

THE
WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, December 17, 1792.

INTERESTING TRIALS.

COURT of KING'S BENCH.

FRIDAY, November 23.

THIS day came on before Lord Kenyon an interesting cause, the circumstances of which were these: A man who was single, made his will, and some time after married; and when he discovered that his wife was pregnant, he signified his intention of changing his will, and of leaving his estate to his wife and her heirs. Accordingly he gave instructions for that purpose to his attorney; but before another will was made agreeably to these instructions, and before his wife was delivered of a child, the testator died.

The question for the decision of the Court was, whether this amounted to a revocation of the will?

This case was argued by Mr. Law on the one side, who contended that it did operate by way of revocation, and by Mr. Chambre on the other, who argued that it did not.

Lord Kenyon observed, that he had been anxious to collect all the intelligence possible on this subject. It was a question of very great importance, as it might affect a considerable part of the property of this kingdom. By the civil law *Qui in utero sunt, jam pro natis habentur, quoties de eorum commodo agatur*. This had been incorporated into the English law, and he was very glad that it had; because otherwise those who were only the secondary objects of a man's bounty, might be preferred to

his own immediate issue. His Lordship laid down this general proposition:—That subsequent marriage and the birth of a child amounted to the revocation of the will of the testator. This he took for granted, and here he wished to take his stand in considering the particular circumstances of this case. The single question here was, whether we had incorporated the rule of the civil law on this subject into our law, namely, that a child in *ventre sa mere*, was in the same situation as a child actually born? and which consequently would revoke the will of the father.

This was clearly the rule of the Roman law, and his Lordship read the observations of Vinnius upon it, who clearly held this to be the law, that if a wife was with child at the death of her husband, and a posthumous child was actually born, *rumpitur testamentum*.—This, his Lordship said, seemed to confirm the idea that this did not proceed on the intention of the testator, but on a certain tacit condition annexed to the will at the time it was made.—Thus far had the rule of the civil law been adopted by their predecessors, and of course made a part of the law of England. Every argument of natural justice that applied to children that were born, applied equally to those who were about to be born, and who afterwards were actually born. That they would be but precisely on the same footing was agreeable to law, to justice, to common sense, and to every idea upon which the civil and ecclesiastical law of England was founded. This did not invade, but only confirmed former decisions.

The rest of the Court were of the same opinion.

TUESDAY, November 27.

CAUSE was shown against a rule obtained for a *mandamus* against the Magistrates of York, the grounds of which are stated in page 522 of our present volume. The circumstances, shortly, were a complaint of two inn-keepers, alledging, that much more than a proportionate number of soldiers were quartered upon them.

The arguments urged were, that the inns in question had large and commodious stables, fit for the reception of troops; whereas the premises occupied by inferior publicans contained no accommodation whatever.

Mr. Justice Buller remarked, that the Act of Parliament left every thing in this case so much in the discretion of the Magistrates,

Magistrates, that the Court could not, with any propriety, interfere.

Mr. Justice Grose, the only other Judge upon the Bench, concurred in this opinion, and the rule was accordingly discharged.

MONDAY, December 3.

TRIAL AT BAR.

THE Rev. Richard Burgh, Thomas Townly M'Can, James Davis, John Cummings, and John Bourn, were indicted for an attempt to destroy the King's Bench prison.

Mr. Garrow opened the case on the part of the prosecution. He said that the indictment was found by the Grand Jury, and it charged that the defendants were persons confined in the King's Bench prison upon lawful actions brought against them, and being persons of a wicked disposition did endeavour to pull down and demolish part of the wall of that prison to effect the escape of themselves and the other prisoners, and that they did introduce a certain wooden box, containing twenty pounds weight of gunpowder, and put it in a certain secret place, and part of it in the lobby of the prison, with intent to blow up the wall and to effect the escape of themselves and others. To which the defendants had pleaded not guilty.

The Attorney General opened the prosecution for the Crown, and detailed the circumstances of the case. He expatiated on the danger of such attempts as the indictment imputed to the defendants, and lamented that gentlemen of their birth, character, and connections, should pursue steps so inconsistent to order and good government. He said, he hoped that if there were any young persons attending to hear the present trial, who might from dissipation and extravagance impair their fortune, and render themselves unable to pay their debts, they would learn a lesson of prudence from the present trial. He concluded with saying, that if the Jury saw any reason to discriminate between the case of one prisoner and another, they would of course exercise their judgment and discretion upon that subject.

The trial then went on, and it appeared by the evidence for the prosecution, that two plans had been concerted for the escape of the defendants; and also for the escape of the rest of the

prisoners confined in the King's Bench prison. That the first of the schemes was discovered and thwarted; and that a second was concerted by the same parties. The first was to tie the turnkeys in the lobby by those persons on the outside of the prison who were connected with, and who received their instruction from the prisoners within the prison, and then the prisoners were to make their escape. This was defeated in consequence of the information given to the Marshal, and to other officers of government. The next plan was to blow up the prison in a particular manner; powder was to be laid under part of the wall of the prison; this was to be contained in a box, to be laid by the medium of a sewer, which had been then recently opened and repaired. To this box there was to be a train conducted by tubes, artfully contrived for the purpose. By the sides were to be placed wet blankets, to prevent the powder, when the fire should meet it, from exploding on the sides; and to keep the whole of the explosion to the middle under the wall. The box and the tube were produced in Court, and so was part of the powder. The box was stated to be made by a Mr. Webb, a prisoner, who had the benefit of the rules, and who had pretended to be in the plot, and for that purpose attended the meeting of a society (where much of this plan was discussed), called the Convivials. It was brought into the lobby of the prison. The porter asked, as he was instructed, for a person whom he knew was not in the prison, and on being told such a gentleman was not there, he was to beg permission to leave the box until that gentleman came from the Spunging-house. The box being thus brought in, the powder was to be brought in gradually, which being done, meetings and conferences were had upon the subject, and the manner in which the whole was to be carried on was agreed upon. The attention of all the prisoners in the Bench was to be attracted to a sham fight on the parade, just before the explosion was to take place, which was to be at the hour of seven in the afternoon on Sunday, being a day and hour when the greatest number of strangers were in and about the prison, so that in the confusion the escape of all the prisoners would be less difficult. When out, the prisoners were to meet a number of persons from Wapping, who were to be waiting on the outside, and who were to join them. They were to proceed to the Fleet, and to all the prisons in the metropolis, and to enlarge all the prisoners; afterwards they were (some of the witnesses said) to proceed to the houses of Lord Kenyon and Lord Thurlow, demolish them, and then put their Lordships to death, as well

as several Members of the Cabinet, but particularly Mr. Dundas was to be destroyed.

A song describing the misery of imprisonment for debt, &c. was frequently sung by the prisoner, Mr. M'Can, suspected to be his composition, copied by one of the witnesses for the prosecution by the desire of Mr. M'Can. It was produced and read, as was also a note from the Marshal, humanely giving the prisoners caution against transgressing the law, by tumultuary proceedings. There was produced also a contemptuous note, that was posted up on the door of the chapel, by way of answer from the prisoners to this caution. The whole was communicated to the Marshal of the prison, and also to the Secretary of State, by persons who pretended to be in the design and plot (Webb and Battersby), and it was from that circumstance that the plot was discovered.

Mr. Jones, the Marshal, said, that in consequence of some information he had received from Mr. Webb, on Friday evening he determined to search the rooms of the defendants as early as possible on Saturday the 7th of July. He sent different parties into different rooms to search at day-break, and he himself, with two followers, at the same time went into the room occupied by the Rev. Richard Burgh and Mr. Battersby. They were both in bed. Upon searching the room they could not find any thing. He then made them both get out of bed, and on moving Mr. Burgh's bedstead, he perceived a hole in the floor. By his direction, a Richard Neeve put his arm into this hole, and in the presence of the Marshal pulled out two parcels of 4lb. weight each, which turned out to be gunpowder. There was likewise one pound weight found loose by itself. The prisoners were then secured and put into the strong room.

The engineer, in the whole of this case, was said to be Captain Cummings.

All the defendants were said to be men of rank, character, and fortune; and the whole of the case was said to arise from the disappointment which the prisoners in the King's Bench felt, on the throwing out of the bill brought in by Lord Rawdon, "For the Relief of Insolvent Debtors, &c."

It was proved by the evidence on the part of the prosecution that two days before the plan for the blowing up of the prison, Mr. M'Can, one of the defendants, had been desired by the other defendants, at a meeting, to withdraw, while they had a conversation on the plot, & not being deemed prudent to entrust him with the whole of the secrets of the plot.

The

The defendants did not actually behave with violence to any person. The sanguinary expressions respecting the property and lives of the late Chancellor, Lord Kenyon, and other Members of the Cabinet, came from Mr. Davis.

Mr. Rous made a long and able speech for the defendants, in the course of which he admitted the truth of what Mr. Jones and his servant swore; but contended that the other parties swore to purify themselves from the guilt of the whole scene, and therefore no credit was due to their testimony. He made several observations on the hardship of perpetual imprisonment for debt. He called three witnesses, who all proved that Mr. Webb, the first witness for the prosecution, had introduced a friend of his to a company consisting of all the defendants, and other gentlemen who were then prisoners in the King's Bench. His friend, he said, would, for the sum of twenty guineas, get a sufficient number of lumpers (men to subdue the keepers in the lobby, and to enter the prison by force) to effectuate every thing the prisoners wanted. This was reprobated by all the company at the club of the Convivials (of which the defendants were members), and particularly by Captain Patterson, a member of that society. This was adduced as a proof, that the original guilt belonged to Mr. Webb, and that all that had followed, on the part of the defendants, arose from thoughtlessness and indiscretion.

The Attorney General replied to all the observations of Mr. Rous.

Lord Kenyon summed up the evidence.

The Jury withdrew, and remained for a quarter of an hour, and then returned, finding all the defendants guilty. The defendants then immediately retired, and were of course conducted to Newgate.

The judgment to be pronounced upon them will be the business of a future day.

This trial lasted six hours, and we do not believe the Court of King's Bench and its avenues were so much crowded with people since the trial of Lord George Gordon.

TUESDAY, December 4.

DAVIS *against* RIDDELL.

THE plaintiff is proprietor of the Morning Post. The defendant keeps a livery stable, and lets out post horses. The

The action in trover was for the recovery of the plaintiff's cane.

It appeared in evidence that Mr. Davis, in company with another gentleman, in passing through Hyde Park in a chaise, dropped his cane it; was picked up by the defendant, who when he came up to the plaintiff, requested a shilling for taking care of it, at the same time making use of shameful language to the plaintiff, and refusing to deliver up the cane.

It was attempted on the part of the defendant to be proved that it was not a cane but a common stick. This was overruled. It was then said, that such an action ought not to be encouraged.

Lord Kenyon said he saw no reason why it should be discouraged.

Verdict for the plaintiff, damages 1s. which in this case carries costs, so that the detaining of this cane, may cost the defendant 30l.

JOHNSON *against* CRAMP.

THIS was an action brought by the plaintiff against the defendant for rent.

It appeared that the defendant had taken a small house of the plaintiff for the purpose of insuring tickets in the lottery.

Lord Kenyon was of opinion that a landlord cannot recover rent if he lets his house for the purpose of insurance in the lottery, as the contract was illegal.

The plaintiff was nonsuited.

AN ANECDOTE.

AMONG some unfavourable traits in the character of the celebrated Danish astronomer, Tycho Brahe, were his attachment to judicial astrology, his credulity and superstition, and the moroseness of his temper. But who can be fond to dwell upon the imperfections of those great men, whose studies and whose labours have enriched society? If we turn to the brighter parts of his character, we must assent (and we assent with pleasure) and to the truth of the following eulogium given by his panegyrist; "that to him his studies were life; meditation his delight; science riches; virtue nobility; and religion his constant direction."—And in a natural conformity to such

such an exalted character was the illustrious close of a useful and illustrious life: "The immediate cause of his decease," says Mr. Coxe, "was a strangury, which being attended with the most excruciating torments, brought on a violent fever and a temporary delirium; in the midst of which he was heard repeatedly to cry out, '*Ne frustra vixisse videar*. That I may not seem to have lived in vain.'" His delirium at length subsiding he became calm and composed, and perfectly sensible.—Being extremely debilitated by the violence of his disorder, he perceived that he had not many hours to live. Accordingly he gave orders with the utmost coolness and resignation; even amused himself with composing an extempore copy of verses; sung various hymns; offered up prayers and supplications to the Supreme Being; recommended to his family and friends piety and resignation to the divine will; exhorted his pupils to persevere in their studies; and conversed with Kepler on the most abstruse parts of astronomy. Thus amid prayers, exhortations, and literary conversation, he expired so peaceably, that he was neither heard nor seen, by any of those who were present, to breathe his last. He died in October 1601, in the 55th year of his age.

The UTILITY of GREAT EATERS.

To the P R I N T E R.

S I R,

I Have the pleasure, or the misfortune (call it which you please) of having a most voracious appetite. Many have boasted of their extraordinary performances in the science of eating, but I have never yet heard of a man who could come within a pound or two of my mark. Much has been said of the divine Handel, so much celebrated all over Europe for musical compositions, and his great talents at the table; but he was a mere piddler compared to me.

I have heard a story related, with extravagant encomiums on that gentleman's digestive abilities, for only swallowing a very moderate portion of fish and flesh: the particulars are handed down to us:—It was Mr. Handel's usual custom, when engaged to dine out with any nobleman or gentleman, to take a little of something by way of refreshment, and to operate as a damper; that he might not display his vast powers as a gormandiser among people of puny appetites. For one of these previous dinners, or dampers, he ordered at the Crown and Anchor Ta-

vern

vern a dozen large mackarel, a duck, and two roasted chickens. One of the waiters, judging from the quantity of victuals ordered, what number of people would probably be expected to dine, laid the cloth, and furnished the table with eight plates, &c. Mr. Handel arrived punctually at the hour he had named for the appearance of his repast, and was informed that none of the company were come, but himself, the landlord therefore humbly suggested to him that the dinner might be kept back, till some more of the company dropped in. "Company," exclaimed the dealer in harmony, "What company?—I ordered these few articles by way of relish for myself, and I must beg to be excused from the intrusion of any company whatsoever!"

The *twelve* mackarel were first introduced, and Mr. Handel paid his devoir to each of them. He swallowed every one of them with the expedition of a real artist, and seemed almost equal to the task of swallowing the *twelve* judges. The skeletons of the fish being then removed, in came the duck and the two chickens: the bones of all these were picked with great dexterity; the bill was called, and discharged, and after that the poor gentleman fasted for almost an hour and a quarter, when he repaired to the house of Lord H——n, to complete the dinner which he had began at the Crown and Anchor.

This story is mentioned, Sir, as a *chef d'œuvre* of that great man, as one of his most wonderful exploits; but I see nothing in it that can excite astonishment or surprize. I have the vanity to think, that Handel, were he now living, would not be able to cope with me in the exercise of eating. Thomson, the author of the Seasons, has some celebrity as an eater. He swallowed, at Dolly's Beef-steak-house, for a considerable wager, three solid pounds of beef, after having eaten a very hearty dinner.—This anecdote I gathered from Guthrie, the historian, who assured me he was present when the deed was done. But this is moderate eating, compared to what I have done: I know a city printer who could accomplish a greater task than that.

I flatter myself that few, very few, can vie with me in the voracious line. I am well known in all the ordinaries in and about London, Westminster, and her environs, but am no longer admitted in them as a guest. Most of the keepers of these periodical hotels have bought me off, knowing they could not otherwise refuse me admittance; for, at an ordinary no exceptions can be taken to particular persons, the invitation over the door being always general.

Many a landlord has beheld me, with tears in his eyes, making intolerable havock on a ham and a fillet of veal; others have seen me cut up a quarter of lamb, and serve myself with the shoulder, besides helping myself with a proportionable share of all the other joints, geese, pies, tarts, and puddings. No man could lay out his money in eatables with more œconomy than I did: I have often had, to my own share, what could not not have been purchased for 15s. for 1s. 6d. Sometimes, indeed, I felt some compunctions of conscience, and contented myself with half a meal, which perhaps was not intrinsically worth more than half a guinea.

At length, proposals of accommodation were made to me, from all quarters, and I now receive from 150 landlords the sum of two guineas each per annum, on condition that I never open my mouth again in any of their dining-rooms. Exclusive of these emoluments, I frequently discover new ordinaries, and embrace the first opportunity of introducing myself. My abilities as a devourer are soon discovered and lamented; overtures are made to me, my usual terms agreed on, and I add another annuitant to my list.

If you think it will afford any amusement to your readers, I can furnish you with an alphabetical list of all the great eaters in the kingdom; it would enable fishmongers, poulterers, butchers, &c. to know who were their best friends. Without such useful people, to keep up the price of provisions, the farmers would not be able to pay their landlords, as there would then be too great a plenty of viands, and too great a scarcity of purchasers.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

A. B.

Swallow-street, Nov. 20, 1792.

To the P R I N T E R.

S I R,

I Was much pleased to see that most elegant, admirable, and, at this time, most useful composition, Sir Wm. Ashhurst's Charge to the Grand Jury of Middlesex, inserted in your Weekly Entertainer on Monday last.—Such productions as this cannot fail to have a tendency highly beneficial to society at so critical a period as the present; for I am convinced the great majority of the nation is as well attached to our happy constitution,

constitution, as at any time whatever, and that the few discontented only require to be appealed to, through the medium of such rational and just addresses as the charge above-mentioned, which does honour to the head and heart of the honourable Judge who delivered it.

The considerations entered into and agreed upon by the Association for preserving Liberty and Property, at the Crown and Anchor Tavern, November 20, 1792, I consider as a publication highly meritorious, and extremely useful, and well worthy a place in your periodical work.

As such, I doubt not you will favour the public with as early an insertion of it as you can, which will oblige a constant reader and admirer of your weekly labours,

B. J.

Taunton, December 8, 1792.

Considerations and Resolutions entered into and agreed upon, at a Meeting of Gentlemen associated for preserving Liberty and Property against Republicans and Levellers, at the Crown and Anchor Tavern, on the 20th of November, 1792.

CONSIDERING the danger to which the public peace and order are exposed by the circulating of mischievous opinions, founded upon plausible but false reasoning; and that this circulation is principally carried on by the industry of clubs and societies of various denominations in many parts of the kingdom: It appears to us, that it is now become the duty of all persons who wish well to their native country, to endeavour, in their several neighbourhoods, to prevent the sad effects of such mischievous industry; and that it would greatly tend to promote these good endeavours, if societies were formed in different parts of the kingdom, whose object should be to support the laws, to suppress seditious publications, and to defend our persons and property against the innovations and depredations that seem to be threatened by those who maintain the mischievous opinions before alluded to.

These opinions are conveyed in the terms—the rights of man—liberty and equality—no King—no Parliament—and others of the like import; all of them, in the sense imposed on them, expressing sentiments in direct opposition to the laws

of the land ; and some of them such as are inconsistent with the well-being of society under any laws whatsoever.

It appears to us, the tendency of these opinions is, that we are voluntarily to surrender every thing we now possess ; our religion and our laws ; our civil government and civil society ; and that we are to trust to the formation of something new, upon the principles of equality, and under the auspices of speculative men, who have conceived ideas of perfection that never yet were known in the world : and it appears that the missionaries of this sect are aiming at the effecting the overthrow of the present system of government and society, by infusing into the minds of ignorant men causes of discontent adapted to their various stations ; some of which causes are wholly imaginary, and the rest are such as inseparably belong to civil life ; have existed and ever will exist, under all forms of government ; cannot be removed by any change, and will be aggravated and multiplied, a hundredfold, by the change proposed.

It appears from history and observation, that the inequality of rank and fortune in this happy country is more the result of every man's own exertions, than of any controuling institution of the State. Men become great, who have greatly distinguished themselves by the application of talents natural or acquired. Men become rich, who have persevered with industry in the application of trade and commerce, to manufactures, and other useful employment. How many persons now of rank and fortune, who were born without either ! How many rich merchants and traders who began their career in the lowest employments of the shop and counting-house !

In the progress of this advancement they have all, in their stations, contributed their share toward the show of opulence, both public and private, which is to be seen in every part of this island. It is by the effects of this industry, that the gentleman is enabled to support his rank and station ; and the merchant and tradesman to employ his clerks, journeymen, and apprentices. Hence comes the price of the farmer's corn, and the wages of servants of every description. By this happy inequality, and dependance of one man on another, employment is found for all, in their several vocations to which they have been called by design or accident. This inequality and dependance is so infinitely diversified in this country, that there is no place upon earth where there are so many ways, in which a man by his talents and industry may raise himself above his equals.— This has hitherto been thought a pre-eminent happiness that

was peculiar to ourselves, and ought to be cherished : it has been ascribed to the protecting influence which property has enjoyed under equal laws ; and it has increased of late years in a wonderful degree, by the prosperity which was caused, and can only be continued by the same influence.

We are, upon the fullest deliberation, of opinion, that proposing to pull down this goodly fabric, which has been gradually reared by the successive virtue and industry of all the great and good men who have lived in this island for centuries, and to submit to begin afresh upon a new system of equality, as it is called, seems a proposition that can be suggested only by the most undisguised wickedness, and entertained by the grossest folly.

Because, if so wild a plan was to be carried into execution, and all men were made equal, they would from that moment begin to struggle, who should first rise above his equals ; and it is beyond all question, if there was industry, or any virtue ; if there was peace, and public prosperity ; if there was private happiness and public, in such new-formed society, there would gradually arise an inequality of rank and fortune.

We foresee, from recent experiment in a neighbouring country, that in the operation of bringing to pass such a transition, the lives and properties of all persons in this island would be exposed to the arbitrary disposal of self-opinionated philosophers, and a wild and needy mob, deluded and instigated by them ; that with the introduction of equality in rank and fortune, an expectation would be raised in the lower orders, which must be gratified with plunder, and afterwards would sink into a state of disappointment and abject poverty. When all were equalized, there would no longer be a superfluity to pay the hire of servants, or purchase the productions of art or manufacture ; no commerce, no credit ; no resource for the active, but in robbery, and in all those public disorders which make life miserable. Thus would the present generation be certainly ruined ; that which is to follow could not propose to itself a remedy, but in pursuing the same arts of peace which had been so capriciously abandoned ; and the more they prospered in that pursuit, the more they would contribute to reproduce the inequality which had been before condemned and exploded.—Where then are the blessings of this reform, and to what purpose is misery to be brought on the present generation ?

It is with grief that we see in a neighbouring country the carrying into practice of this wild doctrine of equality and the rights

rights of man, has already produced these evils, and others ten thousand times greater. It is not yet publicly known, nor can it enter into the gentle heart of a Briton to conceive, the number of atrocious crimes against God and man, that have been committed in support of these opinions. Murders and assassinations have been deliberately planned, and justified by some of these pretended philosophers, as the means to attain their ends of reform. With all their pretences and promises, they have proceeded to violate every right, civil and natural, that should have been observed towards their equals;—the people, who have only changed their masters, groan under new tyrannies of which they never heard or dreamed; and are subjected to the chastisement of one desperate leader after another. The excesses of these ruffian demagogues have no bounds; they have already surpassed the wildest phrenzies of fanaticism, superstition, and enthusiasm; plundering and murdering at home, and propagating their opinions by the sword in foreign countries;—imposture, fallacy, falsehood, and bloodshed;—their philosophy is the idle talk of schoolboys; and their actions are the savage ferociousness of wild beasts.

Such are the new lights and the false philosophy of our pretended reformers; and such the effects they have produced where, alone, they have unfortunately been tried. But however these poor pretences may have imposed on the understandings of men, in a neighbouring country, bred in ignorance, oppression, and poverty, they can have no influence on the good sense and gravity of Britons, who have been used to the enjoyment of true liberty, and every day feel the blessings of abundance derived from a productive industry, protected by equal laws and a free Government. It is well known, that those who are virtuous and honest have many more means of acquiring ease and comfort, wealth and distinction, and in a superior degree, in this country than in any other;—it is well known, that we already possess, and have long possessed, really and truly that which the pretended reformers would persuade ignorant people they alone can bestow. It has been the pride of Britons to boast of their liberty and property; and although these visionary reformers have chosen to substitute the notion of equality in the place of the latter, it is trusted there are enough who know too well the value of their property, acquired under the influence of true liberty, to surrender it in exchange for an empty name. It is well known, and we feel it daily, that we have as much of these pretended new inventions, as is necessary and convenient for a well-ordered society.

Every

Every one has all the rights of man that leave him at liberty to do good to himself and his neighbour, and (what is worth considering) to protect his person and property against open or secret plunderers. He has as much of equality as one man can possess without diminishing the equality of his neighbour. We are told by our religion (for we have a religion), that we are to do unto all men as we would that men should do unto us, and this is realized to us by the firm administration of the law; which suffers no injury to go without a remedy, and affords a remedy equally to the proudest and the poorest.

Such are the rights of man; such the liberty and equality which we have long enjoyed; under these we have lived and prospered, both in public and private, beyond the example of any country; and to maintain them, as they are, unimpaired by the fancies of pedant-politicians, or the rude hands of ruffian levellers, every true Briton ought to shed his blood.

Impressed with these sentiments in favour of our happy establishment, and alarmed by the mischievous endeavours, that are now using by wicked men, to mislead the uninformed, and to spirit up the discontented by furnishing them with plausible topics, tending to the subversion of the State, and incompatible with all government whatsoever:

We do, as private men, unconnected with any party or description of persons at home, taking no concern in the struggles at this moment making abroad, but most seriously anxious to preserve the true liberty, and unexampled prosperity we happily enjoy in this kingdom, think it expedient and necessary to form ourselves into an association for the purpose of discouraging, in every way that lies in our power, the progress of such nefarious designs as are meditated by the wicked and senseless reformers of the present time; and we do hereby resolve and declare as follows:

First.—That the persons present at this meeting do become a society for discouraging and suppressing seditious publications, tending to disturb the peace of this kingdom; and for supporting a due execution of the laws made for the protection of persons and property.

Secondly.—That this society do use its best endeavours occasionally to explain those topics of public discussion which have been so perverted by evil-designing men; and to show, by irrefragable proof, that they are not applicable to the state of this country, that they can produce no good, and certainly must produce great evil.

Thirdly.

Thirdly.—That this society will receive, with great thanks all communications that shall be made to it for the above purposes.

Fourthly.—That it be recommended to all those, who are friends to the established law, and to peaceable society, to form themselves in their different neighbourhoods, into similar societies for promoting the same laudable purposes.

Fifthly.—That this society do meet at this place or elsewhere every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

Sixthly.—That these considerations and resolutions be printed in all the public papers, and otherwise circulated into all parts of the kingdom.

AN ANECDOTE.

ONE of the greatest instances of magnanimity in a dying hero, was exhibited in the execution of the unfortunate Count Brandt, at Copenhagen, on the 28th of March 1772. This nobleman, and his fellow-sufferer, Count Struensee, were conducted to the fatal spot in two separate carriages, through an immense concourse of people, assembled to see the execution. They arrived at the place of execution about eleven. Brandt first alighted, and mounted the scaffold with a slow step and undaunted mien. He heard his sentence read, and saw his coat of arms torn, without expressing the least emotion. He then prayed for a few minutes, and spoke a few words to the people. When the executioner approached to assist him, he said to him with firmness, yet not without mildness, “Stand off, and do not presume to touch me.” Without any assistance he pulled off his pelisse, and prepared for his fate. He first stretched out his hand, and bade the executioner do his duty, without shrinking from the blow: It was struck off, and his head was severed from his body almost in the same instant. His body was then quartered.

But what a striking contrast to this heroic deportment was the behaviour of Struensee, who, during this dreadful scene, was at the bottom of the scaffold, anxiously expecting and dreading his own fate. His whole frame trembled when he saw Brandt's blood gushing from the scaffold; and he was so agitated, that he could not walk up the steps without help. He said nothing, and permitted the executioner to assist him in taking off his cloak. Instead of imitating the courage and serenity of his fellow sufferer, he started up several times from the

the block, before he could prevail upon himself to give the signal, drew back his hand, and was shockingly maimed before it was cut off, and was at last held down by force while the executioner beheaded him.

AN ANECDOTE.

THE father of the illustrious Dr. Franklin, Josiah Franklin, settled in England in 1682, and his mother, Abiah Folger, was the daughter of Peter Folger, of Nantucket, one of the first settlers of that country.

The account of his arrival at Philadelphia, as drawn up by the accurate and elegant compilers of his life in that valuable work, the Universal Asylum and Columbian Magazine, published by William Young, in Philadelphia, is as follows:—
“After a passage of three days, he arrived from Boston at New-York, and immediately applied to William Bradford, the printer of that place (who was the first printer in Pennsylvania), who could give him no employment, but advised him to go to Philadelphia, to his son, Andrew Bradford. From New-York to Philadelphia Franklin travelled, partly by water, and 50 miles by land on foot, through rain and dirt, suspected and in danger of being taken into custody as a runaway servant. On a Sunday morning, between eight and nine o’clock, he landed at Market-street-wharf, in a very dirty condition, in the clothes in which he had travelled from New-York, weary and hungry, having been without rest and food for some time, a perfect stranger to every body, and his whole stock of cash consisting of a Dutch dollar. Such was the entry of Benjamin Franklin into Philadelphia. From such beginnings did he rise to the highest eminence and respectability, not only in America, but amongst all civilised nations.”

TRANSLATION of GRAY’S ELEGY.

By Mr. PERCEVAL.

Concluded from Page 555.

“UN funebre convoi vint dès le jour suivant,
“Deposer à nos yeux son corps au timetiere;
“Sous cet arbusse antique, avance et lis, passant,
“Les vers que la pitié lui grava sur la pierre.”

E P I T A P H E.

*Ci-gît qui loin des cours, des biens et d's honneurs
Parcourut humblement le trajet de la vie ;
La science envers lui prodigue de faveurs
Voua son existence à la mélancolie.*

*Tendre, compatissant, ami du malheureux,
Il soulageoit sa peine, il plaignoit sa misère,
Trop pauvre pour l'aider, pour lui formoit des vœux ;
Le ciel pour récompense exauca sa prière.*

*Garde toi de troubler davantage, O mortel,
Ses vices, ses vertus, en leur séjour immense ;
Là dans l'auguste sein de son père éternel
Il repose en tremblant de crainte et d'espérance.*

Sherborne Grammar School.

Short Character of the Sicilians.

[From Hill's Travels through Sicily and Calabria.]

THE Chevalier O'Hara, het Russian Consul, who resided here five years, has given us such a description of Sicily, that we by no means regret that we are about to leave it. The occasional remarks that I have made from time to time, are sufficient to shew, that little of that comfort which we experience in England is felt here. Among the higher classes, there is little domestic happiness, no hospitality, and hardly such a thing as friendship known. External parade is what they chiefly regard ; and the *principe* and *principeffa*, who place half a dozen laced footmen behind a gaudy carriage, live in dirty houses, almost unfurnished, and rarely receive friends or strangers to their tables. The servants, though fine, are almost without necessaries. The liveries are not their own, and they have but about 7d. a day to provide themselves with meat, drink, linen, &c. This, at least, is the Chevalier's account of the Messinese ; but one of our countrymen, who lately spent some months at Palermo, speaks in high terms of the kindness and hospitality with which he was there received ; and could we have prolonged our stay at that place, I doubt not but we should have experienced the truth of his assertion.

Beef, mutton, and veal, are hardly ever to be met with, except in Palermo, Catania, and Messina, and even there, are all but

but very indifferent. The pork, indeed, is now excellent, though it may be far otherwise in the heat of summer. We have also fine garden-stuff; but the Chevalier is persuaded, that what they have in Russia is far better; "the heat (says he, in summing up his miseries) has killed my wife and two children; and there is not a bit of tea or butter to be had." However, all the inhabitants of Messina are not deficient in hospitality, as we have this day had ample proof, by being invited by our banker, Signor Gregorio Faroe, to a very good and plentiful entertainment.

Curious INSTANCE of DIVORCE.

THE new law of divorce by mutual consent has produced in France some very curious effects: Not one of the writers who foretold its consequences anticipated any instance so curious as the following:

A young woman, an orphan, aged 17, and very rich, had been married about five years to a young man without fortune. They had lived in the most perfect happiness, and it was with the utmost astonishment that their neighbours and friends heard of their intending, by mutual agreement, to take advantage of the new law; but their surprize was still greater, when, two or three days after, they saw them married to each other again.

The reason of this was—that their first union being a love match, the young lady's guardian had consented only upon condition that her whole fortune should be secured to her, so that her husband could engage in no beneficial industry with the capital. They dissolved the marriage by the new law of divorce, and the lady being thereby made mistress of her fortune by being of age, proved her liberality and gratitude, by making her husband master of her fortune, as he was the source of her happiness.

Answer, by Joseph Applin, of Sturminster Newton, to Sciolus's Question, inserted August 20.

BY an algebraical process x is = 6, y 1, and z 14, the letters of the alphabet corresponding therewith are F, A, and N, which together make FAN, an ornament much used by the fair sex.

* * We have received the like answer from Fidelio, of Bath; J. Crees, J. Savidge, and W. Wilking, all of Ridgway; W. Lewis, of Newnham Park; T. D. of Cross; T. Littleton, of Lostwithiel; S. Hill, Dawlish; J. Pyder, of Marsh Mill, near Plymouth; and W. Davies, of Kenwyn.

Answer, by Isaac Salter, of Payhembury, to J. B. Chivers's Charade, inserted October 8.

YOUR first and second join'd aright
Will plainly bring PADDOCK to fight.

†† We have received the like answer from W. H. of Dean Prior; Fidelio and Curiosus, of Bath; and T. Gill jun, of Stythians.

Answer, by Matthew Barrett junior, of Exeter, to Fidelio's Charade, inserted October 15.

EAR-RINGS do oft adorn the fair,
Which give them a most pleasing air.

†§† We have received the like answer from H. C. Wade, at Chard academy; J. Tucker, Penryn; J. Spry, of Wiveliscombe; T. Walker, Hemyock; W. Hodgson, of Tywardreath; J. B. Chivers, St. Austell; T. C. and J. Cooke, of Grampond; J. C. of Tavistock; W. H. of Dean Prior; S. Hill, Dawlish; W. Brewer, Taunton; T. Gill junior, of Stythians; T. K. of Gulval; R. Cuming junior, near Kingbridge; R. Liscombe, Newton Abbot; and Philagathus, of Dartington.

• A REBUS, by T. K. of Gulval.

A Well-known fish first bring to view;
A large, strong beast you must find too;
A puzzle next must, Sirs, be found;
And then a spicy plant expound;
An insect likewise you'll explore;
And a great King in days of yore;
A rope with care you'll next display;
And then a well-known bird of prey:
All the initials join'd I know,
A town in Cornwall plain will show.

A QUESTION, by *M. Roberts, of Mr. Rowe's School, at Probus.*

ADMIT that Joey bought a coat—
 But in the sequel you must note,
 That Joey's cash went all in cloth,
 And none was left for bread or broth.
 He meant to line it with shalloon,
 But here a crisis happen'd soon—
 Because the cash in cloth was spent,
 Therefore, from it there must be rent
 Sufficient cloth (it spoil'd the vest)
 To buy shalloon to line the rest.
 The cloth indeed was very nice,
 And nineteen shillings* was the price;
 Two yards and half the quantum bought,
 Five quarters wide; but here 'tis fought,
 How much he from the length must sell
 To line the rest complete and well;
 Shalloon three quarters and a nail
 In width, therefore you cannot fail
 To say how much—Besides its worth
 Six groats for ev'ry yard cast forth.

* Nineteen shillings a yard.

A CHARADE, by *Furze Stub, of Long Moor.*

WHERE lolling sycophants their days
 In slumbering idleness do spend,
 My first contributes to their ease,
 And oft the hoary head befriends.

Where dainties grace the tables neat,
 Each craving appetite to still,
 My second's seen amidst the treat,
 And serves the vacancies to fill.

Often my whole in rural sheds
 A feast delicious is for kings;
 Then rouse ye enigmatic lads,
 In praise of it loud peans sing.

P O E T R Y.

T H E B I S H O P ' s W I G ,

A . T . A . L . E .

[From a Cambridge Chronicle lately published.]

HE who in ancient proverbs is well read,
Needs not be told, " Good wine wants not a bush :"
The proverb, tho', applies not to a head :

There, I pronounce, it is not worth a rush :
For as the inward store is small or great,
So is the peruke which contains the pate.

Man is a walking sign-post, on whose top
The sign which notes the inward goods is plac'd ;
And emblematic is the tye or crop

Of that by which the post itself is grac'd.
Thus medicinal virtue is express'd
By horse-hair cauliflower with powder dress'd :

And thus the Judge's legal sapience glows
In a full-bottom's deep descending fall ;
A scanty tye the minor learning shows
Of Barrister parading Rufus' Hall ;
While the brown bob, which comb and curl disclaims,
The crop-ear'd pert Solicitor proclaims.

But chiefly in the sacerdotal band
Is shewn the force of wig subordination,
From the shorn Deacon, when he takes his stand,
Or kneels, with flowing curls, for ordination,
To the trim Priest, whose close compacted caxon
Circles his cheeks as if secur'd by wax on.

Not so the well-fed Canonist, the wight
Who after vergers trundles to his stall,

An ampler bush, luxuriant, stiff, and white,
To rich pluralities denotes his call :
Yet he, in weight and bulk of hair I tween,
Sinks into thought, compar'd to Mr. Dean.

And he tho' loaded with three horses' tails,
Before the Bishop vaunts no more his glory.
Thus, thro' each rank, progression due prevails,
And that at length conducts me to my story.
Wigs are my theme ; attend when I proclaim
The Doctor's prescience, and his barber's fame.

Some time ago, it matters little when,
A reverend Bishop died, and went to Heaven :
Great was the wonder 'mongst the holy men
To whom the vacant mitre should be given :
While some express'd a doubt who it might be,
Says Doctor Consequential to himself—" 'Tis me."

The Doctor's *ipse dixit* was conclusive ;
Some six or seven took him at his word ;
For to dispute it would have been abusive—
He told his wife to practise her " My Lord !"
And, as he felt his honours growing big,
" My dear," said he, "'tis time to make a wig.

" Send for the barber ; 'tis a shame to dally ;
" And this old caxon's such a shapeless thing !
" And as you go pray speak a word to Sally—
" Bid her some specimens of lawn to bring,
" And the best fatten which the shop affords ;
" One must be smart in this same House of Lords."

Madam obeys ; and ere, with due decorum,
The Doctor in his easy chair was planted,
Razor with ready step appear'd before him,
And begg'd to know if ought his reverence wanted.
" Tom," said the Dr. " thinkest thou, thou canst dish up
" A Wig Episcopalian for a Bishop ?"

" Please you, my Lord, says Tom, " your reverence knows
" How well your last peruke your phiz became ;
" It shew'd your jolly cheeks from ear to nose,
" And join'd the Doctor's to the barber's fame ;
" Be mine the task in lordly wig t' in case ye,
" The *ne plus ultra* of episcopacy."

" Thomas,"

"Thomas," quoth *Domine*, "the bargain's made,
 "Quick let thy nimble fingers do their work;
 "With guineas ten thy labours shall be paid,
 "And thanks to boot or else I am a Turk."

Exulting Tom the Doctor's parlour leaves,
 Stretches the caul, and the stiff horse-hair weaves.

Morn after morn to Razor's shop repairing,
 The anxious Doctor strides the work to hasten:
 Here he prescribes, 'twere right to stick some hair in,
 And there an amplitude of friz to baste in.
 While *Domine* his criticism urges,
 The plattic hair into a wig diverges.

But morns bring days, and days are fair or foul:
 Foul was that day, and cloudy was the dawn,
 When *Domine*, with anguish in his soul,
 Heard Doctor Drowsy had received the lawn.
 And as misfortunes never singly come,
 Just at that moment Tom his wig brought home.

"Behold your *Lordship's* caxon," cried the shaver,
 "Soft, silky, curling, like the hair of spinster;
 "Such work, *my Lord*, I speak it under favour,
 "Ne'er grac'd or Amen Corner, or Westminster."
 "Fellow be gone!" replied the grave divine:
 "The mitre's Drowsy's, and the wig is thine.

"Take it to him; he best can pay ten pounds,
 "Whom Pitt prefers to number with the Lords:
 "No Bishop's wig for me; for, blood and ouns!
 "D'ye think my purse to pay such sums affords?
 "Fellow, begone! let Doctor Drowsy wear it;
 "Wife! bring the saline draught—my spirits cannot bear it."

Poor Tonfor discomposed, in wrath retires,
 His work unpaid for, and his hopes abus'd;
 Schemes of revenge his ready wit inspires,
 To vindicate his fame and wig refus'd:
 He sets to work Solicitor and Proctor,
 And turns mean while new batteries on the Doctor.

High on a block the reverend wig he places,
 With apt inscriptions and devices rare:
 Broad grins distort of passers by the faces,
 Who chuckle o'er the Doctor posted there.
 So ends my tale—the barber keeps his wig,
 And Doctor *Domine* remains a gig.