harbour, which was before choaked up, was in the reign of Queen Elizabeth made navigable for a ship of some hundred tons, and though the parliament in king William's reign gave ten thousand pounds to improve it, yet it is only fit for small ships, and that at high water.

Dover, when in the height of its prosperity, had twenty wards, of which each furnished a ship of war, and maintained it forty days at its own expence; in consideration of which, each ward had a licensed packet-boat. According to the town records, the fare was thus settled, in the reign of Richard II. for a single person in summer sixpence, in winter one shilling; for a horse in summer, one shilling and sixpence, and in winter two shillings. Several families have had the title of earl from this town, which once gave that of duke, to the Duke of Queensberry. The Roman Watling-street, coming straight from Canterbury, over Barham-down, enters this place at Biggin-gate. There are here some remains of a priory built in 1130, which is now a farm-house; and that which was the Knights Templars' house, over against it, is made a store-house. The piers which form the haven are costly great works, and above is a fort with four bastions. The broad beach which lies at the mouth of it, and was the harbour in Cæsar's time, is very delightful, as the sight of the bottom from the adjacent cliff is dreadful.

Of the public buildings in Dover the following are the principal. The *Victualling Office*, which was anciently the hospital of the Maison

Dieu. It is the only place of the kind between Portsmouth and Sheerness; hence all ships belonging to the navy, and lying in the Downs, receive their provision. The Town-hall stands in the Market-place, and is rather antique in its appearance; here are some good portraits, together with a fine print, representing the embarkation of Henry VIII. at Dover, May 31, 1521, preparatory to his interview with Francis I. The *Theatre*, in Snaregate-street, answers also the purpose of an assembly-room. The Apollo and the Albion libraries both contain an ample collection of books, and the London papers are taken in for the use of the subscribers.

At the south end of the town are the remains of an hospital founded by Hubert de Burgh, Earl of Kent. On the pier, built in 1539, King Henry VIII. expended eighty thousand pounds, for making a bulwark, which from Arcliff ran far out into the sea to the eastward.

We ascended to the castle, with some little fatigue; but were well rewarded by the extensive view that it commands. It is said to have been begun by Julius Cæsar, and finished by Claudius fifty years before Christ, the tower forty-seven years before Christ. This castle has a venerable appearance, and, situated on an ex-

tremity of the stupendous cliffs which form the eastern barrier to Dover town and harbour, looks down with more than ordinary grandeur upon the surrounding country. Instead of attempting to describe these cliffs, I shall recall to your remembrance those beautiful lines of Shakespear in his tragedy of King Lear:

"There is a cliff, whose high and bending head
Looks fearfully on the confined deep——
——————How fearful
And dizzy 'tis, to cast one's eyes so low!
The crows and choughs that wing the midway air
Show scarce so gross as beetles. Half way down
Hangs one that gathers samphire: dreadful trade!
Methinks he seems no bigger than his head.
The fishermen that walk upon the beach
Appear like mice; and yon tall anchoring bark
Diminished to her boat; her boat, a buoy,
Almost too small for sight. The murmuring surge,
That on the unnumber'd idle pebbles chafes,
Cannot be heard so high. I'll look no more,
Lest my brain turn, and the deficient sight
Topple down headlong."

Dover-castle is so large as to cover thirty-five acres of ground. There has been a fortification on this spot ever since the Romans possessed the island, and it was in great repute among the Saxon kings: it was thought a very important object by William the Norman; who made Harold swear to deliver him up this castle: and

through a course of ages succeeding kings built new towers, and increased its natural strength to such a degree, that in Henry the Third's time it was called the key and barrier of the whole realm; but it is too high to hurt any ship at sea, and by land could not stand a formal siege for half a day. This castle contains a curious specimen of ancient fortification, and is well worthy of attention. The remains of the royal palace, the chapel, the stables, and offices here, show the whole to have been very grand. St. Martin's le Grand is said to have been situated here, for the service of the royal palace, which was in the castle. One part of the fortification is a circular work, in which stands an old church, said to have been built in 156, by Lucius, the first christian king in Britain, out of some of the Roman ruins; and indeed the middle tower shows plain remains of Roman work; it is in form of a cross, and the middle tower square; but the stone windows are more modern. The bells which were in it were removed to Portsmouth by Sir George Rooke. The greatest curiosity is the Roman pharos or watch-tower; and upon another rock, over against the castle, and almost as high, are the remains of another watch-tower, called Bredinstone, and by the vulgar the Devil's Drop, from the strength of

the mortar. Here the constable of the castle is sworn. There is a well in this castle three hundred and sixty feet deep, lined to the bottom with free-stone, and the water is drawn out by a wheel; it is said to be the work of Julius. They showed us two very old keys, which are given into the *Lord Warden's* hand upon his initiation into the office; and a brass trumpet, said to have been used in the time of Julius Cæsar. Here is a brass gun of twenty-two feet in length, supposed to be the longest in the world, and of the most curious workmanship, which was presented by the states of Utrecht to Queen Elizabeth, and is called her pocket-pistol; it requires fifteen pounds of powder, and will carry a ball, they told us, seven miles. In Queen Anne's wars there were no less than one thousand five hundred prisoners in this castle at one time. The castle till lately contained a prison for debtors, having only two rooms: no allowance was made them for subsistence, and they were subjected also to other hardships. The rooms are decorated with portraits, charts, and arms, fancifully arranged.

The prospect of the town of Dover, and of the adjacent country, from the windows, is delightful. The sea appears to great advantage, and the constant passing and repassing of the vessels contribute not a little to heighten the scenery. The

rock, on which the castle is built, has been perforated in various directions; and in these subterranean caverns used to be several soldiers who did not like their habitation. After passing through these dreary dismal excavations, we at last, all on a sudden, came to a kind of gallery, cut in the side of the cliff, where we looked down on the ocean with terror and trembling. Passing on round the castle, cannons, mortars, and other horrible implements of destruction, caught our eyes and impressed our hearts with terror. At last we came round to the spot whence we first set out, heartily glad and thankful that it was not our abode.

It was from this castle that Mr. Blanchard, accompanied by Dr. Jefferies, Jan. 7, 1785, went to the forest of Guiennes, near Calais, in an air-balloon, in about two hours.

In consequence of this aërial voyage, the late King of France presented Mr. Blanchard with 12,000 livres, and granted him a pension of 1,200 livres a year.

Leaving the castle, we descended to Dover. Under the cliff, near the castle, we stood some time contemplating the cottage belonging to the father of Sir Sydney Smith, situated close to the resounding waves of the ocean. The cottage has a singular appearance, having apparently

for its roof the inverted hulk of a vessel. As we walked along the beach, we gathered some beautiful marine plants and mosses, curious shells and fossils, which are plentiful on the shore. Mr. A—— desiring me to recapitulate the many historical events which had happened at this place, I began with the Britons, who had long remained in a rude independent state, when Cæsar, having over-run Gaul with his victories, and willing to extend his fame, determined upon the conquest of a country that seemed to promise an easy triumph. When the troops destined for the expedition were embarked, he set sail for Britain about midnight, and the next morning arrived on the coast near Dover, where he saw the rocks and cliffs covered with armed men to oppose his landing.

Charles II. arrived at Dover from his exile. He was met there by General Monk, May 26, 1660. The engraving, representing the landing of Charles on this beach, is extremely picturesque.

Mr. A—— desiring me to give him a short account of Charles II. I did so in these words:

"Charles II. King of England, eldest son of Charles I. was born in 1630. When his father was executed, he was at the Hague, where he met with a generous reception from the

States. The Scots, having had time to think, became ashamed of their treachery to the father; and, by way of amends, offered to acknowledge the son, who accordingly went thither, and was crowned with much fanatical ceremony. However, Cromwell defeated the Scotch at Dunbar; and when Charles went to Worcester, that enterprising general obtained a decisive victory over him there. His escape after that battle was almost miraculous, and the narrative of it is highly romantic. Hid in the thick branches of a large oak in Boscobel wood, he avoided his pursuers, who came under the very tree where he was. Afterwards he went from one place to another in various disguises, till he came to the sea-shore, and got safely out of the island. In 1660, by the management of general Monk, he was restored. The fanaticism, gloom, and severity, to which the nation had been used for so many years, gave way to pleasure under a gay monarch, who had resided a considerable time in the politest courts of Europe. A tide of licentiousness flowed into the kingdom, which carried before it the public morals and the public liberty. Charles was a man of wit and good nature; so that his libertinism was excused, and his extravagance was forgiven, in consideration of his affability and humour. He died, after

having drained the kingdom of its treasure, in 1684. By way of making atonement, on his death-bed, the witty monarch grew serious, and accepted a full absolution from a Romish priest."

Mr. A—— observed, that Charles II. was a prince of great genius, much addicted to his pleasures, and well beloved by his subjects. Then begging pardon for the interruption desired me to go on.

"Christian VII. King of Denmark, also landed here in 1768; and on his return embarked here for his own country."

In St. Mary's church, a small tablet has been placed to the memory of that celebrated poet, Mr. Charles *Churchill*, who died at Boulogne, in France, aged 32 years, and was burried in this town, November 1764.

Adelina copied these lines from it:

"The rich and great no sooner gone,
But, lo! a monumental stone,
Inscrib'd with panegyric lays,
Such fulsome undeserved praise;
The living blush, the conscious dead
Themselves appall'd, that truth is fled!
And can it be, that worth like thine,
Thou great high-priest of all the Nine!
Should moulder—undistinguish'd sleep?
E'en at the thought the Muses weep:

Forbid it gratitude and love !
O, for a flow like *his* to prove
How much regretted !—Honest bard !
Accept this shadow of regard.

" Thomas Underwood the Impartialist.
Erected June 1769, at the sole Expence of the above T. Underwood."

Mr. A—— gave us this account of Churchill. " Charles Churchill, an English poet, was the son of a clergyman who was curate of St. John's, Westminster, and was born in 1731. He received his education at Westminster school; but was refused matriculation at Oxford, on account of his insufficiency ; he then returned to Westminster, and married when very young. At the age of 23 he was ordained, and went to serve a small curacy in Wales, where he turned dealer in cyder; but becoming bankrupt, he returned to London, and succeeded his father ; he also taught young ladies to read and write. His first literary performance was the Rosciad; which had so great a success, that it stimulated him to further exertions in the satyrical line. He now became quite the bon-vivant, cast aside the gown, discarded his wife, and joined a company of men, by whom he was flattered, but by whom he could not be improved. When Wilkes came on the political stage as the patriot of the

day, Churchill became his attendant and champion; for which he was caricatured by Hogarth, and in return fired an epistle against the painter, which, it is said, broke his heart. He died at Boulogne, whither he had gone on a visit to Mr. Wilkes."

Mr. A—— told us, that Philip Yorke, Earl of Hardwicke, a great English lawyer, was born at Dover in 1690. In 1718 he was elected into parliament for Lewes in Sussex, and in 1720 was appointed solicitor general. In 1723, he was made attorney general, which office he discharged with great candour and lenity. In 1733 he was appointed lord chief justice of the King's Bench, and created a peer. On the decease of lord Talbot, in 1736, he was called to the office of lord chancellor, which he held twenty years. In 1754 he was created Earl of Hardwicke. His lordship died in 1764. In all his offices, particularly the last, Lord Hardwicke distinguished himself in such a manner as to acquire the esteem of all parties and the veneration of posterity."

"White Kennet also, an English prelate, was born at Dover in 1660, and educated at St. Edmund hall, Oxford, where he distinguished himself by his abilities, and published several pieces. In 1684, he took his degree of M. A.

and was presented to the vicarage of Amersden in Oxfordshire. As he was shooting in 1689, the gun burst, by which accident the tables of his scull were laid open, and he was ever after obliged to wear a black velvet patch on the part. In 1693 he obtained the rectory of Shottesbrook in Berkshire. In 1695 he commenced D. D. and the following year was appointed minister of St. Botolph, Aldgate, London. In 1701 he engaged in the controversy about the rights of convocation, against Dr. Atterbury, at which time he was Archdeacon of Lincoln. In 1707 he was made Dean of Peterborough; but he was at this time very unpopular, owing to his whig principles, and to his opposition of Dr. Sacheverel and his friends. In 1718 he was preferred to the bishopric of Peterborough, and still continued active to his party. He died in 1728. Dr. Kennet was an able writer, and a learned antiquary. He wrote the last volume of the Complete History of England, and many sermons and tracts."

Near Dover castle there is a headland called *South Foreland*, by way of distinction from the other head or promontory, which forms the north-east point of the Kentish shore, and is therefore called *North Foreland*. These two points, lying at the distance of six miles from

each other, are the two most easterly in Kent; the coast between them is sheltered by them on the south and north, and by a bank of sand, running parallel to the shore for three leagues together, and at the distance of a league and a half from it, called Godwin Sands, on the east. Thus the South Foreland, North Foreland, Godwin Sands, and the coast, form a tolerable good road for ships, which is called *the Downs*, and which would otherwise be very dangerous; for the Godwin Sands, which are dry at low water, break all the force of the sea on the east, south, and south-west.

Mr. A—— told us, that Dec. 16, 1657, Sir John Reynolds, with the whole ship's company, was cast away upon the Godwin Sands, as he was coming from Holland to England. And that in the great storm 1703, the Stirling Castle, Restoration, Northumberland, and Mary, with vice admiral Beaumont, and 1,100 sea-men, perished. The origin of these sands lies in obscurity.

Mr. A—— had sent a servant with a note to Mr. Manley, to signify that our arrival at the Cottage would be about nine o'clock in the evening; it is exactly a mile from Dover. As we came hither, I begged Mr. A—— to inform us, why the towns on this coast were called the

Cinque-ports. He told us that this phrase is derived from *quinque portus, five havens,* which lie over against France; and were thus called by way of eminence, on account of their superior importance. Our kings have thought them worthy a particular regard; and, the better to secure them against invasions, have granted them a peculiar form of government. They are governed by a keeper, who has the title of Lord Warden of the Cinque-ports. They had a particular jurisdiction granted them by King John, and several other privileges, which have been confirmed by most of their successors! Their Warden, who was first appointed by William the Conqueror, has the authority of an admiral among them, and issues out writs in his own name. The five original Cinque-ports, are Dover, Rumney, and Sandwich in Kent; and Winchelsea, and Rye, market-towns of Sussex; and to these five original ports, there were afterwards added Hastings and Seaford, two other market-towns of Sussex; and Hythe in Kent. When the service which was required of the Cinque-ports toward their preservation became too burdensome, each was allowed a certain number of other towns in its neighbourhood, as auxiliaries, that they might bear a part in this public charge. The Cinque-ports claim

the honour of supporting the canopy which at a coronation is borne over the sovereign, and afterwards of dining at the uppermost table on the king's right hand: the canopy, staves, &c. are their fee. Thirty-two barons or inhabitants of the ports used to be summoned for this purpose, whose expences were borne by the ports; but at present they usually depute their members of parliament to that office.

We soon arrived at Mr. Manley's cottage, where we received a most polite and friendly welcome.

The parents both of Mr. and Mrs. Manley died when they were young. Mr. A—— has been a second father to them; he superintended the education of both; and it was under his roof that the tender connexion by which they are now united took place. Mr. A—— approved of their union, and the marriage was celebrated a few years ago at his house. Mr. A—— promised to spend this summer with them; which is a fortunate circumstance for me, as I am likely to derive benefit from their society. Mr. Manley is a very scientific man, and at the same time the polite gentleman. Mrs. Manley is a most elegant and accomplished woman. She plays and sings divinely; he too is very musical; there is an instrument in almost every room in

the house; and they have concerts once or twice a week: they both speak French and Italian fluently, having travelled into those countries. They have resided at this cottage every summer since they were married, except the two first years, when they were in France and Italy. As we are to stay four or five months, if the French do not force us away, Mr. A—— intends that we shall devote a great deal of our time to improvement. You will not therefore expect me to write oftener than once a fortnight, as it will interrupt my studies.

I have received your kind letter, which has filled my anxious heart with joy, to hear that you, my dear and worthy parents, &c. are all in good health. I must hasten to conclude, it being late. We are to call upon Madame Jerome Bonaparte to-morrow, as we go through Dover, to the seat of Sir Thomas Friendly, where we are to dine.

Madame Jerome Bonaparte landed a few days ago at Dover; she came from Baltimore, in the American ship Erin, with her husband to Lisbon; where they anticipated a most flattering reception from the Portugese government. The latter, however, refused to afford protection to the wife of Jerome. Greatly disappointed, the Erin set sail for the Texel; but the cruel spirit of Napo-

leon had anticipated her arrival there also. The moment the ship cast anchor in the Texel, she was placed between a sixty-four gun ship, and a frigate. In this situation did this amiable and unoffending woman remain for seven days, watched and confined like a felon in a hulk, and without even a morsel of fresh provisions, but what the Dutch admiral, yielding to an impulse of humanity, supplied from his ship. Thus rudely spurned and rejected, she turned her eyes to England, and looked for hospitality from this country. It is supposed that Jerome Bonaparte proceeded from Lisbon to Paris. The Erin sailed from the Texel on Friday, and arrived on Saturday evening in Dover Roads with Madame Bonaparte and her suite. The account of her arrival soon spread through Dover and its vicinity; the public curiosity was strongly excited; and on Sunday morning the pier head of Dover, and the quays, were crowded with spectators, anxiously awaiting the Erin in the harbour. About three in the afternoon the vessel came in; and Madame Bonaparte with her suite landed, amidst a great concourse of spectators, and proceeded to the City of London inn, where we were. The accomplished Mr. Skeffington was among the foremost to pay the attentions due to her sex, her sufferings, and her virtues. He

conducted her from the ship to her carriage; but the pressure of the crowd, anxious to catch a glimpse of her, was so great, that it was with difficulty he could make a passage through it.

I did not close my letter last night, that I might give you a more particular account of Mr. and Mrs. Manley, than I could do after so short an interview with them; and the events of this day furnish me with so many subjects, that I must take another sheet of paper; and first I shall make you better acquainted with this elegant couple; for distinguished merit, like theirs, claims approbation and applause. Their rank in life is high enough to supply them liberally with all that can be styled the blessings of life; and yet not sufficiently elevated, to involve them in the pernicious and disgraceful habitudes, that degrade too many who fill the first classes in society. In summer they reside at their country seat, in which elegance and convenience unite; their grounds are highly cultivated; their gardens are a botanical school; agriculture also bears a share in this beautiful arrangement, as the whole estate is a Ferme Ornee. Mr. Manley, as I said before, is a man of science, and neglects no opportunity to adopt every plan that may prove beneficial to society; his flocks and herds are of the finest quality, his horses of the best breed,

and regularly trained, and his carriages of the most elegant and convenient construction. With regard to Mrs. Manley, in those branches which come immediately under her department, every article approaches nearly to perfection. Her aviary and poultry form an assemblage of the most rare and beautiful kinds of fowls and birds; her shrubbery and green-house abound with the most curious plants, which she studies with the most minute attention, and by the most scientific rules. Her house displays the purity of her taste, her furniture being in the style of the most elegant simplicity, and many of the decorations most worthy of applause, executed by her own hand. In the whole of this rational system you perceive neither redundancy nor defect; and the most striking harmony is produced by judicious measures, effected by moderate means of expence. Mr. and Mrs. Manley's method of living is hospitable and liberal; but, as it is uniform, kept within due bounds of prudent œconomy; by which mode they are enabled to perform many signal acts of charity, though their fortune is far from being immense. They have a library well stored with books, mathematical instruments of all kinds, globes, maps, and every thing that is curious and ingenious.

These are rational sources of amusement, and, when properly recurred to, have the happiest effects. Society forms a great part of the comforts of this amiable pair; it consists of all the best families in the neighbourhood; by which I mean those most respectacle, not always those of the highest rank: with Sir Thomas Friendly, and his numerous family, they live in the habits of the greatest intimacy; but Mr. Manley does not approve of Lord Sceptic's principles, or of Sir Richard Squander's profuse habits; and therefore he rarely visits them: neither does Mrs. Manley wish to associate with the dissipated Lady Random, or the contemptible Lady Sordid. The time and attention of these worthy members of society are greatly engaged by the education of their children; as they do not confine their instructions merely to the hours allotted for their lessons, but are always inculcating some important branches of knowledge from every occurrence; and correcting all the errors they perceive, by the most forcible, yet gentle methods. They spend three hours every day in amusing them with Gardiner's instructive cards, in English, French, and Italian, to teach them those languages, and instruct them at the same time in the different branches of learning. They are very kind to their servants and poor neigh-

bours, especially when they are sick; and have also established a school for indigent children, who are instructed and clothed at their expence.

The performance of these essential duties are the luxuries which never cloy; every evil that we mitigate is an exquisite gratification; to alleviate the pains of sickness, remove the sting of poverty, or plant the seeds of knowledge, by the application of due remedies and pecuniary relief, places a human character in the brightest point of view: thus you perceive Mr. and Mrs. Manley in their summer residence shed a blessing on all who are within the sphere of their cheering influence: I am quite happy at the thoughts of spending the summer with them.

As we sat at breakfast rather late this morning, a servant came to inform Mr. A—— that a clergyman wished to speak to him. Mr. A—— soon returned, and, to our surprise and delight, introduced the sweet little Letitia and her father; a clergyman of middle age, serious in his manner, mild and benevolent in his countenance: his appearance claimed respect. We loaded the dear child with caresses, and after some compliments, and thanking us with tears in his eyes, for our attention to his lost child, Mr. M' Cleod gave us this recital of himself, since he arrived at Margate.

"As soon as I alighted, inquiring where my child was, and being directed to the spot, I desired to be left alone. As I drew near the hovel where I hoped to find my darling, my heart beat high, when I saw my little Letty with blooming cheeks and innocent smiles climbing the knees of honest Martha, and kissing her cheek. I could scarce restrain my sensations; but stopped a few moments, and heard the following conversation between that worthy old couple. It seems Jonathan and Martha were neighbours and playmates in their infancy; their friendship cemented in adversity, and gained strength with their years. 'Martha,' said Jonathan, as he sat by the side of their little fire, 'it is fifty years since I first remember thee: thou wert then just such another child as this. Dost not recollect when I used to bring thee nuts? I do; and that I also had the trouble to prepare them for thee.'

"I do not remember so long back; but I cannot forget that thy kindness, Jonathan, has helped me through many a ditch in which I might have sunk for what my other companions cared; but you talk of likeness, I think this child resembles you when a boy; you had just such a look.'

"Well, dame,' said he, interrupting her,

'the frowns of fortune have latterly made alteration enough; it is your flattery then alone that makes me pleasing to myself.' While the friendly pair were thus beguiling their time, unperceived at their broken casement, my eyes and ears seemed to find an asylum for rest; for, gazing intently, the objects within absorbed my entire attention: Martha then began toasting an oatmeal cake, from which she every second picked a part and presented to the child, who was now seated on the knee of the man, who seemed to possess the double offices of nurse and deputy cook. 'Eat, duckling,' said the good woman, 'thou art truly welcome; Jonathan has been in luck to-day; it is all owing to thy smiles. Charity will have its reward, even in this world. And those good gentlemen and ladies have amply rewarded us.'

"Hold thy peace, dame, I have not more charity than my neighbours, though I have less reason to complain. I have, thank heaven, a good wife, and this day has been particularly successful to me, for I have caught a good cargo; but thou,' said he, pressing Letty in his arms, 'art the finest fish I ever snared, I would not part with thee for the whole lot, though I fed on bread and water for the rest of my days to maintain thee.'

"That must never be, said I, rushing into the cottage. In a moment Letty was in my arms. Child of providence! continued I, clasping her to my bosom; I have despaired as a man without hope; for ever praised be the mercy of Heaven! I am no longer a childless father.

"Jonathan and his wife rose from their seats.

"Worthy pair, said I, I will not try to express my gratitude by words; my deeds will, I hope, hereafter, prove the value that I set on the humanity of your conduct. You have, under Providence, been the means of preserving my lost treasure; and I will also answer that the mother of my Letitia will unite her endeavours with mine to make your old age comfortable. Pray be seated; your supper will be cold.

"If I be not too bold, sir,' said Martha, 'how happened it that your lady and you were saved?'

"Now do not, wife, trouble his honour with rude questions,' returned Jonathan; 'it is pleasure enough to know they were saved; but women were always curious.'

"It is a very natural question, my good friend, replied I; but Mrs. M'Cleod and I did not embark. Letitia was spared with re-

luctance by her mother, at the earnest solicitation of her aunt, to spend some months in England; and while we grieved the absence of our little darling, our cares on her account became divided by our other childrens' falling ill of an epidemical disease; in one week the same grave received my boys, and the next brought accounts of the loss of the vessel in which my blooming girl had embarked with her nurse. With an aching heart I left Scotland, hoping to learn whether the bodies of my child and servant had been found. I understood it was on this part of the coast that the vessel had been wrecked, and here I entered upon my search; but had only proceeded a short way, absorbed in solitary reflections on the instability of human happiness, when I met a fisherman; of whom enquiring, he acquainted me with the fortunate circumstance which brought me to you.

"Both Jonathan and Martha thanked me for the explanation I had afforded them; and as the evening was so far advanced, to the great joy of Martha I entrusted my newly recovered little one to her care till the morning: they then informed me of my obligations to Mr. Benson and to you two ladies (bowing to Mr. A——, Adelina, and me); I then retired to sleep at an inn.

"On the morrow early, I returned to the cottagers. I shall soon leave you, said I, for I am impatient to gladden the sorrowing heart of a mother. Take time to consider, whether if you were to leave this spot, you should regret the change, if an asylum were to offer more commodious. I have several cottages on my estate, the meanest of which is far preferable to this.

"Do not, honoured sir,' said Jonathan, 'think I slight your bounty; but it has ever been my maxim to bring comfort home as largely as possible; but never to run the risk of losing the little I possess, by seeking it abroad. Here I have, with a faithful partner, laboured for an existence these thirty years, and a roving disposition would ill befit sixty-one.'

"Now, indeed Jonathan,' returned Martha, 'I think thou art wrong, and wilt cause his honour to be angry."

"No, Martha,' replied Jonathan, 'his honour is a clergyman, and too good a christian to feel wrath against an Englishman for preferring his own country. Here, though I labour, I can eat heartily, sleep soundly, and breathe with freedom: in a strange place, I should be like unto the poor fish you so often pity, out of my element, gasp, and perhaps die.'

" I agree entirely with your reasoning, my friend, said I, and also honour your sincerity; some other means shall be devised to make you happy in your own way.

" I took leave of the honest pair; and while Martha was endeavouring to reconcile herself to the loss of Letitia, my nephew, who accompanied me from Scotland, arrived at the hovel, and giving Jonathan ten pounds, assured them that they were to receive that sum quarterly during their lives; he then gave them a direction to a banker at Sandwich, and likewise a list of some necessary articles which I had bought for them, and were to be fetched.

" Jonathan and Martha could not enough express their thanks. ' Didst ever expect to be so rich Jonathan?' said Martha; ' while all you have been able to earn has not come to half what you will have now; you may for the future live at your ease, and do without working at all.'

" I shall not be idle for all that,' replied Jonathan; ' he must be a bad man whom others do for, and will not lend a helping hand to his fellow-creatures. I will give the fruit of my labour to the poorest and most honest man I can find.'

"You are a good man,' said Martha; 'and provided you work not too hard, I will share your toils as well as your riches to the end.' I went in the mean time to return my thanks to the amiable family at Rose-hill; and having before sent off an express to Mrs. M'Cleod I stayed there all the day, and this morning set off early for this spot." Here Mr. M'Cleod concluded his narrative. His gratitude to us for what we had done, and for what Mr. A—— and Adelina intended to do for his child, was unbounded. Mr. Manley pressed him earnestly to stay a few days; but he was too desirous to return home, to present the lost Letitia to her mother. The dear child clung round our necks, and we were greatly affected at parting with her. It was agreed that Mr. A—— and Mr. M'Cleod should correspond. As he stayed some hours, we had only just time to dress, before we set off in the barouche to pay our visits.

May 21, 1805.

We arrived at Dover about half past two o'clock. The most conspicuous persons, both ladies and gentlemen, were assembled at Madame Jerome Bonaparte's; among the rest, Lady Forbes, the Honourable General Hope, Mr. Skeffington, &c. Her figure is delicate, but

elegantly formed; she has a fair complexion, hazel eyes, and a beautiful countenance, full of the most interesting expression. She seemed much pleased with the attentions shown to her. Her style and behaviour displayed an unaffected elegance and dignified composure, which entirely confirmed the favourable impression that was made on her first landing. She was dressed with great simplicity and modesty: on her head she wore no ornament but her hair; seeming to trust entirely to that Nature, which had been so bountiful to her.

We remained a considerable time, and then proceeded to Friendly-hall. Mr. Manley joked Adelina and me about making a conquest of a gentleman, who was to be of the party. He gave us this entertaining history of him. "His father was a farmer of no great property, and with no other learning than what he had acquired at a charity-school; but his mother being dead, and he an only child, his father determined to give him that advantage which he fancied would have made him happy, viz. a learned education. He was sent to a country grammar-school, and from thence to the university, with a view of qualifying him for holy orders. Here, having but small allowance from his father, and being naturally of a timid and bashful disposition, he

had no opportunity of rubbing off that native awkwardness, which is the fatal cause of all his unhappiness, and which he now begins to fear can never be amended. In his person he is tall and thin, with a fair complexion, and light flaxen hair; but of such extreme susceptibility of shame, that, on the smallest subject of confusion, his blood all rushes into his cheeks, and he appears a perfect full-blown rose. The consciousness of this unhappy failing made him avoid society, and he became enamoured of a college life; particularly when he reflected, that the uncouth manners of his father's family were little calculated to improve his outward conduct; he had therefore resolved on living at the university and taking pupils, when two unexpected events greatly altered the posture of his affairs; his father's death, and the arrival of an uncle from the Indies.

"This uncle he had very rarely heard his father mention; and it was generally believed that he was long since dead, when he arrived in England only a week too late to close his father's eyes. Mr. Adams was ashamed to confess, what I believe has been often experienced by those whose education had been better than that of their parents, that his poor father's ignorance and vulgar language had often made him blush

to think that he was his son; and at his death he was not inconsolable for the loss of *that* which he was not unfrequently ashamed to own. His uncle was but little affected; for he had been separated from his brother more than thirty years, and in that time he had acquired a fortune, which, he used to brag, would make a nabob happy; in short, he had brought over with him the enormous sum of thirty thousand pounds, and upon this he built his hopes of never-ending happiness. While he was planning schemes of greatness and delight, whether the change of climate might affect him, or what other cause I know not, but he was snatched from all his dreams of joy by a short illness, of which he died, leaving Mr. Adams heir to all his property. And now, behold him at the age of twenty-five, well stocked with Latin, Greek, and Mathematics, possessed of an ample fortune, but so awkward and unversed in every gentleman-like accomplishment, that he is pointed at by all who see him, as the *wealthy learned clown*. He has lately purchased an estate in this county, which abounds in (what is called) a fashionable neighbourhood; and when you reflect on his parentage and uncouth manner, you will hardly think how much his company is courted by the surrounding families, (es-

pecially by those who have marriageable daughters). From these gentlemen he has received familiar calls, and the most pressing invitations; and, though he wishes to accept their offered friendship, he has frequently excused himself under the pretence of not being quite settled: for the truth is, that when he has rode or walked, with full intention to return their several visits, his heart has failed him as he approached their gates, and he has frequently returned homeward, resolving to try again the next day. However, he at length determined to conquer his timidity, and three days ago, accepted of an invitation to dine this day with Sir Thomas Friendly, whose open easy manner left him no room to doubt a cordial welcome. Sir Thomas, who lives about two miles distant, is a baronet, with about two thousand pounds a year estate, joining to that which he purchased; he has two sons, and five daughters, all grown up, and living with their mother and a maiden sister of Sir Thomas, at Friendly-hall, dependent on their father. Mr. Adams, conscious of his unpolished gait, has for some time past taken private lessons of a professor, who teaches grown gentlemen to dance; and though he at first found wondrous difficulty in the art, his knowledge of the mathematics was of prodigious use, in teaching him

the equilibrium of his body, and the due adjustment of the centre of gravity to the five positions. Having now acquired the art of walking without tottering, and learned to make a bow, he boldly ventures to obey the baronet's invitation to a friendly dinner; not doubting but his new acquirements will enable him to see the ladies with tolerable intrepidity." But alas! how vain are all the hopes of *theory*, when unsupported by habitual practice. Mr. Manley teased us a good deal about Mr. Adams, till we reached the hall: you will suppose that we were very curious to see this singular character. We were received with the greatest ease and politeness by this family. Mr. Adams was not yet arrived. Mr. Manley was in the grounds when he approached the house; a dinner bell alarmed his fears, lest he had spoiled the dinner by want of punctuality: impressed with this idea, he blushed the deepest crimson, as his name was repeatedly announced by the several livery servants, who ushered him into the library. Hardly knowing what or whom he saw, at his first entrance, he summoned all his fortitude and made his new-learned bow to Lady Friendly, but unfortunately, in bringing back his left foot to the third position, he trod upon the gouty toe of poor Sir Thomas, who had followed close at

his heels, to be the nomenclator of the family. The confusion this occasioned in him is hardly to be conceived. The baronet's politeness by degrees dissipated his concern, and he seemed astonished to see how far good-breeding could enable Sir Thomas to repress his feelings, and to appear with perfect ease after so painful an accident. The cherefulness of her ladyship and Mrs. Manley, and the familiar chat of us young folks, insensibly led him to throw off his reserve and sheepishness, till at length he ventured to join in conversation, and even to start fresh subjects. The library being richly furnished with books in elegant bindings, he conceived Sir Thomas to be a man of literature, and ventured to give his opinion concerning the several editions of the Greek classics, in which the baronet's opinion exactly coincided with his own. To this subject he was led, by observing an edition of Xenophon in sixteen volumes, which greatly excited his curiosity, and (as he had never before heard of such a thing) he rose up to examine what it could be: Sir Thomas saw what he was about, and (as he supposed), willing to save him the trouble, rose to take down the book; which made Mr. Adams more eager to prevent him, and, hastily laying his hand on the first volume, he pulled it forcibly;

but lo! instead of books, a board, which by leather and gilding had been made to look like sixteen volumes, came tumbling down, and unluckily pitched upon a Wedgwood ink-stand on the table under it. In vain did Sir Thomas assure him that there was no harm; he saw the ink streaming from an inlaid table on the Turkey carpet, and, scarce knowing what he did, attempted to stop its progress with his cambric handkerchief. In the height of this confusion, we were informed that dinner was served up, and Mr. Adams with joy perceived that the bell, which at first had so alarmed his fears, was only the half hour dinner-bell.

In walking through the hall, and suite of apartments to the dining-room, he had time to collect his scattered senses, and was desired to take his seat between Lady Friendly and Adelina at the table. Since the fall of the wooden Xenophon, his face had been continually burning like a fire-brand, and he was just beginning to recover himself, and to feel comfortably cool, when an unlooked for accident rekindled all his heat and blushes. Having set his plate of soup too near the edge of the table, in bowing to Miss Dinah, who politely complimented the pattern of his waistcoat, he tumbled the whole scalding contents into his lap. In spite of an immediate

supply of napkins to wipe the surface of his clothes, his black silk breeches were not stout enough, I should think, to save him from the painful effects of this sudden fomentation, and for some minutes his legs and thighs must have seemed in a boiling caldron; but, recollecting how Sir Thomas had disguised his torture, when he trod upon his toe, he firmly bore his pain in silence, and sat with his lower extremities par-boiled, amidst the stifled giggling of us females and the servants.

I shall slightly pass over the several blunders which he made during the first course, and the distress occasioned by his being desired to carve a fowl, or help to various dishes that stood near him, spilling a sauce-boat, and knocking down a salt-seller; but shall rather hasten to the second course, "where fresh disasters overwhelmed him quite." He had a piece of rich sweet pudding on his fork, when Miss Louisa Friendly begged to trouble him for a pigeon that stood near him: in his haste, scarce knowing what he did, he whipped the pudding into his mouth, hot as a burning coal; it was impossible for him to conceal his agony, for his eyes were starting from their sockets. At last, in spite of shame and resolution, he was obliged to drop the cause of torment on his plate. Sir Thomas, Mr.

Manley, and all the ladies, compassionated his misfortune, and each of us advised a different application; one recommended oil, another water, but all agreed that wine was best for drawing out the fire; and a glass of sherry was brought from the side board, which he snatched up with eagerness; but, oh! how shall I tell you the sequel? Whether the butler by accident mistook, or purposely designed to drive him mad, he gave him the strongest brandy, with which he filled his mouth, already flayed and blistered; totally unused to every kind of ardent spirits, with his tongue, throat, and palate as raw as beef, what could he do? He could not swallow, and, clapping his hands upon his mouth, the liquor squirted through his nose and fingers like a fountain, over all the dishes; amid bursts of laughter from all quarters. In vain did Sir Thomas reprimand the servants, and Lady Friendly chide her daughters; for the measure of his shame and our diversion were not yet complete.

To relieve himself from the intolerable state of perspiration, which this accident had caused, without considering what he did, he wiped his face with that ill-fated handkerchief, which was still wet from the consequences of the fall of Xenophon, and covered all his features with

streaks of ink, in every direction. The baronet and Mr. Manley themselves could not support this shock, but joined their ladies and us in the general laugh: he sprung from the table in despair, rushed out of the house, and ran home, no doubt, in an agony of confusion and disgrace, which the most poignant sense of guilt could not have exceeded.

I really pitied him much; for without having deviated from the path of moral rectitude, he is suffering torments like a criminal. We spent a very pleasant day. In the evening, Sir Thomas and Mr. Manley went to comfort Mr. Adams. The lower half of him he owned was almost boiled, his tongue and mouth grilled, and he bore the mark of Cain upon his forehead; yet these were but trifling considerations, to the everlasting shame that he dreaded he must feel, whenever this adventure should be mentioned. However, from what I can judge, I think he will be rewarded with the fair hand of Miss Hannah Friendly, who most seriously compassionated him.

And now, my dear sister, I shall conclude my long account of a short journey: if it has afforded you any entertainment in the perusal, I shall with pleasure give you as circumstantial a detail of the next journey I take,

I beg my beloved parents to receive my duty tenderest affection, and my brothers my ndest love. You are all continually in my thoughts; and I enjoy every thing I hear and see with far greater relish, that I may communicate it to you. My dear Ethelinda, believe ne, most affectionately,

Your JEANNETTE.

The Cottage, May 22d. 1805.

FINIS.

Dewick and Clarke, Printers,
Aldersgate-street.