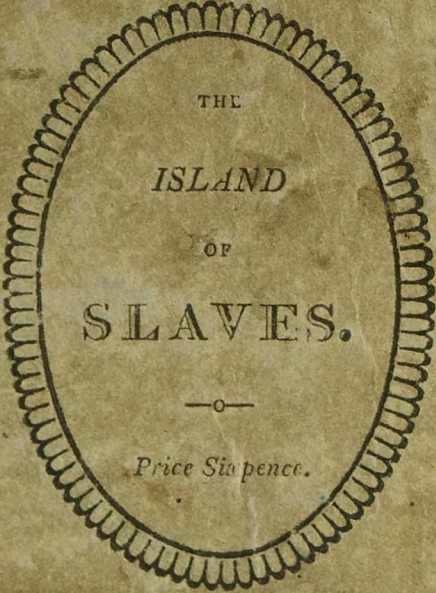


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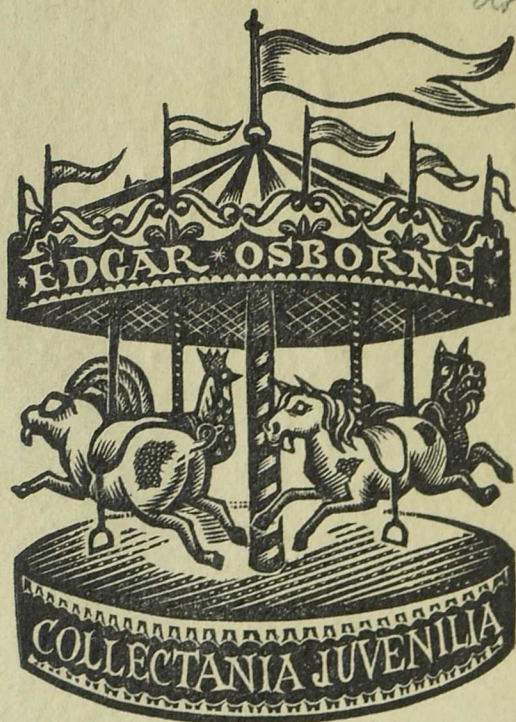


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AND
THE HISTORY
OF
BELLA & MONSTERINA.

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THE HISTORY

OF THE ISLAND.

By
J. M. H. B. S. J. M. H. B. S. J. M. H. B. S.

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THE
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OF
SLAVES.



IN the city of Athens there was a young lady, of a very bad temper, whose name was Eliza. She had a great number of slaves, who had a very wretched time with her; she beat them, she gave them injurious language: and when sensible persons represented to her, that she was quite wrong in her proceedings; her answer was, “ These creatures are made to bear my humours; I bought them for that purpose, and feed and clothe them for the same end; they are even too happy that I find them with bread.” This ill-tempered young lady had a chambermaid, called Mi-

ra, whom she made her drudge, and particularly vented her passion against; she was the best poor creature in the world; she loved her mistress, notwithstanding all her outrageous behaviour; excused her faults as much as she could, and would have laid down her life to bring her mistress to a better temper. Some affair of great concern obliged Eliza to make a short voyage by sea; and as it required haste, and her absence was not to be for a long time, she only took her chambermaid with her. They were scarce got out to sea, when a storm arose, which forced the ship from its due course. After they had wandered at sea ten days, those at the helm descried an island, which they were necessitated to make, not knowing where they were, and being, besides, destitute of all provisions. As they came into the harbour, a boat met them; and those who were in it asked every one in the ship an account of their names, and what they were. The haughty dame ordered all the titles of her family to be wrote down. There was above a page full. She imagined this would command respect, but she was greatly surprised, when they turned their backs to her without the least civility. The surprise was still greater, when her slave having declared her name and

condition, she saw that they treated her with all manner of respect, and told her she was mistress of the ship, and at liberty to command there as she pleased. This provoked Eliza to a great degree. "You are extremely impertinent, (said she to her slave,) to mind what these fellows say." "Hold, madam, (said the master of the boat;) remember you are not at Athens. Be it known to you, that some three hundred slaves, reduced to despair by the barbarous usage they met from their masters, made their escape to this island about three centuries ago. Here they founded a commonwealth, where all are equal; but they have fixed a law to which all must submit, whether they will or not. To shew masters how wrong it is to abuse their servants, they condemn them to be slaves in their turn. Those who obey quietly, may hope to be restored to liberty; but those who refuse to submit to our laws, are slaves for life. You have this day allowed you to fret and bring yourself to bear your unhappy fate; but if you grumble in the least to-morrow, there is an end of all hopes of liberty during life." Eliza made strict use of the leave given her, and broke out into bitter invectives against the island and the inhabitants: but Mira, taking the opportunity of a moment

when no one was by, threw herself at her mistress's feet. "Take courage, madam, (she said,) I will not take any advantage of your misfortune, I will always respect you as my mistress." The poor young woman meant no other; but she was a stranger to the laws of the country. The next day she was brought before the magistrates with her mistress, now her slave. "Mira, (said the chief magistrate,) I must acquaint you with our customs; but take particular notice, if you should fail in observing any one article, the life of your slave Eliza must pay for it. Call to mind her behaviour to you when she was at Athens; you must use her in the same manner for eight whole days. And you must immediately promise, upon oath, that you will do it. After the eight days, you will be at liberty to use her as you think fit. And take notice, Eliza, that the least act of disobedience will continue you a slave the rest of your life." Hereupon Mira and Eliza burst into tears. Mira even threw herself at the magistrate's feet, and begged to be excused from this oath; I shall, (she added,) die with grief if I keep it." "Rise, madam, (replied the magistrate to Mira;) this creature must have treated you in a frightful manner, since you dread the very thought of following her ex-



Mira endeavouring to console Eliza.



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ample: I wish the laws would allow what you ask, but it is impossible: all that I can do is this, I can shorten the trial to four days: You are not allowed to reply; if you say the least word, you shall go through the whole trial." Mira took the oath, and Eliza had notice given her, that her service was to begin the next day. Two women were sent to Mira's house, to take down in writing all her words and actions during the four days. Eliza, seeing there was no help for it, submitted to what she could not avoid, like a sensible young lady; for, though a lofty dame, she had a great share of sense. She took a resolution to be so punctual in her service, that Mira should not find fault with her; she little thought that Mira was to copy all her whims and ill-humours. On the day that her service began, Mira rung her bell in the morning: Eliza had like to have broke her neck, making haste to her mistress, who was still in bed, but to no purpose. "What has this slut been about? (said Mira, with a sharp tone of voice.) Must I always wait a full quarter of an hour, after I ring the bell?" "I assure you, madam, I came immediately on hearing the call." "What! (said Mira,) and argue the case too? Hold your tongue, impertinent saucebox, with all your non-

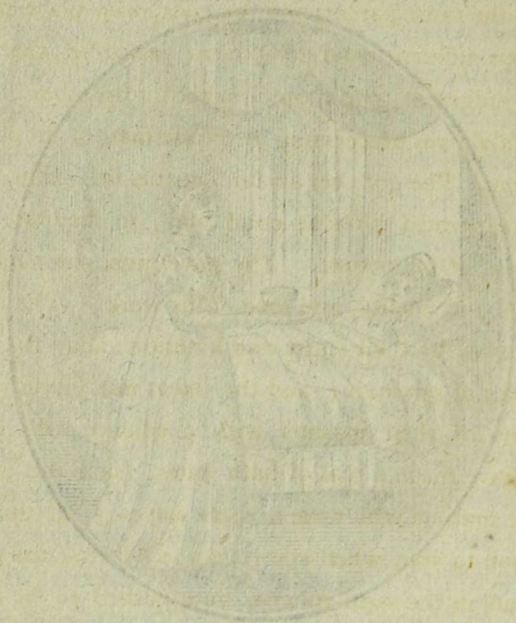
sense: Reach me my gown, I am for rising." Eliza, with a deep-fetched sigh, went for the gown that Mira had on the day before, and brought it. But Mira, throwing it in her face, said, "The creature is quite stupid; she must be told every particular: You might very well have guessed that I would wear my blue gown to-day." Eliza sighed again, but she could say nothing, for she remembered, that Mira, at Athens, must have guessed at all her mistress's whims, to escape a scolding bout. Now her mistress had got her breakfast, Eliza went down to get hers: but she was no sooner sat down, than she heard the bell; this was repeated above ten times in the hour, and it was always for trifles that she was called up. She had left her handkerchief in another room, or the door was to opened for her lap-dog, and other things of the same importance. There was two lofty flight of stairs to be run up and down, insomuch that Eliza was quite spent, and would say to herself; "Poor Mira had much to suffer with me, for this was as regular as her daily bread." At two o'clock madam gave notice that she would go out a visiting, and would have her head dressed. She told Eliza she would have her hair put into large buckle; then she found this made her head

look too big. All this curling was to be undone, and another frisure to take place: this went on till six, when the lady set out. Eliza was forced to stand all this time, and had, besides, all her mistress's ill-natured and harsh behaviour to bear: she was a beast, a clumsy brute, that did not earn the money she cost her mistress. Mira came home about two in the morning; she had supped in town, and was extremely out of humour, having had an ill run at play. This was to be made good by quarrelling with her servant; and, as she undressed her head, Eliza happening to give her hair a little pull, Mira immediately gave her a box on the ear. Here Eliza had like to have lost all patience, but remembered that she had given Mira many more, and resolved to hold her peace. "I shall go out to-morrow at ten o'clock, (said Mira,) and must have my laced head." "Madam, it is not clean, (said the waiting-maid,) and you know it will take five hours to get it up well." "Madam. (said the two women of the Island to Mira,) pray reflect that this poor young woman cannot do without sleep." "It will disorder her much, (said Mira scornfully,) to sit up a whole night; it is her business to do so." "Alas! (thought Eliza,) I have kept her up many a night merely to

gratify my maggots." Mira, during the four days, personated her mistress so well in all her follies, that Eliza saw all the cruelty of her own behaviour, and was convinced, that she had acted like a barbarian with her servant Mira. After the four days were over, the exercise that Eliza had gone through, had so exhausted her that she fell sick. Mira laid her in her bed, brought up her broths, and served her with the same care and attention as she used to do at Athens; but Eliza did not receive these services from her with her former haughtiness; the kindness of her slave made her so ashamed of herself, that she would have freely consented to have been hers all her life, thereby to repair the ill-usage she had given her. I forgot to tell you, that some ladies and gentlemen of Athens, were also taken on board the ship that carried Eliza; but as they were not persons to rank with her, she neither knew, nor thought much of them. At the month's end they were all brought together again. The judges, appointed for that purpose, inquired into their behaviour, and began with asking the mistresses, that were become slaves, how they liked their new condition. They owned, with many a heavy sigh, that it was a great hardship to obey those whom they had a right



Mira's Attention to her sick Mistress.



Miss's Attention to her sick Mother

to command. “ Pray (said the judges) why do you fancy that you have such a right? Has nature made any real difference between you and them? You dare not say it; the slave, the servant, and the master, come from the same parent, and the gods, who place them in their different conditions, never pretended, that, in their judgment, one should be above the other: Virtue only gives precedency in the estimate of the divine wisdom. The gods set a value on this title alone, and have appointed different conditions, to facilitate the exercise of all virtues. The slave must shew his affection and fidelity, and love of his work. The masters must, by their lenity and kindness, allay the difficulties of servitude; and the slaves must return the favours of their masters with obedience and zeal. You have made a trial of both states, (said the judge to the masters who were become slaves;) let this be a lesson to you, when you return to Athens; use your servants in the same manner you wished to be used during your stay here.” The judge then addressed the slaves, who were now masters. “ The law, (said he,) permits, but does not oblige you to set your slaves at liberty: You may keep them here as long as they live, or you may send them back to Athens; and if

you will, you may return with them. All that are willing to restore their former masters to liberty, must write their names in this book." The judge hoped that Mira would have been the first to have set her mistress at liberty, but she remained in her place, as did another woman, and a young man of a most agreeable countenance. The woman was asked, why she did not release her mistress, who was a good sort of an old woman. "Because, (said she,) as I was her slave twenty years, it is but fitting, that I should take my turn for the like number of years. I am tired of serving, and choose the pleasure of continuing mistress a longer time." This slave's name was Belisa. Immediately, the young man, who had so advantageous a physiognomy, and whose name was Zeno, stepped forwards; "I don't come, (said he to the judge,) to sign the instrument of my master's release; he ceased to be a slave the moment I was allowed to use him according to my inclination. I heartily beg his pardon for the ill-usage the law obliged me to give him. That constrained me to repeat part of his former behaviour towards his slave, but I can assure you, that I have suffered more by it than he has. You may send him back to Athens, I am ready to go with him, and,

if he require it, to serve him while I live; and indeed he bought me, I am his property, and I think I cannot, in honour and conscience, take advantage of an accident, which sets me at liberty, without restoring to him what he paid for me." "This young man, (said Mira,) has answered for me; our adventures are alike: Dispatch us, Sir, as soon as you can, to Athens; something within tells me, I shall be happier than formerly, for I am very much mistaken, if my dear mistress, now sensible of the affection I have for her, will not use me with greater kindness than she did before." Eliza interrupted her slave: "If I have not spoken before, (said she to the judge,) it was shame and confusion that hindered me. This poor young woman is worthy to be my mistress while she lives, and I do not even deserve the happiness of being her slave. Hitherto I had thought myself another kind of being, and I was not mistaken: I had title and wealth more than she had, and more pride, with a cruel and harsh disposition; she had the advantage over me of a better heart, more patience, kindness, and generosity. What would have become of me, if she had only been vested with my titles, without her good qualities? I own her superiority over me with pleasure, and withal, I

accept of the liberty I am restored to by her, and thank her for her willingness to return with me to Athens. There it will be in my power to shew my gratitude, by sharing my fortune with her, and esteeming her as a valuable friend, whose advice I am determined to follow, and whose virtues I will endeavour to imitate." Zeno's master, who had said nothing yet, came up in his turn. His name was Zenocrates, and he addressed himself to the judges thus; "I have the same share of confusion with Eliza: like her I have abused a slave greatly superior to me by his noble and exalted manner of thinking; and, with her, I sincerely regret my former behaviour. After her example, I will repair past mistakes by making the condition of Zeno the happiest that can be." The judge then directed his discourse to the whole assembly, and made the following decree.

"The slave who had no compassion for the condition of her old mistress, has the low way of thinking of a slave; whereupon we condemn her to slavery during life; it is the condition which is best suited to the meanness of her heart. At the same time, we recommend to her mistress, not to abuse the authority which she resumes over her, lest she become an ob-

ject of as much contempt as this abject creature. Those who choose to send their masters back to Athens, and to remain here themselves, shall continue here, but in several different conditions. Among them are two, who abused their masters, after the eight days' trial was over; those two shall continue slaves here. For all, that are divested of humanity and compassion, are without those affections, which are so natural to a rational being, and are justly doomed to remain in the lowest of conditions; they are made for it; it is the only rank they deserve. We admit into the number of our fellow citizens, those who used their masters kindly, and as they would wish to be used themselves. The worth of Mira and Zeno is beyond all praise, and all the rewards we can bestow. Were they to continue slaves for life, their sentiments raise them above Kings. Without presuming to decide, we leave their fate to the providence of the gods; let them return to Athens with Zenocrates and Eliza. They deserve to be masters; but whether they be or not, of all mortals they will deserve to be the most respected, and will be an honour to whatever condition is allotted to them by the gods."

Eliza and Zenocrates, before their departure, gave

many thanks to the inhabitants of the island, and assured them, that they would never forget the lessons which they had received among them to behave hereafter with humanity and kindness. Zenocrates and Zeno, in their return to Athens, having opportunities of knowing more particularly the good qualities of Eliza and Mira, fell in love with them. Marriages were respectively proposed to them, and met with a favourable acceptance; they married when they arrived at Athens. But the two faithful slaves, though set at liberty, not being in a mind to quit their masters, were charged by them with the entire management of the house, and discharged their trust with such zeal and fidelity, as may be an example to all, whom Providence has placed in service. Indeed, their masters had always a true regard to their virtue, and treated them more like friends, who deserved all their confidence, affection, and even their respect, than like persons, whom the appointment of Providence had made their subjects.

THE
HISTORY

OF

BELLA & MONSTERINA.

THERE was a Lord, who had two twin-daughters; and they were called by names perfectly suitable. The eldest was very beautiful, and was called *Bella*, and the second, who was very homely, was named *Monsterina*. They were under the care of masters, and, till twelve years of age, they applied themselves duly to their exercises; but then their mo-

ther was guilty of a great indiscretion ; for, without reflecting that the young ladies had still a great deal to learn, she took them to assemblies. As they loved diversions, they were pleased with seeing the world ; this took up all their thoughts, even at the time of their lessons, insomuch, that they grew quite tired of their masters. That they might not learn any more, they found numberless pretexts, sometimes, a birthday, sometimes, an invitation to a ball, at others, an assembly. The whole day was to be spent in dressing, so that cards were perpetually sending to the masters, to desire they would not come. On the other hand, the masters, seeing that the two young ladies did not apply themselves to their learning, grew very indifferent about giving them any farther lessons ; for in that country masters did not give lessons merely for a subsistence, but for the pleasure they took in observing the improvement of their scholars. The masters came but seldom, and the young ladies were not very sorry for it. They led this course of life till they were fifteen, when Bella was grown such a beauty, that she was admired by all that saw her. When the mother brought her daughters into company, all the gentlemen made their court to Bella ; one praised her mouth, ano-





Monsterina in her Father's Library.

ther her eyes, her hand, and her shape; but whilst this profusion of praise was Bella's share, her sister was not so much as thought on. Meanwhile, Monsterina fretted to death for being so ugly, and, in a very short time, was out of conceit with the world and seeing company, where all the respect and preference was given to her sister. She began with wishing never to go out; and one day, that they were invited to an assembly, which was to be concluded with a ball, she told her mother she had the head-ache, and begged to stay at home: she found an extreme uneasiness in being alone; but, to pass the time, she went to find a romance among her mother's books, and was greatly mortified to find the door locked, and that her sister had carried away the key. Her father had a library, but it consisted of serious books, and those she hated. However, necessity has no law, and she took one of the books; it was a collection of letters, and, on opening the book, she met with the following letter, which I will repeat to you.

“ You put this question to me. How comes it that the greatest part of your very handsome women are extremely ignorant and silly? I believe I can account

for it; it is not that they are born with less capacities than others, but because they neglect to cultivate their minds. They are vain, and they desire to please. An ugly woman knows she cannot be loved for her face; this puts her upon distinguishing herself by her wit. Hence she applies herself to books, and in spite of nature becomes agreeable. The beauty, on the contrary, needs only make her appearance to please; her vanity is satisfied; as she never reflects, she does not think that her beauty is only for a season; moreover, she is so taken up with dress, with the care of being at every assembly, to appear with advantage, and to hear herself praised, that she could not find time to cultivate her mind, however convinced she might be, that it was necessary. Thus she becomes a mere fool, taken up with childish tricks, the vain frippery of dress, shews, and sights. This may last to thirty or, at most, forty years of age, if the small-pox, or some other disorder, do not destroy this beauty sooner. When youth is over, the time for learning is past: thus, this young lady once, but now no more a beauty, continues in ignorance all her life long, though nature has given her as great advantages as any other;

whereas, the homely young woman, who now is become very amiable, defies old age and sicknesses, that can take nothing from her."

Monsterina having read this letter, resolved to make her advantage of the truths which it had laid open to her; she sends for her masters to come again, applies herself to reading, makes good reflections on what she reads, and, in a short time, becomes a very valuable woman. When she was to wait on her mother, in the visits she made, she always chose a place near those whom she had observed to be persons of wit and understanding. To these she proposed several questions, and retained the best things she heard from them; she even accustomed herself to write down what was most remarkable that it might not be forgot; and, at seventeen years of age, she spoke and wrote so well, that all persons of merit were pleased to be acquainted with her, and to correspond with her by letters. The two sisters were married the same day: Bella to a charming young Prince, and only twenty-two years of age. Monsterina married the Minister of that Prince, a person of about forty-five years old. He had observed this lady's good sense, and he greatly esteemed her, for indeed her face was not very proper to inspire him with love for the

woman he chose for a wife, and he owned to Monsterina that his passion went no farther than friendship. This was the very thing she wanted; nor did she envy her sister's marrying a Prince, who was so enamoured that he could not be easy without her, and who was always uppermost in his thoughts. Bella was very happy for three months, but, after that, her husband grew accustomed to her beauty, and began to think, that he must not lay every thing aside for a wife; he hunted, and made several parties of pleasure, to which she was not invited; this was very striking to Bella, who fondly thought, that her husband's love to her would continue the same, but now judged herself the most unhappy person in the world, when she saw that his passion abated. She complained; he was vexed; they were friends again; but these complaints being made daily, the Prince was, at last, quite weary of them. Besides, Bella having had a son, grew thin; her beauty was considerably impaired, insomuch, that her husband, who loved nothing in her but that beauty, at last did not love her at all. The grief she was under, completed the ruin of her beauty, and as she was very ignorant, her conversation was very tedious. The young people were tired with her on account



The Two Figures



The Sisters conversing.

of her melancholy; and aged and sensible persons took no pleasure in her company because she was silly; so that, the greatest part of the day, she was alone: what increased her trouble was, to see her sister Monsterina the happiest person in the world. Her husband consulted her in all affairs, intrusted her with all his thoughts, was directed by her advice; and said, in all places, his wife was his best friend; even the Prince, who was a man of wit, delighted in conversing with his sister-in-law, and would say, that he could not pass half an hour in Bella's company without sleeping; she could talk of nothing but dress and attire, which he knew nothing of. His dislike to his wife went so far, that he sent her into the country, where she might mope at leisure, and where she certainly must have died of grief, had not her sister Monsterina been kind enough to visit her as often as she could. One day, that she endeavoured to comfort her, Bella said, "But pray, sister, how comes this difference between you and me? I cannot but see, that you have a great deal of wit, and that I am very ignorant; yet, when we were young, I was said to have, at least, as much wit as yourself." Upon this, Monsterina related her own adventure to her sister: "You are, (says she,) much

displeased with your husband's sending you into the country, and yet what you look upon as the greatest misfortune of your life, may make you happy if you please. You are not quite nineteen; this indeed would be too late for any application if you were among the hurry of a town, but this place of retreat, where you are, leaves you all the leisure that you may want for cultivating your mind; you do not want wit, my dear sister, but you must adorn it by reading, and making proper reflections on what you read." Bella found, at first, very great difficulty in attempting to follow the advice given her by her sister, as she had contracted a very bad habit of spending her time in trifles; but, with a good resolution, and a great deal of constraint to herself, she succeeded, and made a surprising progress in all sciences. As she advanced in improving her understanding, philosophy was a relief in her distress, and she was again come to a good plight of body, and more beautiful than ever; but that she little minded, and did not even look in a glass. Meanwhile, her husband conceived such an aversion to her, that he got his marriage annulled. This last misfortune had like to have overcome her, as she had the tenderest love for her husband, but her sister Monsterina

effectually comforted her, by saying, "Be under no trouble; I have means to recover your husband for you; only follow my advice, and be under no manner of concern." The Prince, having a son by Bella, who was to be his heir, was in no haste to get another wife, and only thought of diversions. He took great delight in conversing with Monsterina, and sometimes said, that he would not think of a second marriage, till he could meet with a woman of as much sense as herself: "But, (answered she with a smile,) what if she was as ugly as myself?" "Madam, (the Prince answered,) that should not stop me a moment; one grows used to an ugly face; yours is no more forbidding, having seen you so often; and, when you speak, I am almost persuaded, that you are pretty. Then, to tell you the truth, Bella has cured me of all Belles. I never meet with one, but I imagine that she is stupid; I dare not speak to them, for fear of a foolish answer." Now the time of the *Carnival was come, and the Prince thought he should be highly delighted, if he could go from ball to ball without being discovered. He communicated this to Monsterina only, and beg-

* Carnival, is a time of great diversion in *Italy*, and several other countries.

ged she would come masked with him. As she was his sister-in-law, no exception could be taken : and though it had been known, it could not have prejudiced her reputation. However, Monsterina asked her husband's leave, who consented, and that so much more willingly, because he had put the Prince upon this frolic, to forward the success of the project he had formed of reconciling him to the Princess. He wrote to this forsaken Princess, jointly with his lady, who, at the same time, let her sister know how the Prince would be dressed. In the midst of the ball, in comes Bella, and places herself between her husband and her sister, and entered upon an extremely agreeable subject of conversation with them. At first, the Prince imagined it was something of his wife's voice, but in a few minutes he dropt all suspicions of that kind. The remainder of the night passed away so fast, as he thought, that at day-break he rubbed his eyes, as if he had been in a dream ; but he continued quite charmed with the unknown lady, whom he could never prevail upon to unmask ; all that he could obtain of her was a promise to come to the next ball in the same dress. The Prince was there early, and, though the unknown lady came only a quarter of an hour

later, he taxed her for coming so late, and protested, under very strong asseverations, that he had been extremely uneasy. He was more taken with the unknown lady the second time than the first; and he fairly owned to Monsterina, that he was enamoured with that lady to a downright degree of folly. "I own, (says his confidant Monsterina,) that she has a very great share of wit, but, if you would have my opinion of the matter, I suspect that she is uglier than I am; she loves you, and she fears she shall lose your heart, when you have seen her face." "Ah, madam! (said the Prince,) could she but see my heart, the love she has inspired me with, is independent of features. I admire her understanding, extensive knowledge, her superior genius, and the goodness of her heart." "But how can you, (says Monsterina,) be a judge of the goodness of her heart?" "I will tell you, (replied the Prince;) when I made her take notice of some handsome ladies, she praised them with all sincerity, and very dexterously pointed out to me other beauties in them, that had escaped me. When I offered, by way of trial, to bring upon the board the scandalous stories that went about of those ladies, she, with great delicacy, gave another turn to the conversation, and inter-

rupted me with some accounts very much to the advantage of those ladies ; and when I was for going on, she stopped my mouth, with telling me, that she could not suffer detraction. You see clearly, madam, that such a woman, who is not envious of another's beauty, who takes a pleasure in speaking of them to their advantage, who cannot endure detraction, must be a person of an excellent character and a good heart. What could be wanting to my happiness, with such a person, even though she was as ugly as you seem to think ? I am resolved to declare my name to her, and to offer her a share in the sovereignty with me." In effect, the Prince, at the next ball, informed the unknown lady of his rank, and assured her, that he hoped for no happiness, without she gave him her hand ; but, notwithstanding these offers, Bella, as she had concluded with her sister, could not be brought to unmask. You may imagine, the poor Prince was in a sad taking ; he began to think, as he fancied Monsterina did, that this bright lady must have a very forbidding face, since she was so unwilling to be seen ; but, however disagreeable the ideas were which he formed of her, this did not diminish the esteem, respect, and attachment, which he had conceived for her wit and



The Prince at the Masquerade.

virtue. His trouble had nearly brought on illness, when the unknown lady spoke to him to this effect: "Prince, (said she,) I love you, and I will not endeavour to keep this from you; but the greater my love is, the greater is my fear of losing you, when you come to know me. You may think you will see a person with large eyes, a little mouth, fine teeth, and a complexion of lilies and roses; but if, on the contrary, I squint, and have a wide mouth, with very bad teeth, and a snub nose, you would soon bid me put on my mask again: besides, though I should not be so frightful, I know you are inconstant; you doated once on *Bella*; and then grew weary of her." "Ah! (said the Prince,) I'll be judged by you, madam: when I married *Bella*, I was young, and I own, that all my attention was taken up in looking at her, and not in hearing what she said: but after we were married, and the illusion was at an end by seeing her daily, you cannot think that my situation was very agreeable. When we were by ourselves, I was told of a new gown to be put on the next day; she talked of such-a-one's shoes, of another's jewels. If a person of sense was at my table, and the discourse turned on something improving, *Bella* began to yawn, and concluded

with downright sleeping. I advised her to permit herself to be instructed; but this put her quite out of temper; and she was so ignorant, that I trembled and blushed every time she opened her mouth. Then she had all the faults of a fool; if once she took a wrong thing into her head, there was no convincing her of it; she would hear no reason; it was what she knew nothing of; she was jealous, mistrustful, and given to detraction; yet had I been permitted to take my diversion, I should have borne it better, but that she would not allow; she would have the silly passion, which I had conceived for her, to continue, and meant to make me her slave during life. You see then, the necessity I was under, from her behaviour, to get my marriage annulled." "I own you were to be pitied, (answered the mask;) but all this does not yet entirely remove my fears. You say you love me. Do you think you could resolve to marry me, before all your subjects, without having seen me?" "If that be all, (said the Prince,) I am the happiest of men: come to the palace with Monsterina; the council shall be summoned early, and I will marry you before them." The remaining part of the night seemed very long to the Prince, and before he left the ball he took off his

mask, and ordered all the lords of the court to repair to the palace; the same notice was given to his ministers. When they were got together, he gave an account of what had passed between him and the unknown lady; and he concluded his discourse with a solemn oath, that he would not marry any other, and her he would marry, whatever her person might be. All concluded, with the Prince, that the person he married in this manner, must be some very frightful object. Guess at the surprise of the company, when Bella, taking off her mask, appeared as beautiful a person as fancy could form. Neither the Prince nor the others, recollected, at first, who she was; a quiet life and her solitude had made such great additions to her beauty; and it was only whispered among them, that the former Princess was a very defective resemblance of this. The Prince, in raptures, to find himself so agreeably imposed upon, had not power to speak. But Monsterina was the first that spoke, to wish her sister joy on her recovering the love of her Prince. “What! (said the King,) this charming, this sensible person, is this Bella? By what magic has she added to a beautiful figure the charms of the mind and temper, which she absolutely wanted. Has some kind fairy wrought this

miracle in her favour?" "No miracle in her favour; no miracle, (Bella replied;) I had neglected to cultivate the gifts of nature; my misfortunes, solitude, and the good counsels of my sister, have opened my eyes, and engaged me in the pursuit of those graces and beauties which are proof against time and sickness." "And these beauties and graces, (said the Prince, embracing her,) have inspired me with a passion, which never can abate." In effect, he loved her as long as he lived, so tenderly, as to make her totally forget all her past misfortunes.



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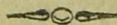
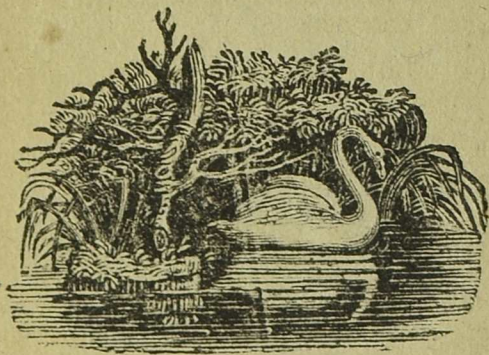
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