

THE

Weekly Entertainer ;
Singapore Rajah. 1827
O R,

AGREEABLE and INSTRUCTIVE

R E P O S I T O R Y.

CONTAINING

A COLLECTION OF SELECT PIECES,

BOTH IN

PROSE AND VERSE;

CURIOUS ANECDOTES,

INSTRUCTIVE TALES,

AND

INGENIOUS ESSAYS ON DIFFERENT SUBJECTS.

V O L. XIX.

SHERBORNE:

Printed by GOADBY and LERPINIÈRE.

M.DCC.XCII.

T H E

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, January 2, 1792.

The History of the Life of Baron Trenck. In which is introduced a particular Account of the extraordinary Sufferings which he underwent by Command of the late King of Prussia.

[Extracted from his own Narrative.]

I Was born at Königsberg in Prussia, February 16, 1726, of one of the most ancient families of the country. My father, who was a Knight of the Military-Order, Lord of Great Scharlack, Schakulack, and Meicken, and Major-General of Cavalry, died in 1740, after having received eighteen wounds in the Prussian service. My mother, descended from the house of Derschau, was daughter of the President of the High Court at Königsberg: She had two brothers, Generals of Infantry, and a third Minister of State, and Post Master General at Berlin. After my father's death in 1740, she married Count Lofstange, Lieutenant Colonel in the Kiow regiment of cuirassiers, with whom, leaving Prussia, she went and resided at Breslaw. I had two brothers and a sister; my youngest brother was taken, by my mother, into Silesia; the other was a Cornet in this last-named regiment of Kiow; and my sister was married to the only son of the aged General Valdow, who quitted the service, and with whom she lived, in Brandenburg, on his estates.

My ancestors, both of the male and female line, are famous in the chronicles of the North, among the ancient Teutonic Knights, who conquered Courland, Prussia, and Livonia.

By temperament I was choleric, and addicted to pleasure and dissipation: My tutors found this last defect most difficult to overcome; happily, they were aided by a love of knowledge inherent in me, an emulative spirit, and a thirst of fame, which disposition it was my father's care to cherish. A too great consciousness of innate worth gave me a too great degree of pride, but the endeavours of my instructor to inspire humility were not all lost; and habitual reading, well-timed praise, and the pleasures flowing from science, made the labours of study at length my recreation.

My memory became remarkable; I was well read in the holy scriptures, the classics, and ancient history; was intimately acquainted with geography; could draw accurately, and learnt fencing, riding, and other necessary exercises.

My religion was Lutheran; but morality, and not superstitious bigotry, or childish fears, was taught me by my father, and by the worthy man to whose care he committed the forming of my heart, whose memory I shall ever hold in veneration. While a boy, I was enterprising in all the tricks of boys, and exercised my wit in crafty excuses: The warmth of my passions, then and afterward, gave a satyric biting cast to my writings, whence it has been imagined, by those who knew but little of me, I was a dangerous man; though, I am conscious, this was a hasty and false judgment.

A soldier himself, my father would have all his sons the same: Thus, when we quarrelled, we were not admitted to terminate our disputes in the common way, but were provided with wooden sabres, sheathed with leather, and, brandishing these, contested by blows for victory, while our father sat laughing, pleased at our valour and address. This practice, and the praises he bestowed, had the bad effect of encouraging a disposition which, with passions like mine, ought carefully to have been counteracted.

I shall say little more of the first years of my life, except that my father, who had a tender affection for me, took especial care of my education, and sent me, at the age of thirteen, to the university of Königsberg, where, under the tuition of Kowalewsky, my progress was rapid. There were fourteen other noblemen, of the best families, in the same house, and under the same master.

The year following, that is to say in 1740, I had a quarrel with one young Wallenrodt, a fellow student, much stronger and taller than myself, and who despising my weakness thought proper to give me a blow. I demanded satisfaction—he came

not to the appointed place, but treated my demand with contempt; and I, forgetting all further respect, procured a second, and attacked him in open day. We fought, and I had the fortune to wound him twice; the first time in the arm; the second in the hand.

This affair incited enquiry:—Doctor Kowalewsky, our tutor, laid complaints before the University, and I was condemned to three hours confinement; but my grandfather and guardian, President Derschau, with whom I was a great favourite, was so pleased with my courage that he instantly took me from this house, and placed me under Professor Christiani.

Here I first began to enjoy full and entire liberty; and from this worthy man I learnt all I know of experimental philosophy and science. He loved me as his own son, and sometimes continued instructing me till midnight. Under his auspices, in 1742, I maintained, with great success, two public theses, although I was then but sixteen; an effort and an honour till then unknown.

Three days after my last public exordium, a contemptible fellow, and professional bully, fought a quarrel with me, and as I may say obliged me to draw in my own defence, whom, on this occasion, I wounded in the groin.

This continued success highly inflated my valour, and from that time I began to wear a sword of enormous length, and to assume the accoutrements and appearance of a Hector.

Such was the effect of prejudices inspired in youth, and which would inevitably have made me a quarrelsome dangerous man, had not the rectitude of my heart, and the extreme miseries of which I became the victim, soon reconducted me to the paths of virtue.

Scarcely had a fortnight elapsed, after this affair, before I had another with a Lieutenant of the garrison, one of my friends, whom I had insulted, who received two wounds in the contest.

I ought to remark that, at this time, the University of Königsberg was still highly privileged. To send a challenge was held honourable; and this was not only permitted but would have been difficult to prevent, considering the great number of proud, hot headed, and turbulent young nobility from Livonia, Courland, Sweden, Denmark, and Poland, who came thither to study, and of whom there were more than five hundred. This brought the University into disrepute, and endeavours have been made to remedy the abuse. Men have acquired a greater extent of true knowledge, and have begun to

perceive that a University ought to be a place of instruction, and not a field of battle; and that blood cannot be honourably shed, except in defence of life, or country.

In November, 1742, the King sent his Adjutant-General, Baron Lottum, who was related to my mother, to Königsberg, with whom I dined at my grandfather's. He conversed much with me, and, after putting various questions, purposely to discover what my talents and inclinations were, he demanded, as if in joke, whether I had any inclination to go with him to Berlin, and serve my country, as my ancestors had ever done: Adding that, in the army, I should find much better opportunities of sending challenges, than at the University. Inflamed with the desire of distinguishing myself, I listened with rapture to the proposition, and in a few days we departed for Potsdam.

On the morrow after my arrival, I was presented to the King, as indeed I had before been in the year 1740, with the character of being, then, one of the most hopeful youths of the University. My reception was most flattering; the justness of my replies, to the questions he asked, my height, figure, and confidence, pleased him, and I soon obtained permission to enter as a cadet in his body guards, with a promise of quick preferment.

The body guards formed, at this time, a model and school for the Prussian cavalry: They consisted of one single squadron of men selected from the whole army, and their uniform was the most splendid in all Europe. Two thousand rix-dollars were necessary to equip an officer: The cuirass was wholly plated with silver; and the horse furniture and accoutrements alone cost four hundred rix-dollars.

This squadron only contained six officers, and a hundred and forty-four men; but there were always fifty or sixty supernumeraries, and as many horses, for the King incorporated all the most handsome men he found in these guards. The officers were the best taught of any the army contained; the King himself was their tutor, and he afterward sent them to instruct the cavalry in the manœuvres they had learnt. Their rise was rapid, if they behaved well; but they were broken for the least fault, and punished by being sent to garrison regiments. It was likewise necessary they should be tolerably rich, as well as possess such talents as might be successfully employed, both at court and in the army.

There are no soldiers in the world who undergo so much as this body guard; and during the time I was in the service of Frederick,

Frederic, I often had not eight hours sleep in eight days. Exercise began at four in the morning, and experiments were made of all the alterations the King meant to introduce in his cavalry. Ditches of three, four, five, six feet, and still wider, were leaped, till that some one broke his neck; hedges, in like manner, were freed, and the horse ran careers, meeting each other full speed in a kind of lifts of more than half a league in length. We had often, in these our exercises, several men and horses killed or wounded.

It happened, more frequently than otherwise, that the same experiments were repeated after dinner with fresh horses; and it was not uncommon, at Potzdam, to hear the alarm sounded twice in a night. The horses stood in the King's stables; and whoever had not dressed, armed himself, saddled his horse, mounted, and appeared before the Palace in eight minutes, was put under arrest for fourteen days.

Scarcely were the eyes closed before the trumpet again sounded, to accustom youth to vigilance. I lost, in one year, three horses, which had either broken their legs, in leaping ditches, or died of fatigue.

I cannot give a stronger picture of this service, than by saying that the body guard lost more men and horses in one year's peace than they did, during the following year, in two battles.

We had, at this time, three stations: Our service, in the winter, was at Berlin; where we attended the opera, and all public festivals: In the spring we were exercised at Charlottenberg; and at Potzdam, or wherever the King went, during the summer. The six officers of the guard dined with the King, and, on gala days, with the Queen. It may be presumed, there was not, at that time, on earth, a better school to form an officer and a man of the world, than was the court of Berlin.

(To be continued.)

The Enormities committed by the Natives of Africa on each other, to procure Slaves for the Europeans, proved by the Testimony of such as have visited that Continent.

(Continued from Page 611 of our last Volume.)

HAVING described the labours, food, clothing, and different employments of the African slaves, I shall now lay before your readers the punishments that are inflicted on them.

In the towns many persons have their slaves flogged at home; but those who do not chuse to disturb their neighbours with the cries of the slaves, send them to the wharfs or gaol; and sometimes they are whipped publickly round the town.

When they are flogged on the wharfs, they are described by Messrs. Rofs, Morley, Jeffreys, Towne, and Scott, to have their arms tied to the hooks of the crane, and weights of 50lb. applied to their feet. In this situation the crane is wound up 'till it lifts them nearly from the ground, when the cowskin whip is used. After this they are again whipped with ebony bushes (which are more prickly than thorn bushes) in order to let out the congealed blood. Captain Scott saw a Negro thus punished because the wharfinger thought he had staid too long on an errand.

Dr. Harrison thought these whippings too severe for any of the human species. He attended a man who had been flogged; he could lay two or three fingers into the wounds made by the whip. He was thus punished for not coming when he was called.

Captain Smith and Mr. Dalrymple affirm that, at every stroke of the whip, a piece of flesh was drawn out. Captain Thompson, the Dean of Middleham, Mr. Jeffreys, and General Tottenham describe the cuts or marks of the whip as indelible, as lasting to old age, as such as no time can erase; and Mr. Woolrich has often seen their backs one undistinguished mass of lumps, holes, and furrows.

As further proofs of the severity of those whippings, Mr. Fitzmaurice has often known pregnant women so severely whipped as to have miscarried in consequence of it. Mr. Dawson was once sent for to a woman slave who miscarried from severe flogging, and both she and the child died. The Rev. Mr. Rees, finding one day a woman lying down and groaning, was told that she had been so severely whipped for running away that she could hardly move; her left side, where she had been whipped, appeared in a mortifying state, and almost covered with worms. He relieved her, and, going in a day or two afterwards to visit her, found she was dead.

Captain Hall knows, by an instance that fell under his eye, that a slave's death may be occasioned by severe punishment. Dr. Jackson recollects a Negro dying under the lash, or soon afterwards; and Capt. Rofs avers that they often die in a few days after their severe punishments.

But, besides the punishments by the whip and the cowskin, there are various other modes of torture.

Captain Cook says he has been shocked to see a girl, of 16 or 17, running the streets in her ordinary business with an iron collar, having two hooks projecting several inches both before and behind.

Mr. Cook states that slaves have sometimes an iron boot put on one or both legs; and he has known a Negro lose his leg from wearing an iron boot.

Mr. Dalrymple saw a Negress in Grenada, who had committed some fault, and ran away to avoid punishment; her master suspended her by the hands, flogged her cruelly in the back, belly, breast, and thighs, and then left her suspended 'till her fingers mortified.

Captain Ross has seen a Negro woman, in Jamaica, flogged with ebony bushes, so that the skin of her back was taken off down to her heels: She was then turned round and flogged from her breast down to her waist, and, in consequence, he saw her afterwards upon all fours, and unable to get up.

Captain Cook saw, in Barbadoes, near a house, upon a dung-hill, a Negro nearly suspended by strings from his elbows backwards, to the bough of a tree, with his feet barely upon the ground, and an iron weight, to appearance of 14lb. round his neck, and thus, without any one near him, left exposed to the noon-day sun. Returning a few hours after, they found him in the same state.

A Negro man, in Jamaica, says Dr. Harrison, was put on a picket so long as to cause a mortification of his foot and hand, on suspicion of robbing his master, a publick officer, of a sum of money, which, it afterwards appeared, the master had taken himself. Yet the master was privy to the punishment, and the slave had no compensation.

Messrs. Jeffreys, Ross, Terry and Coor, mention the cutting off ears, as another species of punishment. The last gentleman says that, in Jamaica, the Doctor (with whom he boarded) nailed the ear of one of the house girls, who had broke a plate or spilt a cup of tea, to a post, went to bed, and left her there. In the morning she was gone, having torn the head of the nail through her ear. She was brought back, and severely whipped by the Doctor, who afterwards clipped both her ears off close to her head.

Mr. Cook, in Jamaica, knew a slave brought in who had stolen part of a turkey (Mr. Cook thinks he stole it through hunger, as he was nothing but skin and bone). His master made two Negroes hold him down, and with a hammer and punch

punch knocked out two of his upper, and two of his under teeth.

Mr. Jeffreys and Captain Lloyd have seen Negroes with one of their hands cut off, for lifting it up against a white.

Messrs. Giles, Jackson, Fitzmaurice, and Terry have seen Negroes, whose legs had been cut off, by their master's orders, for running away. Mr. Dalrymple says that, in Grenada, a planter sent for a surgeon to cut off the leg of a Negro who had run away. On the surgeon's refusing to do it, the planter took an iron bar, and broke the leg in pieces, and then the surgeon cut it off.

Mr. Fitzmaurice has seen one Rushie, a planter, in Jamaica, often drop hot lead upon his Negroes; he saw him once in the act of hanging a Negro. The rest of the conduct of this planter, as described by Captain Ross, was, after a debate, cancelled by the Committee of the House, as containing circumstances too horrible to be given to the world.

Mr. Coor says that, on Shrewsbury estate, in Jamaica, the overseer sent for a slave, and in talking with him struck him on the head with a small hanger, and gave him two stabs about the waist. The slave said, "Overseer, you have killed me." He pushed him out; the slave went home, died that night, was buried and nothing said about it.

Mr. Woolrich says that the manager of an estate, in Tortola, in a sudden resentment at his cook, took his sword and ran the Negro woman through the body, and she died upon the floor immediately. He knew also a planter, offended with the waiter, a Mulatto, stepped suddenly to his gun, on which the man ran off, but his master shot him through the head with a ball. He says also that a Negro ran away from a planter, in Tortola, with whom he was well acquainted. The overseer, having orders to take him dead or alive, found him asleep in one of his huts, and shot him through the body. The Negro, jumping up, said, "What, you kill me asleep," and dropped dead immediately. The overseer took off his head, and carried it to his master.

Mr. Giles recollects that, on an estate where he lived, in Montserrat, the driver informed the overseer that a Negro in the dungeon would not rise. He accompanied the overseer to the dungeon, who ordered the Negro to be dragged out, and a bundle of cane rush to be put round him, and set fire to. As he still did not rise, the overseer had a small folding iron heated, and thrust between his teeth. As the man did not
then

then rise, he sent him to the hospital, where he languished and died.

(To be concluded in our next.)

The History of Knowledge, Learning, and Taste. in Great Britain, during the Reign of Queen Elizabeth. Part the Second.

[From the New Annual Register for the Year 1790.]

WE have formerly had occasion to mention the circumstances that gave peculiar powers, and prerogatives to the House of Tudor. These circumstances we have seen to have had so mighty an effect, that what traces there heretofore were of liberty in the English constitution appeared to be in a great measure obliterated; to such a degree, that some writers have not scrupled to assert, that the government was totally absolute. They have particularly pronounced, that this was the case in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. But though, in her time, the frame of the constitution was far from being so exactly modelled as it hath since been; though she exercised prerogatives which are now justly exploded; nay, though she even went so far as, in a few instances, to imprison certain members of the House of Commons who violently pushed on bills which she was determined to reject; still, we are not to imagine that all the freedom of our form of government was lost or destroyed. There was a portion of liberty in it; and according to the ideas which she entertained of that portion, the Queen's conduct was regulated. With the legislative power of Parliament she did not interfere; nor did she either controvert or impair the exclusive privilege of that assembly in the imposition of taxes. These important branches of Parliamentary authority there is no vestige of her attempting or desiring to violate. In the thirteenth year of her reign, we find Parliament strongly asserting its power to settle and limit the succession to the crown, by declaring it high treason to call this power in question. With regard to Elizabeth's imprisonment of some Members of the House of Commons, it ought to be remembered, that however unjustifiable her conduct was in that respect, the malignity of it was not so great as anything of the like kind would be at present. It is now, with a few exceptions, become a fundamental principle of the constitution that the King shall not take notice of any bill depending in

Parliament; and that, before it has passed the two Houses, the royal assent or negative shall not be declared. But it does not appear that this rule was completely and invariably established in the reign concerning which we are treating. The interference of the Queen, in the manner described, was only in cases where she understood her ancient prerogative to be invaded; nor did she ever pretend to punish the liberty of speech, unless when it was indulged in continuing to push those bills which she had declared her final resolution to reject.

It has been urged as a proof of the despotic nature of her Government, that soon after her accession to the Crown, she suspended the laws, so far as to order great part of the service, the Litany, the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Gospel, to be read in English; and that though this may be deemed to have been a frivolous innovation, it implied the most material consequences. But it should not be forgotten, that in this case, the dispensing power was exercised under great limitations, and in very singular circumstances. Indeed, such was, at that time, the peculiar and critical situation of the kingdom, such the agitation of the minds of the people, that the liberty assumed by the Queen ought rather to be regarded as a measure calculated for the present security of the Protestant religion and its professors, than as a violent exertion of the prerogative, in opposition to the laws of the land.

Nor is it true, what hath been asserted, that the sovereign was possessed of every power but that of imposing taxes.

In confutation of this assertion, which has Mr. Hume for its author, it may be observed, that the power of legislation was vested in the King, Lords, and Commons. Neither was the judicial authority, in ordinary cases, exercised by the crown, but distributed among various courts of justice. The Judges, indeed, from the manner of their appointment, might be suspected to favour the prerogative; notwithstanding which, the modes of their procedure, and the general rules of law were, upon the whole, too invariably determined usually to admit of any very gross degree of partiality. The institution likewise of juries, which had long been completely established, was calculated in an eminent degree to secure the rights of the people.

In addition to these remarks, for the substance of which we are indebted to Mr. Millar, it is worthy of particular notice, that the opinion of the government's having been in its nature despotic, is contradicted by the express testimony of two contemporary witnesses, whose authority is so unquestionable, that
a rational

a rational doubt cannot be entertained upon the subject. These are Sir Thomas Smith, Principal Secretary both to Edward the Sixth and Queen Elizabeth, and John Aylmer, Bishop of London; neither of whom can be suspected of having had the least inclination to detract from the prerogatives of the Sovereign. Sir Thomas Smith in his "Commonwealth of England," thus expresses himself concerning the English constitution. "The most high and absolute power of the realm of England consisted in the Parliament. The Parliament abrogateth old laws, maketh new, giveth order for things past, and for things hereafter to be followed; changed rights and possessions of private men, legitimateth bastards, established forms of religion, altered weights and measures, giveth form of succession to the crown; defineth of doubtful rights, whereof no law is already made; appointeth subsidies, tailles, taxes and impositions; giveth most free pardons and absolutions; restoreth in blood and name; as the highest court, condemneth or absolveth them whom the Prince will put to that trial. And to be short, all that ever the people of Rome might do, either in *centuriatis comitiis, tributis*, the same may be done by the Parliament of England, which represents, and hath power of the whole realm, both the head and the body. For every Englishman is intended to be there present, either in person or by procuration and attorney, of what pre-eminence, state, dignity, or quality soever he be, from the Prince, to the lowest person in England. And the consent of Parliament is taken to be every man's consent." Among the privileges of Parliament mentioned by this writer, it is particularly specified, that the Members "may frankly and freely say their minds, in disputing of such matters as may come in question, and that without offence to his Majesty§."

Equally positive is the testimony of Bishop Aylmer. "The regiment of England," says this prelate, "is not a mere monarchy, as some for lack of consideration think; nor a mere oligarchy, nor democracy; but a mixed rule of all these; wherein each one of these have, or should have, like authority. The image whereof, and not the image, but the thing indeed, is to be seen in the Parliament House; wherein you shall find these three estates: The King or Queen, which representeth monarchy; the noblemen, which be the aristocracy, and the Burgeses and Knights, the democracy. The very same had Lacedemonia, the noblest and best governed city that ever was.

B 2

They

They had their King, their senate, and their hippagretes, which where for the people. As in Lacedemonia none of these could make or break laws, orders for war or peace, or do any thing without the other; the King nothing without the Senate and Commons, nor either of them, or both, without the King (albeit the senate and ephori had greater authority than the King had); in like manner, if the Parliament used their privileges, the King can do nothing without them; if he do, it is his fault in usurping it, and their folly in permitting it. Wherefore, in my judgment, those that in King Henry's days would not grant him, that proclamations should have the force of a statute, were good fathers of the country, and worthy commendation in defending their liberty."

That speculative ideas of the nature and design of Government, conformable to these sentiments, were adopted in Queen Elizabeth's reign, is evident from no less an example than that of the venerable Hooker. "Government," he observes, "was originally by mutual agreement among men, yielding themselves subject thereunto; that unto whom they granted authority to rule and govern, by them the peace, tranquillity, and happy estate of the rest might be procured. And the public power of every society, being above every soul contained in the same society, must be obeyed, unless there be reason shewed, which may necessarily enforce that the law of reason or of God doth enjoin the contrary. For men always know, that where force and injury was offered, they might be defenders of themselves. Laws they are not which public approbation hath not made so; and for any Prince or potentate, of what kind soever upon earth, to exercise the power of making laws of himself, is no better than mere tyranny."

We are not, however, to suppose that sentiments so just and liberal, concerning the origin and nature of Government, were the common doctrines of the times. The people were involved in so much darkness, and had so long been habituated to bow down under the assumed authority of the Princes of the House of Tudor, that they did not, in general, raise their minds to those manly ideas of liberty which reason dictates, or even maintain that exercise of it to which they were entitled by the actual constitution of England. Nevertheless, in the reign of Elizabeth, and especially the latter part of it, more rational views began gradually to be diffused. This circumstance was owing to a set of men from whom, perhaps, at first it was very little expected. The Puritans, who had attacked with so much boldness the ecclesiastical form of Government, proceeded to
advance

advance notions highly favourable to civil freedom. Several of them obtained seats in the House of Commons, where they distinguished themselves by an opposition to the measures of the crown, which hitherto very few had dared to put in practice. The principles maintained by them were popular, noble, and generous. They insisted that every thing which concerned the community ought fully to be debated in Parliament, where even the right of the crown itself must finally be determined. They alledged that the prerogative of the Prince was limited by law; and that as the sovereign could not of himself make laws, neither could he break them, merely from his own authority. Mr. Hume goes so far as to assert, that the precious spark of liberty had been kindled, and was preserved by the Puritans alone; and that it was to this sect, whose principles appear so frivolous, and habits so ridiculous, that the English owe the whole freedom of their constitution. How truly it may be said that the principles of the Puritans were frivolous, and their habits ridiculous, it is not our present business to decide. Dissenters may probably be willing to forgive the reflection, for the sake of the compliment. But it is apparent, from what has already been advanced, that the compliment cannot be admitted in its full extent. It is, indeed, manifest, from the history of the Puritans, that they were inspired with a manly spirit of liberty, and that they contributed, in a high degree, to its diffusion and increase. But it is going much too far to affirm, that we owe to them the whole freedom of our constitution.

To whatever persons, or whatever circumstances it was owing, one thing is certain, which is, that the cause of civil liberty gained some ground toward the close of the Queen's reign. The rights of the subject began to be better understood, and more vigorously maintained; and Parliamentary speakers, without the fear or danger of imprisonment, assumed a greater boldness in arraigning the conduct of government. This they did so effectually, in the case of monopolies, that Elizabeth was obliged to give way, and she had the wisdom to do it with a grace. In short, a new spirit appeared, which, in succeeding reigns, was attended with very great and important consequences.

(To be continued.)

AN ANECDOTE.

GENERAL MEDOWS, who is no doubt a gallant soldier, gave, when at school, an indication of his partiality for
for

for a military life. He was advised at Eton, by a friend, to turn his views to the Church, as from the interest of his relations, he might have prospects of very considerable preferment in that line. "I had rather," replied he, in a decided tone, "be a drummer in the army than the Archbishop of Canterbury."

The Life of Joseph Balsamo, commonly called Count Cagliostro; containing the singular and uncommon Adventures of that extraordinary Personage, from his Birth till his Imprisonment in the Castle of St. Angelo.

[Translated from the Original Proceedings published at Rome by order of the Apostolic Chamber.

(Continued from Page 623 of our last Volume.)

HAVING arrived at Rome, in company with his wife, at the end of the month of May, in the year 1789, he remained for some time in a furnished lodging, in the Strada d'Espagna, and afterwards took a house situate near the palace of Farnèse. At this period he lived with extraordinary circumspection; but infidelity and imposture had become so intimately interwoven with his character, that he found it impossible to resist the temptations which they continually held forth.

Cagliostro soon found himself in the most deplorable distress for want of money; and was accordingly obliged to pawn his jewels, to raise the sums necessary for his expences.

He perceived that, in this city, many were eager to study his character; that few were disposed to believe his impostures; and that no person was desirous of supplying his wants.

The recollection of his sins, and more especially those which he had committed against our holy religion, like a gnawing worm, preyed upon his conscience without ceasing. All these circumstances strongly operated on his mind, and at length made him determine to change his asylum.

He thought that the situation of affairs in France was such as to give him hopes of a retreat in that country. He accordingly sent a petition to the States General, requesting permission to return to that kingdom; and he accompanied this request with a number of documents, certificates, &c.

In the mean time he received intimation of the prosecution intended to be commenced against him; a short time after, the
same

same person who acted the dishonest part of being a spy to a criminal like him, gave him fresh intimations of his danger.

Notwithstanding these warnings, Cagliostro never dreamed of flying; nay, he did not even destroy those numerous papers which have since served as vouchers of his crimes, and have furnished the most ample proofs of his complicated guilt.

At length he was arrested during the evening of the 27th of December 1789, and conducted to the castle of St. Angelo.

On his first examination he was violent in his invectives against the court of France, to the intrigues of which he attributed all the misfortunes that he had experienced since his imprisonment in the Bastille, and also the defection of his wife, who had been corrupted on purpose to ruin him; the truth however is, that Madame Cagliostro, instead of experiencing such a powerful protection, would have been reduced to extreme indigence, had it not been for the pension bestowed upon her by the public treasury. The book of Egyptian masonry, the symbols of that wicked art, and the papers of Cagliostro, which form so many convincing and irrefragable proofs of his impiety, must surely remove every suspicion from the minds of those who may have heard that either fraud or injustice were made use of against him.

He clearly perceived how necessary it was to throw suspicions on the authenticity of his wife's evidence, because he well knew that she alone could discover his most secret crimes, and bring to light those iniquities of which mankind were before ignorant.

Nevertheless he often testified the most lively tenderness and regard for her, and was exceedingly anxious to have her as a companion in his confinement. It may be readily believed that this demand was refused by his judges; as was also another, which was to be removed to a larger prison, and to be allowed the liberty of writing; this latter was undoubtedly intended for the purpose of keeping up a correspondence with his friends, similar to that which he had carried on during his confinement in Paris.

Deceived in these two projects, he affected sincerity, and acknowledged that he had exercised the rites of Egyptian masonry; affirming that he had formerly thought, and still continued to think, that this system was Catholic, and that he had expressly made use of it as a means of propagating our religion. But he soon after retracted these sentiments, began to be apprehensive as to the good resulting from masonry, and to exhibit

marks of repentance and contrition. In addition to his first demands, he now requested to have some more linen, better diet, and the liberty of perusing some godly book. We made no difficulty in satisfying him as to the last article; and accordingly presented him with "The Defence of the Roman Pontificate, and the Catholic Church, by P. Nicholas-Mary Pallavicini." In a few days after he observed of his own accord, in the course of his interrogatories, that partly from his own reflections, and partly from reading of this book, he was now convinced that, instead of contributing to the service of religion and of the Catholic church, his conduct had hitherto tended to extend the empire of Satan, and to retard the salvation of souls.

At length he expressed himself in the following terms:—
 "Overwhelmed as I am with horror and repentance, for having spent forty-five years of my life in that miserable state of perdition and lamentable abyss of error, I am ready, on purpose to save my soul, and to repair the wrongs that I have committed against religion and the souls of others, to make such a declaration or retraction as may be thought necessary.

"And as there is an immense number of my disciples in various parts of Europe, who at my instigation have adopted the Egyptian system of masonry, and who are so attached to that faith, and so obedient to my orders, that, although they are for the most part men of letters, both Catholics and Heretics, yet neither the arguments nor the persuasions of theologians or learned men can ever turn them aside from the system which I have taught them—I am ready to write and circulate the present declaration, as it will tend to enlighten them.

I accordingly beseech your Lordships to make these sentiments known to the Sovereign Pontiff, that his Holiness may see that I have abandoned my errors.

"I pardon my enemies, and all those who have carried on this process against me, well knowing that it is for the good of my soul. I also recommend myself to your Lordships, who have treated me charitably, and have always interrogated me according to the regular and approved forms of justice; a circumstance which I have never experienced elsewhere, and which has contributed greatly to make me perceive the sins into which I had fallen, and the miserable life which I have passed in error and incredulity, during so many years."—While speaking in this manner, he appeared continually bathed in tears.—

"I do not desire," added he, "any thing but the salvation of my soul: I am ready to submit myself, nay I desire the most

severe

severe public chastisement; and I should wish thus to expiate the injustice I have committed against so many persons, and particularly against my wife, who has also lived in error through my suggestions; for the part which she acted in regard to Egyptian masonry, resulted solely from my persuasions and instructions.

No person however believed that he spoke the real sentiments of his heart, or that he was influenced to this confession by an actual repentance. Perhaps he flattered himself by these means to get rid of the prosecution, and to recover his liberty. But whatever might be his motives, this much is certain, that he soon perceived that he was the dupe of his own arts; for neither his place of confinement nor his treatment was altered in any manner whatever.

His examinations, which had been interrupted for some time, were afterwards resumed, on the pressing instances made by him to be heard once more. As there existed no motive that could induce the ministers of justice to refuse him an audience, he had immediate permission to speak his sentiments. He accordingly made use of that privilege to inform us, that he would recount a parable of two sons, one an elder, and the other a younger son. But he was informed that it was neither a proper time nor place for telling of parables, and ordered to proceed in his defence.

(To be continued.)

An Account of the Forms observed at the Election of an Emperor of Germany.

THE Elector of Mentz, before the lapse of a month after the death of the Emperor, summons, as Great Chancellor of the Empire, the rest of the electors, to attend on some fixed day within the space of three months from the date of the summons. The Electors generally send their Ambassadors to the place of election, which is held at Frankfort on the Maine; but saving the right of the city of Frankfort, it may be held elsewhere.

When the diet of Electors is assembled, they proceed to compose the capitulation, to which the Emperor, when elected, is to swear. The capitulation being adjusted, the Elector of Mentz appoints a day for the election.

When this day arrives, the gates of the city are shut, and the keys delivered to the Elector of Mentz. The Electors or
 VOL. XIV. 465 G their

their Ambassadors, Protestants excepted, repair in great pomp to mass, and after its celebration they take a solemn oath to choose, unbiassed and uninfluenced, the person that appears most proper for the imperial dignity. After this they repair to the sacristy, where the Elector of Mentz first asks if there be any impediments known against their proceeding at present to an election? And, next, he obtains a promise that the person elected by the majority shall be received as Emperor. The declarations of the Electoral Ambassadors, in respect to these two points, are recorded by two notaries of the empire. Then all witnesses withdraw; and the Elector of Mentz, collecting the suffrages, which are *viva voce*, and giving his own last, the witnesses are recalled, and he declares the person whom the Electors have chosen. But the election is not complete, nor is the new Emperor proclaimed, until the capitulation be sworn to, either by himself or by his Ambassador, if he be absent. From this time he is styled the King of the Romans, until the coronation takes place; which ceremony confers the title of Emperor. According to the golden bull, it should be celebrated at Aix-la-Chapelle, out of respect to Charlemagne, who resided there; but, saving the right of Aix-la-Chapelle, it may take place elsewhere. The coronation is performed by the Archbishop of Mentz or Elector of Cologne. And when he is seated on his throne, the Duke of Saxony delivers into his hand the sword of Charles the Great, with which he makes some Knights of the Holy Roman Empire, and is also obliged to confer that honour upon such others as are nominated by the respective Electors. When he proceeds to dinner in the great hall, he is seated at a table elevated two steps higher than that of the Electors, and is served by Counts of the Empire. The Electors, each of whom has also their tables, are attended by the gentlemen of their respective courts. These Electors, who assist personally at the ceremony, sit and eat at their own tables; but those who are represented by Ambassadors have only their table covered out of form with plates, at which the Ambassadors do not sit.

HUMOUROUS CHARACTER of an ACTRESS.

[Written by Tate Wilkinson, Patentee of the Theatres Royal at York and Hull.]

MRS. WHITE was a most extraordinary character, and worthy of record. Whenever Burden, her son-in-law, gave

gave offence, which was almost perpetually, she would thus harangue her daughter: "Ma'am you have married a feller beneath you; you played Lucy last night in the Minor better than Mrs. Cibber could have done, upon my sould; and yet this scoundrel could hurt such a devine cretur!—But I'll tell you what, Ma'am, if you contradict me, I'll fell you at my feet and trample o'er your *corse*, Ma'am; for you are a limb, Ma'am: your father, on his death-bed, told me you were a limb.—You are pure as *ermind*, Ma'am, except with Sir Francis Dolval; and you shan't live with your husband, Ma'am; the first women of quality, Ma'am, don't live with their husbands, Ma'am. Does Mrs. Elmy live with her husband? No, Ma'am. Does Mrs. Clive live with her husband? No, Ma'am. Does Mrs. Cibber live with her husband? No, Ma'am.—So now, Ma'am, you see the best women of fashiond upon yearth don't live with their husbands, Ma'am.—

This favourite old lady was thus haranguing Mr. Younger, who was that year at Crow-Street theatre, and pointing with dignity to a play-bill: "Sir, you have not used my daughter Bess well," pon my *sould*; and Barry has kept her in Love's Last Shift ever since she came. There is a bill with *Sylvia* at the bottom by that damned devil Mrs. Dancer.—Now, Sir, the poor creature wants the breeches parts; and, if she has them not, Mr. Barry will have his benches pulled.—Ask Mr. Barry what he thinks my daughter came over to Ireland for?—Then if you do not know, I will tell you, Sir.—The breeches parts, Sir! and she expects *all* the breeches parts, Sir.—And now you know Bet's mind.

Answer, by William Upjohn, of Shaftesbury, to his own Question, inserted February 21.

IN the latitude of 58 degrees, when the sun enters the 4th degree of Gemini, the length of the day is 17 hours and 14 minutes.

The length of the night is 6 hours and 46 minutes.

The sun rises at 25 minutes past 3.

The sun sets at 37 minutes past 8.

N. B. This solution is correct by refraction.

A REBUS, by J. Wheeler, of St. Austell.

A Vowel, a swine, and a male pray combine,
If the puzzle you'd wish to explain,
'Tis what oft, I'll engage, you've beheld in this page,
Some humourous subject contain.

An ENIGMA, by Sheptoniensis.

TO you, good people of Britannia's isle,
On which the graces and the muses smile,
One who's oft visited your happy shore,
Now his quadrennial visit pays once more.

To shew my pedigree, and native home,
Pray take a retrospect of ancient Rome,
When Julius Cæsar, my great sire, had hurl'd
His arms and mandates thro' a conquer'd world,
Here hist'ry says that they were well receiv'd,
And so am I 'tis generally believ'd.

To Britain understand I now allude,
A land quite famous for its gratitude;
Whose noble, gen'rous sons' enlight'ned name
From pole to pole has now acquired fame.

Ere I appear'd great Pompey was undone,
King Ptolemy, and Mithridates' son,
By my illustrious sire; who overthrew
Juba, the King of Mauritania, too,
Afrania, Sylla, and their wretched crew; }
'Mong whom was Cato, who, with monstrous rage,
Tore his own bowels out to quit life's stage.

When these achievements of my sire were o'er,
And he return'd to grace his native shore,
He gave me birth (an action most sublime !)
To rectify the sad abuse of time;
Which added lustre to his former fame—
And I retain part of his glorious name.

Now, as my birth-place and my birth you know,
Some recent hints to find me out I'll shew:
Thro' a long series of revolving years,
That I've maintain'd my course quite plain appears.
My virtues universally extend,
On which the affairs of kingdoms much depend.

Unseen I in the gloom of midnight come,
Likewise depart—which is well known to some

Sagacious

Sagacious wights, who can the mysteries
 Of heav'n and earth develope at their ease.
 These mystagogues my heralds are ; they do
 Promulge my coming all the nation thro' ;
 By which fam'd oracles and prophecies
 An impost doth to government arise.

I to desponding females vigour give,
 Tho' but a temp'rary restorative ;
 So they my visits, which are fix'd as fate,
 With fond ideas oft anticipate ;
 During my stay such whims possess their mind,
 That bashful lovers strange attacks oft find ;
 If in these gambols they, by word or deed,
 The bounds of modesty chance to exceed,
 And for it either meet reproach or shame,
 Then I'm declar'd a sanction for the same.

Ah ! be advis'd for once, unwary fair !
 Of custom's injudicious laws beware,
 Ere you by them are drawn into a snare. }
 Left when that I (which soon will be) am gone, }
 Finding yourselves by folly quite undone, }
 You curse your fate, your folly, and your fun, }
 Which Heaven avert ; and so dear friends, therefore,
 Strictly attend to my hortative lore.

Surely none now can want another clue,
 I must be jogging on—and so, adieu.



†*† A. B. of Wellington, and several other correspondents have informed us, that the Ode to Wisdom, sent by a person who called himself Theocritus, is a mutilated copy of a poem, written in 1748, by an ingenious lady now deceased. We wish to caution Theocritus, as well as others, against a similar conduct, not only as reflecting disgrace upon themselves, but also as a means of preventing the insertion of any other article that comes from the same correspondent.

* * * The list of premiums which Mr. Portbury, of Honiton Glist, wishes should be inserted, would be interesting, we apprehend, to very few of our readers, and therefore cannot have a place.

†§† Dr. Franklin's Way to Wealth will be inserted the first convenient opportunity.

||† The Petition respecting Almes Ali Cawn would probably give offence, and its insertion cannot answer any material purpose.

P O E T R Y.

*An occasional Prologue, spoken to the dramatic Poem of
Caractacus, performed by the young Gentlemen of
Mr. Weatherdon's Boarding-School, in Newton-Abbot,
on Friday, December 2, 1791.*

AS various faces in this group we see,
Not even two that perfectly agree,
So various minds possess the human frame,
And some commend the things which others blame;
Averse to entertainments, some despise
Whate'er the stage presents, or can devise;
But tho' a few reject the drama's laws,
Others there are who patronize its cause;
Some (great and good) who such true zeal have shown
They've theatres erected of their own,
In which they oft the sock and buskin use,
And with the mimic art themselves amuse;
Exchanging scenes where vice bears horrid sway
For those which virtue's brightest charms display.
Why may not we then, by example fir'd,
And with the love of virtue too inspir'd,
To this small theatre transform our school,
And try to imitate dramatic rule?
The stage sure cannot wound a parent's heart—
Cards, dice, and EO point the cruel dart;
No heir can be by theatres undone,
Estates by diff'rent plays are lost or won.
The true and sole intention of the stage
Is, not to vitiate, but improve the age;
It holds no portraits to our view in vain,
They all instruct as well as entertain;
It shews all characters to let us see,
What we ought not, and what we ought to be.
But yet the actor's path is hard to tread—
Unhappy they who seek that path for bread!

Should

Should any ask why we such courses take?
 We boldly answer "for improvement's sake;"
 To speak with freedom, dignity, and ease,
 To practise arts that may hereafter please;
 To raise good manners to what height we can,
 And learn those graces which adorn the man:
 Besides—a nobler end is still behind,
 The poet's labours elevate the mind;
 Teach our young hearts with gen'rous fire to burn,
 And feel the virtuous sentiments we learn.

Our play to night appears in ancient taste,
 Void of buffoonery, and strictly chaste;
 Divested of each tinsel scenic yoke,
 Sublimely grave, as Mona's groves of oak;
 The theme is British freedom; long secur'd
 By brave Caractacus, who last endur'd,
 With British courage, Rome's assailing bands,
 Till treachery yielded him to Cæsar's* hands.

Ye friends, who aided gen'rously our cause,
 And cheer'd our youthful bosoms with applause,
 When first we ventur'd on these boards to stalk,
 In tragic dignity of mien and walk;
 When Hamlet dar'd in frantic mood to rave,
 And pour'd his grief o'er poor Ophelia's grave;
 Second, when Julius, with ambition fir'd,
 By Brutus' sword inglorious here expir'd;
 And Roman chiefs on our Philippi's plain,
 Untimely fell, thro' civil discord slain;
 We once again your kind indulgence ask,
 Whilst we to night perform our heavy task!
 And let not harsh severity deride
 These early efforts of ingenuous pride:
 We'll do our best; our merits fairly try;
 Who bravely struggle, cannot basely die;
 If we deserve then, let your praise be found,
 And with fresh laurels let our heads be crown'd.

* Claudius Cæsar.

SONNET *to the* RED - BREAST.

WHEN that the fields put on their gay attire,
 Thou silent sitt'st near brake or river's brim,
 Whilst

Whilst the gay thrush sings loud from covert dim;
 But when pale winter lights the social fire,
 And meads with slime are sprent, and ways with mire,
 Thou charm'st us with thy sweet and solemn hymn
 From battlement, or barn, or hay-stack trim;
 And now not seldom tun'st, as if for hire,

Thy thrilling pipe to me, waiting to catch
 The pittance due to thy well-warbled song;
 Sweet bird! sing on; for oft near lonely hatch,
 Like thee, myself have pleas'd the rustic throng,

And oft for entrance 'neath the peaceful thatch,
 Full many a tale have told and ditty long.

*Verses in Honour of the celebrated Mr. James Thomson,
 Author of "The Seasons."*

By MR. BURNS, the Scotch Poet.

WHILE virgin Spring, by Eden's flood,
 Unfolds her tender mantle green,
 Or pranks the sod in frolic mood,
 Or tunes Eolian strains between.

While Summer, with a matron grace,
 Retreats to Dryburgh's cooling shade,
 Yet oft, delighted, stops to trace
 The progress of the spiky blade.

While Autumn, benefactor kind,
 By Tweed erects his aged head,
 And sees, with self-approving mind,
 Each creature on his bounty fed.

While maniac Winter rages o'er
 The hills whence classic Yarrow flows,
 Rousing the turbid torrents roar,
 Or sweeping wild a waste of snows.

So long, sweet poet of the year,
 Shall bloom that wreath thou well hast won;
 While Scotia, with exulting tear,
 Proclaims that Thomson was her son.