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Miss Patty thrown from
her Horse.

A N E C D O T E S
O F A
L I T T L E F A M I L Y ,
I N T E R S P E R S E D W I T H
FABLES, STORIES, and ALLEGORIES,
I L L U S T R A T E D W I T H
S U I T A B L E M O R A L S
F O R
Children of different Ages, and both Sexes,

E M B E L L I S H E D W I T H C U T S .

L O N D O N :

P R I N T E D F O R E . N E W B E R Y , T H E C O R N E R O F
S T . P A U L ' S C H U R C H - Y A R D .

[Price ONE SHILLING bound.]

ALICE C. D. O. T. H. S.

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P R E F A C E.

TH E following Sheets are meant (as the Title imports) to be devoted to the Service of Youth, as well as to contribute to their Relaxation and Amusement.

P R E F A C E.

The Design of the Work is simple, as it is calculated to operate in opening the Mind, and preparing it for other Studies, and Matters of greater Moment.

As such, it may be considered in the Light of an Assistant to the earlier Part of a School Education, and the Author hopes it will not be found inadequate to the Purpose.

The

P R E F A C E.

The Fables and Allegories presented in this Little Book, are fabricated in such a Manner as to convey easy Morals, whilst the Drift of them is rendered the more clear by their generally and naturally arising from Circumstances relative to the Persons to whom they are occasionally represented as being addressed,

The young Folks will only have to consider that when Beasts,
Birds,

P R E F A C E.

Birds, &c. are introduced, discourfing or reasoning, this is nothing more than the Custom of Fable, and as fuch it muft be only underftood as the Means of bringing forward, in a pleafing Manner, what is defigned to engage their Attention.

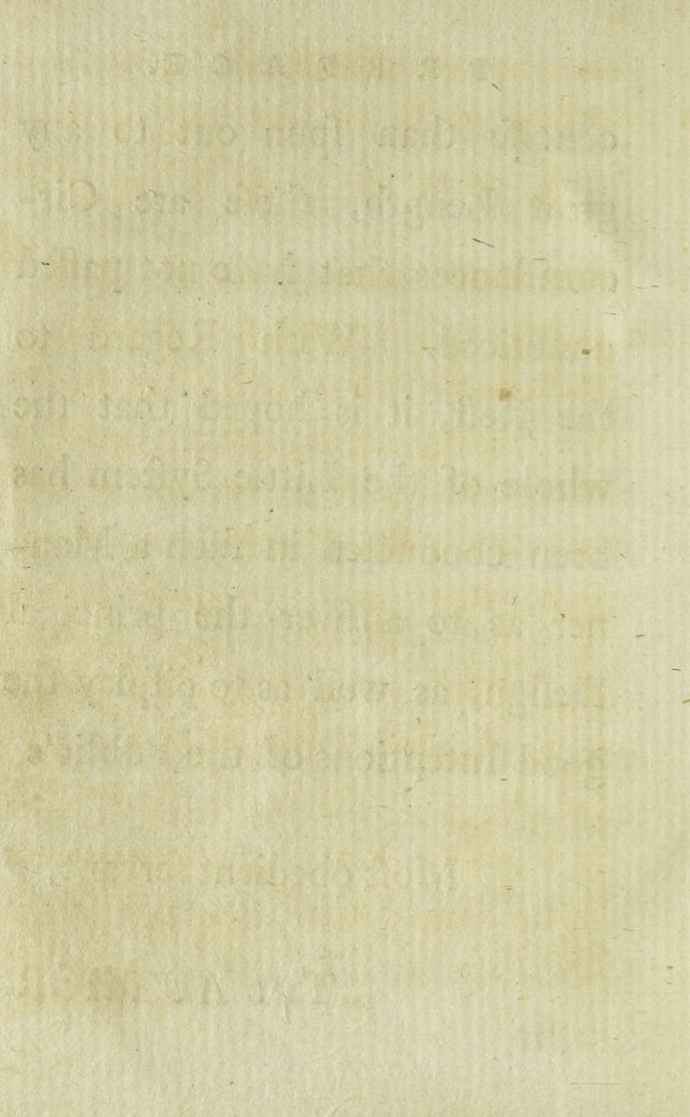
As the main End of every Work of this Nature is beft answered by fhort Lessons of In- ftruction, and Narrations rather
concife

P R E F A C E.

concise than spun out to any great Length, these are Circumstances that have not passed unnoticed. With Regard to the Rest, it is hoped that the whole of the Little System has been conducted in such a Manner as to answer the principal Design, as well as to display the good Intentions of the Public's

Most obedient servant,

THE AUTHOR.



A N E C D O T E S

OF A

L I T T L E F A M I L Y.

C H A P. I.

IN the neighbourhood of a small village, not many miles from London, where they generally passed a few months in the winter, lived Mr. Selwyn and his lady, who were very careful in bringing up their son and daughter, as also
a nephew,

a nephew, whom his dying father had left to their charge.

Not satisfied with what the children might learn at a common school, such as at first could only suit their tender years, these worthy people did not merely trust them to servants and the nursery, but always watched over them with careful eyes ; while Harry, his sister Eliza, and their cousin Jasper appeared so good and obedient, as to deserve their kindness, setting aside some little childish follies, such as my young readers must know
few

few of them can say they are entirely free from.

Harry, the eldest of the three, was not more than seven years old, when he shewed a good understanding, and besides was very tractable; his sister was lively and good-natured, and Jasper behaved well in general, and had a good genius, though he was often careless as to learning, and sometimes peevish and fretful, which you know becomes nobody, and least of all little boys and girls; however he was not fullen nor obstinate, nor could he

he, in any respect, be called a dunce.

When leifure from exercifes proper for the children, as well as their fchool time permitted, Mrs. Selwyn ufed to take them to her closet, where ſhe would give them cakes and little presents, as ſhe judged they deſerved; and took a delight in talking to them, hearing what they had to ſay, and often reading, or telling them little ſtories and fables; and this ſhe did in ſuch a manner as made their attendance ſeem not at all a taſk, for they never were more pleaſed than

than when they had such indulgence. At these times Harry and Eliza concealed nothing from their mamma, and Jasper very properly thought he could not do too much in return for his aunt's kindness.

The conversations which passed, and the stories and fables told on these occasions, will be the subject of this little work.—We shall begin with an anecdote, occasioned by a matter in which Miss Eliza was chiefly concerned.

It happened one summer afternoon that a fly, which had long
 B been

been amusing himself on the slippery edge of a small china basin, almost full of cream, and would certainly have lost his life for his boldness, if Eliza had not delivered him.—She took the insect on her finger, letting him recover there, and dry his wings, till he was in a condition to fly away. Harry was much pleased with his sister, because, he said, this shewed her good nature, though he could not help observing he thought Eliza took too much pains on such a trifling occasion. As to Jasper, he laughed at the matter, said “the *happy fly* was a little *thief*, and more time had been spent in saving him than

than even twenty *pretty butterflies* were worth."

As it happened that Mrs. Selwyn overheard part of what was said (though she had not listened on purpose) she thought proper to make some observations. This good lady began with praising the behaviour of Eliza; then turning to Jasper—"I think, said she, my dear, you seemed rather to find fault with your cousin." At his aunt's desire he repeated what he had said.—On this she observed to him, that the fly was quite harmless, and all he could eat or drink was too little to be missed.

“ But as to the *butterflies* you talked of, Jasper (said she) they are at first caterpillars, and really do much harm to the fruits of the earth. After all they are only valued when butterflies, for their pretty colours; and their beauty, as is too often the case, is not only useless but hurtful to them; for people kill them wantonly, in order to stick them, as you often see, upon papers. But tell me truly, what would you have done with the fly?” He answered, he would either have let it drown itself; or, if he thought it might be disagreeable in the cream he would have killed it directly.

“ Would you (cried Mrs. Selwyn) how *good natured* that must be ! But let me tell you a story.”

All the children being attentive, the lady related the following tale, which may be worth your hearing :—

A great while ago their lived in the Indies, an old man, with white locks, and a grey beard, who was very good, and very learned. It was also said, by every body who knew him, that he understood what birds, beasts, and even insects had

to say to one another, as report says all these could talk at that time.

As he was one day walking out with Selim, a young lad, who by his parents was put under his care, the youth carelessly treading on an ant-hill, (such as I suppose you have seen in the country) some of them came out and stung him, on which he destroyed two or three of them, and complained bitterly. “ You have no right to find fault, said Mirza, the hermit, and I will prove it, if you will but do as I desire you.” He then dropped a little of something he had in a phial, into
Selim’s

Selim's ear, and then directed him to crouch to the ground, just where he had trod before.—When he did so, he observed the ants in a great bustle, and much disturbance.—

“ Oh ! what a misfortune (said one) I have lost my father by it.—My brother is killed, and my house quite destroyed,” (said another).—

“ All our labours to make our city strong are spoiled in a moment, though they have cost us so much pains,” (cried a third).—In short, there was nothing but mourning and complaining, some burying their dead, whilst others were using all their small strength to repair their dwellings.

dwellings.—“What do you think now?” (demanded the old man).—
 “I think I have done mischief enough (answered Selim) to these industrious little folks. I do not wonder at their anger, and I shall tread more carefully for the future.”

THE ants are remarkably busy and industrious, and are set as a pattern for sluggards to follow; and those hillocks which so often even escape your notice, are their dwellings, formed with the greatest care
 and

and exactness; and in some countries the little creatures raise them in a manner so curious, as could not be improved by the greatest artist; building their cells one upon another, broad at the bottom and narrow at the top, with such great strength that a good deal of force must be used to destroy them. However, my dear, I suppose, whenever you have chanced to see the ants or pismires, you have thought them very ugly, nasty, and mischievous animals, yet they only sting people when they are made angry, or use their stings against other insects that are their enemies; and ugly as they
may

may appear in our eyes, they are made in as exact proportion, though not so full of pretty colours, as the butterflies that you seem to admire. Besides all this, the ants lay up store for bad weather, and the winter season; and this is what no butterflies are ever known to do. You should not therefore be cruel to any thing, nor be hasty in calling things good or bad, pretty or ugly, at first sight; which lesson I hope you will remember in future; as also that every creature has its use, because God never made any thing in vain.

CHAP.

C H A P. II.

*On Falsities. April Fools, and some
Consequences of making them.*

MRS. Selwyn had often put the children in mind of the difference between fables and real histories; to let them know that the tales of birds, fishes, insects, and trees speaking, were only made for the sake of a moral, as we have already observed; and continually instructed them to value the truth in what they said above all things.—

“ It is as mean as it is wicked (said she

she) to tell a lie. If you are found out in it, commonly it is punished one way or another. And besides it is a true saying, even when a known liar speaks truth, who shall believe him.

But (said Jasper) I think some fibs are told in jest, and we mean no harm.—Pray, is that naughty?—

It can never be *good*, (replied the lady) and for what reason is it generally done?

Only for a laugh Madam, as indeed I have heard some told this morning.—

“ Yet

Yet even a *laugh*, in itself innocent, may be naughty in some cases, and never can be otherwise when it is occasioned by a falsity told with intent to deceive. But I understand what you mean—you or your schoolfellows have been making fools to-day.

“ O yes, Aunt! cried Jasper, eagerly” and then he told some of the great feats done by the little folks on the occasion.

“ After all, answered Mrs. Selwyn, this is but silly, as it is unworthy.—However the custom first

prevailed; it can deserve no praise. —Falsities must be told, and ill will is often got by the bargain.”

“But mamma, (interrupted Eliza) when I spoke something against this, I was told by master Sammy Sprightly that it was useful, in order to make folks learn to keep their wits about them.”

Mrs. Selwyn replied “It is well my dear, for those that can do so; but surely there are other and better ways than these of doing that where it is necessary. Besides all are not born to be so sharp as master

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Sprightly

Sprightly may be.—And *he is a fool that makes a fool*, is no bad saying. Nothing but wickedness and obstinate folly deserve scorn ; and even folly it is more generous to pity ; so that no laugh ought to be commended but what is the effect of good humour, and even then it should be kept within the bounds of moderation.

“ I remember where I myself went to school, when about your age, the same silly custom prevailed, and the girls were very fond of it. Among the rest there was one of these young ladies that was reckoned so clever at this sort of sport, that

she was often called, The Fool-Maker. It was plain that she was not much beloved by any body, and such sort of wit as makes one disliked, is of no real value.

“ Miss Patty, as it fell out, one April day, particularly pitched on a very serious young lady, not so old as herself, to play the usual trick upon; for she thought Kitty Gentle would soon fall into a snare that she was not aware of. And this was the way in which the fool-maker proceeded. She was at the pains to tell a downright untruth, in order to persuade the other that somebody from

from her relations had sent for her to a farm house, about three quarters of a mile off, and she got leave from her school mistress to go thither, as indeed she had before done on such occasions; but this was only to send her on an empty errand in order to laugh at her—but it proved otherwise.

A little after she was gone, the mistress, who had been too much engaged at home, on her own affairs, to think of such a deceit, recollected the day, and examining into the business, found who was at the bottom of it. Miss Patty, be-

ing strictly questioned, confessed, and was ordered to set off immediately, and bring her schoolfellow back, on pain of a much severer punishment.—She durst not disobey, and set out accordingly ; but as she had never been at the place, (the way to which lay across some fields) she mistook the path, and wandered far out of the road, where there was not any one to ask, and so no hope of her being set right. Thus she proceeded, not convinced of her mistake, but wondering, as well she might, at the length of the way till she came to a rivulet, which, as she could not pass, she was so impatient

tient that she sat down and cried, from mere vexation.

“ But as she knew crying could not do any good, and was pretty certain, by this time, that she must have been mistaken in the direction. Miss Patty, after having thus given way to her ill temper, arose again, resolved to go back as she came, and set off for that purpose ; but as she passed along a field, a horse that was very wild, galloping about, as she was afraid to be run over, she hastened from him, but in so heedless a manner, that she presently fell into a ditch ; and it is most likely that she

she would have been suffocated there, had not a man, that was sent to catch the horse, taken her out, and carried her all over mire and filth as she was, to a neighbouring farm-house, where the people cleaned her as well as they could, and put her into bed, which she was not able to leave for near a week ; and this with many reprimands from her governess and parents, and the sneers of her companions, was all she got by fool-making.—But Miss Kitty, whom she had sent in jest on a fool's errand, as she supposed, had scarcely rested herself at the place to which she went, before a message came from

from her friends in earnest, as she was sent for home on account of her sister's wedding. Here she remained some days, and at her return was received with pleasure.—As for Miss Patty she was so much mortified, that, for a long time, she was almost ashamed to show her face; and she never endeavoured to make fools any more, after this unlucky adventure.”

This story well applied, and told at a proper season, had a good effect on the minds of the children; and Jasper was ready to confess that Miss
Patty

Patty only met with her deserts, though it happened by accident, as above related.

CHAP.

C H A P. III.

*On Envy, with a Fable applicable to
the Occasion.*

THERE was scarcely any thing which Mrs. Selwyn took so much care to guard against in children, as a disposition to envy, which whatever some may pretend to think, is really very different from proper emulation.

Indeed, this was a subject which the good lady frequently used to bring

bring into discourse, and managed it in such a manner as that those who heard her might profit by the observations she made, which she well knew how to suit to their capacity.

One afternoon in particular, she took occasion to remark on the spiteful behaviour of two or three naughty boys, that were always quarrelling with a school-fellow of theirs, whose name was Sammy Steady, and seemed to have no reason for this, but because he was carested for minding his learning better, and for his good manners.

But

But (said Master Jasper) one day, if you would give me leave Madam, I should like to ask you what I must do when I see my schoolfellows more in favour than I am—can I love them for that?—I don't think they would like me for the same thing.

You should consider (answered Mrs. Selwyn) whether such schoolfellows as you speak of are not favoured for their deserts. I believe that is generally the case; if so, how wicked must it be for you to hate, dislike, or envy them. You should endeavour, by all means, to

D

be

equally deserving, if you can ; if not, never think of wishing them any harm, or trying to make them seem less in peoples eyes ; for, be assured, this will always turn out to your own shame in the end. And even, if there does not seem to be any reason for the favour, still your best way will be to deserve as much, and thus to shame the favourite, if really undeserving.—Whatever you may think, all else comes of envy.—Will you hear a story upon the subject ?

All

All being silent, Mrs. Selwyn thus proceeded :—

“ A gentleman once had a favourite dog, an old servant, to which he shewed such great kindness, as much offended a monkey that he had lately received as a present from the East Indies. This monkey having entertained his master by his tricks, and particularly during a fit of sickness, thought to have the first place in his liking ; and indeed he had his reward so far as he deserved it. But this did not content him ; for observing afterwards the gentleman’s fondness for

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his

his dog, he grew jealous, and supposed himself very ill-used, merely because he had not the preference in all things.—By every way in his power he endeavoured to injure the greyhound, but these ways were private.—He would steal or break things in such a manner as that it should seem poor Ponto had done the mischief; he would continually provoke his rival, and then run chattering and screaming, though not hurt, to his master, in order to make him angry with the innocent dog.

“Failing in this, the monkey’s hatred was so far increased, that nothing could

could satisfy him but the destruction of the dog, that all this time had not willingly given him the least offence, nor was at all aware of his malicious intentions.

“ It soon happened that what he thought a favourable opportunity offered of satisfying his spite and undeserved revenge; principles, which it is a sad thing to observe prevailing amongst any on whom heaven has stamped its own image, by creating them in the human form.

“Pug watched a time, when supposing himself not to be seen by any body, he stole into the pantry, the door then by chance being open, and Ponto very innocently lying asleep before it. The mischievous creature, with some difficulty, loosened a haunch of venison, which was hanging there, mangled and dragged it in the dirt, though he did not find himself at all inclined to eat any of it. From thence taking his way into the yard, where there was a pretty kitten, much liked by his mistress, still not perceiving any body near, he worried her as much as he could; and, when he

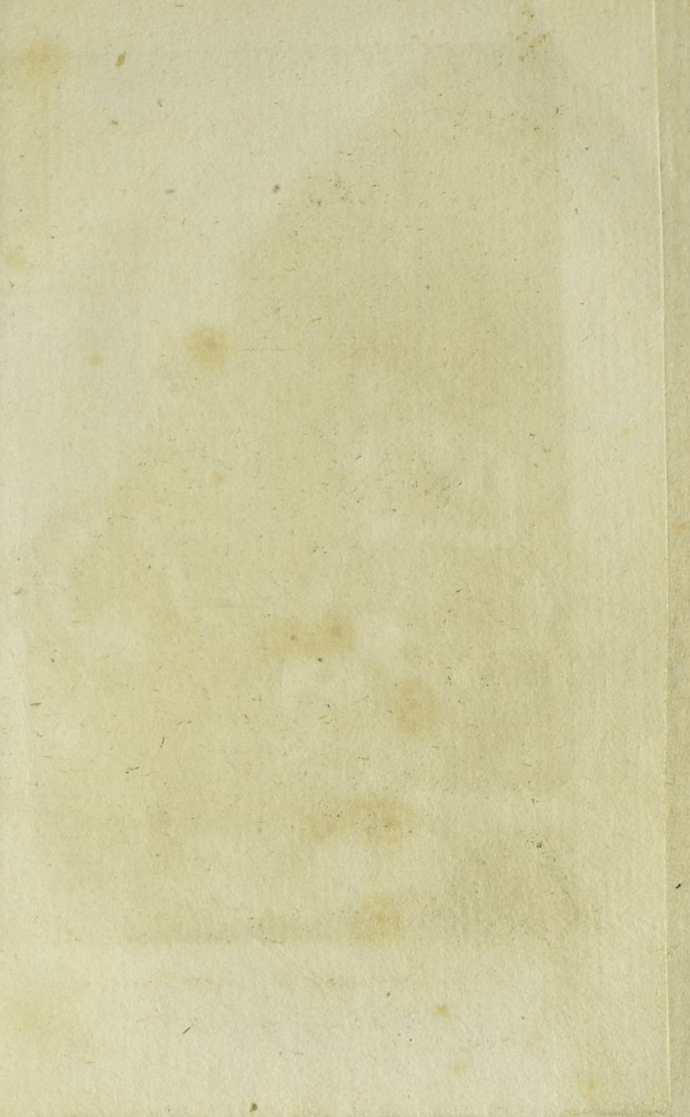
he got hold of poor puss, griped her so fast by the throat with his paws as to hinder farther mewling, thus cruelly almost choaking the creature, to help his design, and to prevent discovery.

“ So far the monkey had the appearance of succeeding, and he had also the wicked pleasure of finding poor Ponto accused of both these pieces of mischief. The dog indeed, having awaked, was gone away, but a hearty beating was promised him, and even a hanging threatened, for those tricks which he had never done.

“ But

“ But this malicious satisfaction did not last long ; for besides that, it seemed very unlikely, on consideration, that Ponto should have taken the uncommon pains necessary for him to get at the meat, and then drag it about, without even so much as tasting it ; an unexpected witness appeared against the guilty party. One of the maid-servants had observed how he used the cat, from a window, and besides the same person had a little before seen pug skipping out of the pantry, where she then took no notice of him, while Ponto still lay asleep near the door, as I already told you.

These





*The envious Monkey torn
to pieces, by a Bull Dog.*

These matters being thus cleared up, pug was justly accused and condemned ; when finding himself pursued, and fearing the worst, he ran away. But as the proverb says, “ Harm watch, harm catch.” As he was traversing the streets, not daring to return, nor knowing where to find either food or shelter, a bulldog was set upon him, by some mischievous folks ; and this creature soon revenged Ponto’s cause, by worrying pug to death in a few minutes.”

Thus

Thus the monkey perished by one of the same species that he had taken so much pains to injure; and the story furnishes an example of the unpitied fate of those who indulge themselves in habits of envy, malice, and fraudulent and uncharitable dealings.

CHAP.

C H A P. IV.

Adventures at a Fair, and the Consequences that followed. The ill Effects of Fears that are vain and groundless.

IN proportion as the children increased in years, it was judged proper in these conversations, to advance, by calling their attention, by just degrees, to objects rather higher than those with which at first they

they had been entertained as most suitable to their tender years. Mrs. Selwyn likewise, though capable of this task, yet chose to leave it now to her husband, except in some particulars, where she thought she could instruct Eliza in a manner peculiarly proper to her sex; and in both these cases it seemed necessary that poetry, which fixes morals and maxims on the minds of most young people, should now and then be admitted.

“ I do not want to make my son a poet, (said Mr. Selwyn) but perhaps it may not be amiss to give him some little acquaintance with verse, if it were only for the sake of keep-
ing

whose disposition was such as made him a fit companion for those that wished, like himself, to attend with pleasure to lessons of improvement, while his serious manners led him, at proper times, to check the too eager temper of his cousin.

They were frequent companions in their little excursions for amusement. — On one of these, the young gentlemen having permission to go to a neighbouring fair, which was the project of Jasper, they met with two of their own age, who took pains to join their company. Harry appeared rather shy of the offer, but Jasper
was

was eager to accept it, and the other agreed because he was not fond of contradiction, and did not chuse to be thought ill-natured. So away they went together, and began to be as merry as young folks generally are at such places of diversion. After visiting the booths, and buying such little matters as they fancied at the fair, their new companions proposed going yet farther, though it was already evening. Harry, who had indeed come abroad chiefly in compliance with his cousin, made many objections to this proposal, and could not help observing, that he

thought both himself and Jasper now too old to be carried away by every trifle, though they had come to the fair out of curiosity, where he observed some older than themselves to appear much diverted. But his cousin was determined to go at all events, not regarding their engagement to return at a certain hour, which in such a case, would scarcely be possible, and Harry was more than once inclined to leave them all three together; but Jasper representing how ungenerous that would be, the other, at last, consented to go with them, though not without some reluctance.

As they were on their way, however, Harry and his cousin were surprised to find that they were followed by some gentlemen, to escape from whom their companions endeavoured, but in vain. Harry stood still, persuading his kinsman to do the same, and the pursuers passed by them, but soon overtook the others, whom they took back, much against their will, with them. It appeared that these were very bad lads, who had not been at school for three days, and had not only played truant, but even robbed orchards, and done many other mischievous tricks, for which they deserved correction,

besides having alarmed their parents for their safety—and all this, though the youngest of them was not less than thirteen years of age. As the gentlemen returned, they observed the two cousins, and enquired who they were, when one of them, the father of the youngest truant, declared that he knew Mr. Selwyn very well, and added, he was surprised to find the son and nephew of his friend, young folks of whom he had heard a very good character, in such a situation; as he did not doubt within himself, but they had been guilty of the same mischievous conduct.

Both Jasper and Harry were abashed at this remark. The latter, however, made a slight excuse, not being willing to accuse any body else. So they took leave of the gentlemen, giving assurances that they were about to return home, which they prepared to do accordingly. But their vexation did not end here; for as they had entirely followed the guidance of their former companions, without observing the road, they found themselves much at a loss, and as night now came on, without their chancing to meet any body, they found themselves bewildered; so that Jasper began

gan to think of the story of Patty; but Harry, though he was much concerned, was too generous to reproach his cousin, who so justly deserved rebuke. On the contrary, he endeavoured to encourage him. "We have done wrong (said he) and unluckily we feel the inconvenience; but we are not infants, and if somewhat out of our road, we may yet hope for the best, and be thankful that we are not in a desert, nor in a strange country."

Thus they passed on; Master Selwyn, who had by this time got some idea of the heavenly bodies, endeavoured

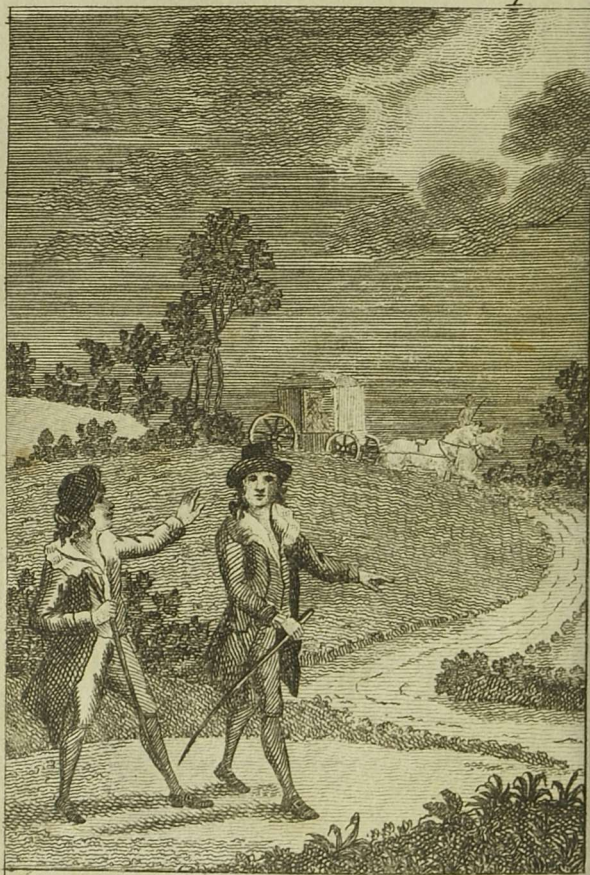
voured to direct his course by the moon, then newly risen; but this help soon failed him, as the skies were covered with clouds; and not long afterwards, they found themselves on the edge of a common.

It was now that Jasper, who, notwithstanding his volatile temper, was rather timorous, began to show his fears. As they advanced, he trembled, and his cousin perceiving it, observed, that as he trusted there was no danger, so it must be silly to be afraid, when there was no cause for fear, and that all they had to dread seemed then to be the want of a night's lodging;

lodging; adding, " That he really believed, they were not then at any very great distance from home, though in a track with which they were not acquainted."

Just as he had done speaking, his cousin discovered something white at a distance; on which he trembled more than before.—His knees knocked together, and he cried out " See there, it comes in white over the common."—It came, indeed, and happily for the young gentlemen; for it was a chaise, painted white, and drawn by two horses of the same colour. A clergyman,
that





Harry & Jasper be-nighted,
meet a post-Chaise.

that was in the carriage, stopped, on observing these wanderers, and Harry having informed him that they had lost their way, and mentioning the place where they lived, he said he was happy to be able to convey them home, as his road lay through the village, which was about three miles distant.

A short time served to bring them to their own door, where Mr. and Mrs. Selwyn were waiting for them in anxious expectation. The good clergyman was prevailed on to step in, and take a short refreshment, during which time he heard a short account

count of the two kinsmen's adventures, the adventures of a day which had like to have ended so disagreeably.

CHAP.

C H A P. V.

*Ill Effects of the want of Steadiness.
—Adventures of the Princes of
Golconda.*

A GENTLE reproof was all that Mr. Selwyn thought necessary, when the weary travellers came home. The next morning, however, he took occasion to enlarge on the subject, though not with roughness or severity. The conduct of Jasper was most blamed,

as it deserved ; yet as Harry was his elder, he was justly told how imprudent it was for him to give way ; and both were put in mind how faulty it was to make such a sudden acquaintance.

“ I do not commend what is justly called obstinacy, continued Mr. Selwyn, but it is always blameable to suffer ourselves to be led by the persuasion of others, into errors which our own judgment must condemn. This, Harry, your understanding should teach you, as you have early given proofs of
of

of it, and you know it has been always fostered and encouraged. But I shall make no farther remarks of this kind, except that the fears of Jasper were silly, who ought to know that there is no greater danger in the night, than in the day time, as we are equally under the care of that kind Providence who always protects the good. I shall only conclude with a story that may be worth attention."

In old times there reigned in Golconda, in the East, before that kingdom was subject to the Mogul, a monarch who governed with justice

and mercy, as he always had the good of his subjects at heart. Being desirous that they should be as well governed after his death as they had been during his life, he spared not any pains to have his children tutored in such a manner as he concluded would best answer so good a purpose.—He had two sons that were twins, both of whom equally shared his affections. It was therefore his wish that he who was the worthier, or more able to rule, should succeed him. Each of these was of a good disposition; but the temper of both was not alike, and indeed more different than at first was supposed either

ther by the King or the people. Selim was generous, just, and good; he was also firm and constant, which at times, in some measure, gave him more the appearance of fullness than there was of the reality. Mirvan, his brother, was likewise a youth of good inclinations, liberal, free, and without reserve. While these two had equal claims, they yet lived together, in praise-worthy, and brotherly love. When their King drew near his end, being unable to give a determination satisfactory to himself, he submitted the matter to his nobles, and they likewise took the opinion of an assembly

of the people. The consequence was, that after much consideration, Mirvan was chosen, and that was chiefly on account of the favor he had won with the people, who admired his free and lively temper; and at his father's death he was accordingly proclaimed King of Golconda.

For more than six months he reigned, beloved by his subjects, and happy in himself. But about that time, there being some danger of an invasion, he discharged an old Lord, who had been the former King's best friend and servant, to make room for one Heli, a younger man, that he supposed

supposed more active and fit to manage the business, especially in case of a war. In the mean time Selim was absent, travelling in foreign countries for improvement.

As soon as Heli had got into power, he tried, by flattering ways, to secure his master's favour, and then began to change a great number of his trusty servants. At first, indeed, these proceedings did not please Mirvan; but he suffered himself to be *persuaded* to approve them. The nobles were not satisfied, but the people appeared contented, because

cause they loved their prince, and thus Heli was not interrupted.

War was now declared, and this man recommended a general, who, being sent against the enemy, returned back defeated, because, by his ignorance, he had suffered his army to be surrounded. This, indeed, caused some complainings; yet Heli kept his ground; for though the King was merely displeased at first, and disappointed, yet he suffered himself to be *persuaded* that the misfortune was not owing to the general, Heli had recommended, but the next in command; who was unjustly

justly blamed, and turned off for the other's blunder. As the minister had by this time got himself some enemies, he contrived to have some of them accused of treason. Mirvan had always believed them to be as good subjects, as they really were; but now, though he did not go so far as to put them to death, yet he was prevailed on to disgrace and confine them.

The enemy now advancing, another army was raised. The King's good sense ought to have led him to chuse a new general, but he continued the old one to please Heli; and
the

the troops were again defeated, the commander killed, and the conquerors came on to besiege the capital city. The people now murmured much, and Mirvan knew it. He only complained to Heli, whom he should have punished; while that artful and wicked man *persuaded* him that his brother, though absent, had a party in the city, who had held a correspondence with the enemy, and had thus occasioned these misfortunes. On this account, several, whom he disliked, were named, and they were put in prison, and condemned to die, unless they would discover a plot, of which they knew

knew nothing, because there was none
 This so much provoked the nobles
 and the people, that they would
 have rose in open rebellion, but
 that they had no other Prince with
 them to set up, and the conquer-
 ing army was come almost to their
 gates. It was now that Mirvan asked
 Heli in an angry manner, What was
 to be done? and Heli advised him to
 go out himself and fight the enemy.
 Though the city was strong, and his
 soldiers were few and much disheart-
 ened, yet this again the King was
persuaded to agree to, though con-
 trary to his own judgment. As
 soon as he was gone, the gates were
 shut

shut against him ; he was therefore obliged to fight, though almost certain of being defeated. The armies had not engaged an hour, when that of Golconda was just on the point of being routed. But at that instant there appeared a number of fresh troops, whose commander none knew, that suddenly attacked the conquerors, and at last secured the victory to the Golcondians, who, to their surprise, found that the chief who had thus relieved them, was Selim. He had heard of the danger of his country, and had come without any view of ambition or interest to its assistance. When the battle was over



*Mirvan, King of Golconda,
expiring in his Brother's arms.*

over, he hastened to see his brother, but found him mortally wounded, so that he died in his arms, to the great grief of this young prince, to whom he was willing to leave the crown he himself had not been able to wear. On the approach of the conqueror, with his army, the gates of the city were opened, all being happy at the sight of Selim. Heli, who had ordered them to be shut, and designed to set himself up for King, was now dragged to justice by the people, and executed in a short time. The wise, the constant Selim, reigned happily, as his brother might have done, had he not been of

a fickle disposition, and suffered himself, by being *over persuaded*, to be deluded from the paths of prudence and virtue.

The moral of this story was easily understood by Harry and Jasper, and so we trust it will be by our readers.

CHAP.

C H A P. VI.

*Reflections on Variety, with a suitable
Fable.*

WHILE these things were passing, Miss Eliza was on a visit at an aunt's house, in a neighbouring county, where she had been always beloved, because she really deserved to be so.

On her return, Mrs. Selwyn, enquiring whether she had been happy

in her entertainment there, she answered, " That she had, as usual, though after all she was glad to return to her parents."

In this, my dear, (said her mamma) I certainly shall not doubt your sincerity ; yet variety is sometimes agreeable to young people ; and I do not deny that the pleasure taken in it may be innocent, as it is amusing, when the desire for it is not immoderate ; but where that is the case, it becomes a fault, and ought to be avoided. And taking a paper from her pocket-book, Mrs. Selwyn read the following upon the occasion.

ONE summer morn, when bloom'd
each flow'r,
And jasmines deck'd the pleasing
bower,
A bee flew forth in wanton play,
The golden child of smiling May,
Of roving kind, in eager thought,
Already with rich honey fraught ;
Resolv'd to try each plant he meets,
Lost in a wilderness of sweets,
From flow'r to flow'r he swiftly flies,
While brightest beams adorn the
skies.

At length a damask rose he found,
Breathing the mildest fragrance
round :

A while he was content to rest
In peace upon her balmy breast ;
Not long—for near, in rich per-
fume,

A bright carnation chanc'd to bloom.
Thither, with fond and restless haste,
Regardless of all else he pass'd :
Thence to a sun-flow'r took his way,
Which open'd, gaudy, on the day :
Woodbines and jasmynes, all beside,
The garden's ornament, he try'd :
And last, a hollyhock, full blown,
He view'd, with pleasing fruits that
shone.

To this the eager wand'rer sped,
 Nor dreaded aught as on he fled.
 But whilst each warbler fought his
 nest,

The sun declining in the west,
 For wiles unknowing to prepare,
 Too soon he found a fatal snare ;
 A spider's web, a venom'd loom,
 He strikes, and meets—a wretched
 doom ;

To break its threads, successful
 tries,

And for inconstancy he dies.

A con-



“ A continual desire of changing (added Mrs. Selwyn) shews at best but a weak mind ; it seldom produces success in serious affairs, and in search of pleasure proves not satisfactory, and often dangerous. And indeed, at any rate, all the varieties we find, are most pleasing and agreeable, when they present themselves to us. Pleasures which fly when we pursue them, will come as it were uncal-

uncalled, and it is then that they are enjoyed with the greatest relish."

I have observed this, Madam, (said Eliza) and I think I have likewise heard or read somewhere of a prince, who resolved to have several days of pleasure. I forgot the number. However, those whom he liked best, were called together in his palace and fine gardens, where music, feasting, and dancing, and the like were provided. But on the first day I think, a wild beast broke in, and destroyed one of his favourites; another day he lost a child
that

that he dearly loved ; on a third a violent storm rooted up the trees, spoiled the gardens ; on a fourth, part of his palace was set on fire by lightning. At length, having tried to repair such damages as he could, the Prince tried to be gay, and besides ordered all present, on pain of punishment, to appear so. But this did not succeed ; for that very order made the thing impossible ; and in spite of all their endeavours, everyone looked rather *sad* than *merry*, whilst it was plain enough, that to chastise any of them would make the matter worse.—So that in the
 end

end the prince concluded, as my
mamma has now done, and resolved
to take pleasure just where he found
it."

CHAP.

C H A P. VII.

*The Excellence of Patience.—Story of
an Eastern Prince.*

MISS Selwyn was welcomed home by her brother and Jasper with great affection and goodwill. Both her brother and her cousin knew the sweetness of her temper, and the goodness of her heart, and they valued her accordingly.

Harry, indeed, had always been of such a disposition as to shew the
most

most tender love and regard for his sister. In their earliest days neither of them wrangled or told tales of each other, and their love thus founded, encreased with their encreasing age, so that they were set as a pattern to others, to the great satisfaction of their parents, and of all who wished well to them.

Soon after Miss Selwyn's return, she was afflicted with a fever, in consequence of a cold she had caught, and her parents were under great concern for her; at the same time that her brother and cousin were somewhat surpris'd at the great pa-

H

tience

tience with which she bore pain, sickness, and confinement. As they were discoursing on this matter, when she began to recover, Jasper acknowledged that he believed he should not have endured such an illness in the same manner. It is better indeed, said his uncle, to own this frankly, than it can be to boast of patience you do not possess. But yet it is a virtue of a profitable nature, which all must at one time or another have occasion for, of which there is an example in the following story.

A cer-

A certain King of the East had a son of a very hasty and passionate disposition, which his flatterers called boldness, and nobleness of mind, being willing to praise him even for his faults, in order to gain favour with him and his father, who was too indulgent to him. His temper not being sufficiently checked, when he was a child,

“ Grew with his growth, and strengthen’d
with his strength.”

insomuch that he would not bear with any thing, was uneasy about mere trifles, and indeed was seldom pleased with whatever passed around him.

The King his father intending he should marry a Princess, that reigned in a country at a considerable distance, but with whom he was in strict friendship and alliance; the young man set off with a number of attendants, in order first to pay her a visit. Part of the way lay over a desert, which was frequented by the wild Arabian robbers. The Prince thought his force strong enough to resist any attack that might be made, but he was mistaken in this; for a band of them, consisting of double the number he had with him, made such a sudden and furious assault, that they carried their point, robbed
and

and stripped the travellers, as well as some merchants whom they had taken under their protection. As to the Prince, they paid little regard to him ; for they made a prize of his rich cloathing, and all the favour he could get was that of having a few mean rags given him in exchange, just sufficient to shelter him from the weather. What was yet worse, all his papers were lost, and could not be recovered ; and as those of his attendants that were not killed or wounded shifted for themselves, he was left to proceed on his journey alone, which he did, with many disagreeable reflexions.

He had not gone far before he was overtaken by one of the merchants who had shared the same lot with him; and as two persons in such a situation might be serviceable to each other, condescended to make him his companion.

As night drew on, it was agreed to enter the first town they saw, which they accordingly did; and being under the necessity of begging a lodging, were both alike glad to put up with a very mean one.

But the prince checked his own impatience, with the notion that he should

should make himself known, when there was no doubt but that he would be treated with proper respect. Having taken such rest as he could, he went to the governor the next morning, and took the merchant with him. But as his papers were lost, the Prince found it not an easy matter to prove his real rank; neither could his companion absolutely assert this, as he was of another country, and, speaking the truth, could affirm no more than that his fellow traveller was a youth whom he had seen richly dressed, and who, like himself had been plundered and stripped by robbers. This account did

did not entirely satisfy the governor ; he therefore ordered them both to be lodged at the house of one of his officers, till by some means, he should hear farther of the matter. Morat, the young merchant, was well contented with this order, but Prince Rezin appeared displeased at his disappointment. When he came to his new lodgings, though far superior to the apartment where he had spent the night before, nothing pleased him ; he took up his old mood of impatience, and did all in his power to make himself, his companion, his host, servants, and all around him unhappy. It may be thought how little it became one in his situation (though

(though a Prince) as Morat made free enough to tell him, to behave in such a manner. This however, had no effect. On the contrary, he shewed every day more of his restless disposition, and even took occasion to abuse one of the principal domestics of the house.

On this a complaint was made to the Cadi, Rezin appeared, and only attempted to justify himself (weakly enough) by talking of his great dignity. As this was not regarded by the magistrate, the haughty Prince struck him whilst on the seat of justice, for which he was sent to prison, and

and applied in vain to the governor for his release.

In the mean time another person appeared, richly habited, and asserted that he was the Prince of Bagdad, who produced papers to that purpose, and being of a free and affable disposition, was much liked by the people. When he appeared before the governor, he told a probable story, and was easily believed, for there did not appear any body to contradict what he said, Morat having departed, after he had received some presents to assist him on his journey. When Rezin heard the news,

news, he was so much afflicted, that he felt double pain in his confinement, and fell so sick from vexation, that his life was in danger.

The tidings of this Prince's misfortune, at length reaching the Court of Bagdad, proper persons were sent out to trace what way he had taken, if yet alive, or to know what farther had befallen him. Some of these arrived at Bagdad, where they were surprised with the story that was told them, of two persons having come thither, each of whom took upon him the title of him they enquired about. They were informed

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ed further that the last of these had set out for Grand Cairo, as he was universally believed to be the true Prince. And these people were just on the point of following to succour and attend him, which they certainly would have been heedless enough to do, had not Morat the young merchant returned just at the time. He told them of what had happened, and described Rezin's person, on which an order was obtained to visit him in the place of his confinement, where he was found lying almost at the point of death, even the physicians allowed to attend him, having for

forfaken him, chiefly on account of his impatience and difagreeable behaviour. Matters were now, indeed, altered, yet delays were unavoidable ; whilft, in the mean time, the impoftor had croffed that part of the fea, called the gulph of Perfia, with the train fent along with him from Bafforah ; and would have been acknowledged by the Indian Princefs, had it not happened that ſhe found a picture of Rezin, in her deceased father's cabinet, that did not appear to be a proper likenefs of this pretended Prince.

For this reason the marriage was put off for a certain time, the limit of which was just expired, when the real Prince of Bagdad, being recovered from his sickness, arrived with proper proofs and authorities.

This impostor would now have been apprehended, if Rezin had but concealed his arrival for a time ; but as he was too eager and hasty so to do, the other escaped. However, this was the last instance of his impatience. He presented himself before the Princess, when, besides all other proofs, the picture pointing out the per-

person, he was acknowledged ; the man who had given himself as such, appearing at last to be an Arabian, that had taken Rezin's habit and papers, and applied them to this purpose.

The Prince of Bagdad's afflictions however, fortunately had this good effect, that they taught him the lesson of patience, the want of which had thus aggravated all his misfortunes. Thus, instructed in the school of experience, he proved, after his marriage with the Princess, a wise

and gracious fovereign; whereas, otherwise, he would most probably have been a whimsical and an arbitrary tyrant.

Variety

*Variety censured.——An Allegorical
Vision:*

IT had always been a custom for Mr. Selwyn's family to keep the season of Christmas with decent mirth and hospitality, at which time they received the visits of their friends, and their poorer neighbours were not forgotten.

That season was now approaching, and the young folks also had their visitors. Among these was Miss Bridle, a young lady who might

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have

have been much better respected and beloved, had she not thought too much of her person, and been too proud of her cloaths, both which are certainly great failings.—Miss Selwyn, though so good-natured, that she did not like to find fault, yet could not help speaking of Miss Bridle's faults, to her papa and mamma, in private, and they were pleased to find her displeased with such behaviour, which there was the greater reason to conclude she would not be likely to imitate.

They wished, in some measure, to give a sort of check to their visitor, without

without doing it roughly, and the rather because she was not under their authority.

For this purpose, Mr. Selwyn took an opportunity, in the course of a conversation, that brought on the subject of fables and allegories, to relate one, which he said, having heard in his youth, he had then and since admired. It was to the following purport :—

There was a certain lady of high rank, who had a daughter, of whom she was very fond, but who had
some

some failings, to which they were not quite blind, and wished to see amended.

While they were considering which method it would be best to follow, in order to answer the purpose, they were so desirous to accomplish ; a relation of theirs, who had observed their daughter's conduct, took a proper opportunity to relate the following story in her presence, which he told under the similitude of a dream.

One afternoon (said he) as I was reflecting on the various follies that
too

too often engage youth of both sexes, I fell asleep, and my fancy presently represented what I thought a strange prospect, though not at all disagreeable.

I imagined that I saw a number of young people, some of whom scarcely exceeded the years of childhood, who were all met on a wide plain, that divided at the end into two paths, one of which each person there must necessarily take, but all had their choice of either of these, and consequently all followed their particular fancy. One of these paths was plain
and

and straight, but not at all adorned, and this was chosen by the graver sort of the young people. As they advanced, the road grew more pleasant, and I found they were conducted by an elderly person, whose name I heard was Prudence, and she led them along with mildness and caution. As it sometimes happened that they came to running streams, and agreeable fountains ; whenever any of them were inclined to stop and admire themselves, she always checked them, and pointed to the proper track they ought to keep in view, that led to a large building,
of

of which, however, they had not always the same clear prospect. I learned that this building was called the *Temple of Content*, to which all that followed Prudence were at last introduced by Virtue, and crowned with Honour; but those who fell short, or turned aside, lost their way in various crooked paths and windings, and never reached the end of their journey.

As to the other path there were many who advanced on it with great haste, as it appeared to be pleasant, and these were brought forward by
a sturdy

a sturdy, but aukward guide, called Self-Will, who seemed to make it his particular business to prevent them from any chance of reaching the temple, which, whenever they got a sight of through the various openings, he always turned them aside from thence, and directed their eyes to a young gaudy figure, that tripped on before them, in a light and fantastical manner ; and as soon as they came up to her, presented a flattering sort of glass, which each of them seemed highly pleased with looking into, and were easily persuaded to follow her. The con-

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sequence

sequence was, that this female, whose name was Vanity, led them on very quickly to an airy kind of building, that was no other than the House of Folly, which appeared as having no foundation, and turning about with every wind that blew. Here many remained, being entertained by her in the most ridiculous manner, while they were persecuted at the same time by Scorn, whose finger continually pointed them out to be laughed at and despised. At the same time I saw others, that were yet more infatuated, after having staid a while in Folly's house, passed

on to the dwelling of Vice, where they were attended by *Shame*, *Reproach*, and *Remorse*, from whence at last they were cast into the abyfs of punishment, and remained a sad example to all who might take Vanity for an Instructor, and Folly for a guide.

This tale, so seasonably told, had an effect on Miss Bridle, who was not so far gone in her love of vanity

as to be beyond reformation. Happily for her she took the hint, and though she was not very ready to own her fault, she had the grace to endeavour, and by degrees to bring about an amendment, in which last circumstance, I wish all those who have occasion, may follow her example.

K 2 CHAP.

C H A P. VIII.

*Adventure with a Hermit.—Travels
of Pleasure, a Fable.*

MR. SELWYN being sensible that air and exercise were requisite for the health of the body, as well as reading and instruction were proper for the mind, had always recommended it to the young folks to walk abroad at convenient times, in the morning and evening,
to

to admire the beauties of the creation, and to relax in a gentle manner from that bent necessary for study or a strict application or sedentary attention.

Sometimes they all walked out together, but as they grew up it frequently happened that they disposed their little parties different, Harry and Jasper often accompanying each other, and Miss Eliza going out attended by her maid Lucy, a sensible, good-natured girl, the youngest daughter of a farmer, who had many children to provide for, and but

flight means for the purpose, as he had met with losses, and therefore found himself in indifferent circumstances, in the decline of his years. Perhaps we may say something more of Lucy hereafter.

For the present we shall take our young reader along with Harry and Jasper, who, walking abroad one evening in autumn, went rather further than was usual with them. The sun set, the moon arose, the stars glittered ; yet they were not now, as once before, apprehensive of losing their way ; and Jasper, who

who had conquered his fears, entertained himself with observing the starry canopy spread over his head, on which he made some very pretty observations.

“ Yes, Jasper, (said Harry) and still more will you admire these heavenly bodies, as you come to be farther informed of their real situation.”

—“ Then they are not as they appear (said Jasper) expressing a wish to hear further, if his companion could inform him.”—Certainly they are not, (replied Harry) and their great distance occasions us not

to

to know them, for what they are, without further instruction.”—

“ What (cried Jasper) can our eyes deceive us ? ” — “ They can (answered Harry) and if you recollect even the tricks of flight of hand, that we have seen at fairs, it may sufficiently inform us of this, though in a low and vulgar manner. — But cousin, to go on, the sun, which enlightens us by day, I understand is distant so many millions of miles, and is of such size as you could neither think or believe. This moon shines only by reflected light, as a looking glass, and notwithstanding

ing

ing she looks so big to us, is likely to be beyond expression less than the smallest twinkling stars you see. For they shine with light of their own; but the steady ones, which seem larger, are less than these, though bigger than the moon; and some believe they have people like us that inhabit them; which is not impossible, since they are not made of fire, as the fixed twinkling stars (whose situation shews them so small) must be, but are of the same nature with our earth, which at a distance shines likewise as the moon we spoke of does, that is, with reflected light."

All

All this was matter of wonder to Jasper, and the more so, as his uncle had not ever mentioned the subject, nor was it in the line of their school education to give either of them an insight into matters of this nature. It was by this time agreed to return; when Harry told his cousin, that by going a little out of the way he could shew him his instructor, in what he knew concerning the stars. “ This (added he) is but little indeed, compared to his knowledge.—Besides this, he is good, affable, kind, and though low in station, appears to be perfectly happy. We shall stay but
a very

a very short time, and shall return before the hour of supper, or of prayers.

Accordingly they turned aside, down a green lane, near the bottom of which, in a narrow way, on the border of a rivulet, was a small tenement, the owner of which stood at the door. He was an elderly man, of a grave, but pleasing countenance, who invited them to come in, and shewed them his humble dwelling, which consisted only of two apartments below, one of which served as a book room, having a closet

set sufficient to hold a few books; the other, which overlooked the rivulet, and commanded a prospect wild and pleasant between the trees, served for a place of prayer, retirement, and meditation. Over these was a neat bedchamber; and the hermitage was furnished with a small garden, that produced some necessary vegetables, which, with water from a spring, served for the chief of the good man's subsistence.

There was but little time for discourse, because it was proper for the young gentlemen to depart, which

which they did, so as to arrive at home by the time that Harry had mentioned; though at a later hour than was usual with them on those occasions.

They informed Mr. Selwyn how they had spent their time, and the next day Harry told him some particulars relative to the life of this hermit, who had before so agreeably entertained him with discoursing on the heavenly bodies, as has been before related. It seems this recluse was the son of a person of some fortune, and much indulged by his parents,

L

rents, who, at their death, left him a sufficiency for a handsome maintenance. But this he run through by extravagance in his youth, and was reduced to necessity. However, a relation of his late mother's, advised him, though late, to turn his mind to trade, by whose assistance, he was set up in a reputable business; but ill fortune attended him likewise in that pursuit. By imprudently trusting to improper persons, and by losses, he was once more reduced; but having learned lessons of patience, this last misfortune did not affect him so heavily as

might

might have been expected. He made a fair division of all that he remained possessed of, among his creditors, and refused an offer of being set up in business, but accepting of a small present, which they made him, withdrew to this solitary spot. Here he built the small house above mentioned, and here, spending his time in study and prayer, and the contemplation of nature, he declared that he first tasted of real peace and tranquillity, such as he had never enjoyed when in a state of seeming ease as well as affluence.

Mrs. Selwyn, who was present, was much pleased with this little history, and observing that she doubted not of the hermit's happiness, as the solitude was suited to his age, circumstances, and disposition; some conversation followed on the subject of peace and satisfaction of mind, Mrs. Selwyn, at the desire of Eliza, read the following little poetical piece, for the amusement of the young people.

PLEASURE.

P L E A S U R E.

The Travels of Pleasure.

PLEASURE, a goddess young and
gay,

And beauteous as the smiling May;
Sweet offspring of the pow'rs above,
The pledge and earnest of their love,
Was sent from Heav'n, the means
to find,

(In mercy fram'd) to bless mankind;
And sure naught else could bid so
fair

To charm the heart, and banish care.

And first the lofty roofs she sought,
 With gold and sculpture highly
 wrought,
 There for a while she seem'd secure,
 And thought her empire would en-
 dure ;
 But vain that thought : — Ambition
 came,
 Pride, and the boundless wish for
 fame.
 Compell'd by these, she quits her
 sway,
 And hastes to other scenes away.
 Chac'd from the rich, she seeks the
 poor,
 And knocks at many an humble
 door.

There

There humble Poverty might dwell,
 In straw-built cot or lonely cell ;
 But Envy oft' and Discord rose,
 Envy and Discord, Pleasure's foes.

So once again, sweet nymph, she
 flies,
 To seek more kind and fav'ring skies,
 And in her way she chanc'd to see
 The hermit call'd Simplicity.
 In manners gentle, born of truth,
 Tho' full of days, yet flush'd with
 youth ;
 So shall his mother still appear,
 Thro' awful Heav'n's eternal year.

With

With him she join'd ;—and ev'ry
grace,

Adorning these, shone in their race.
From them first sprung Content,
bright maid,

Not in the pomp of wealth array'd,
But such as, constant, free, and pure,
Not gold can buy, nor gems procure.

'Tis her's, with native mildness blest,
To soothe the anxious, troubl'd
breast :

Alike she visits all who deign
To court her smiles, and own her
reign ;

Or rich, or poor, or high, or low,
Some good she ever can bestow :

Who

Who slight her, purchase pain and
 care,
 And for themselves a scourge pre-
 pare.

For perfect *happiness* 'tis vain
 To seek, while mortals here remain ;
 Yet ev'ry bliss our state can give,
Content prepares us to receive.

CHAP.

C H A P. IX.

Observations on Christmas.—Dispute about a Trifle.—Tale concerning the fatal Effects of Passion.

THERE is always satisfaction to be found in mirth, when it is natural, and innocent, as was the case with that enjoyed by the little company assembled at Mr. Selwyn's, and it was expressed visibly on every countenance.

What

“ What a happy season is Christmas, said Jasper.” And he added, “ what a pity that it should come but once a year.”

“ We have been informed sufficiently (replied Master Selwyn) of the occasion of this feast. Something *more* than merriment is intended by it. But, besides, we well know there are other feasts that this must give way to, as all must succeed in their order. If Christmas did not go, you know Easter could not come, the same of Whitsuntide ; but mere infants can tell this, and there-

therefore you must excuse me for observing, that I think your observation was but a childish one; as we grow up, we should endeavour to improve.

Jasper was nettled at the observation. "I am no child, Master Harry, (cried he) and though rather more than a year younger in age than yourself, perhaps I may not be at all younger in understanding. But you do not know *me*, because you are like some people whom my uncle has said do not know *themselves*. And

And, take notice that I do not ask to be excused telling you so."—

This speech caused rather a smart reply from Harry, who did not want for spirit, and one disagreeable word provoking another, at length Jasper struck his cousin, who was so good-natured and prudent as not immediately to return the blow. "I am not afraid of *you* Jasper (said he) but I *am* afraid to do wrong; for though I do not know that I said any thing more than was true, yet, to make all agreeable, I am sorry if *that* offended you. But truth will

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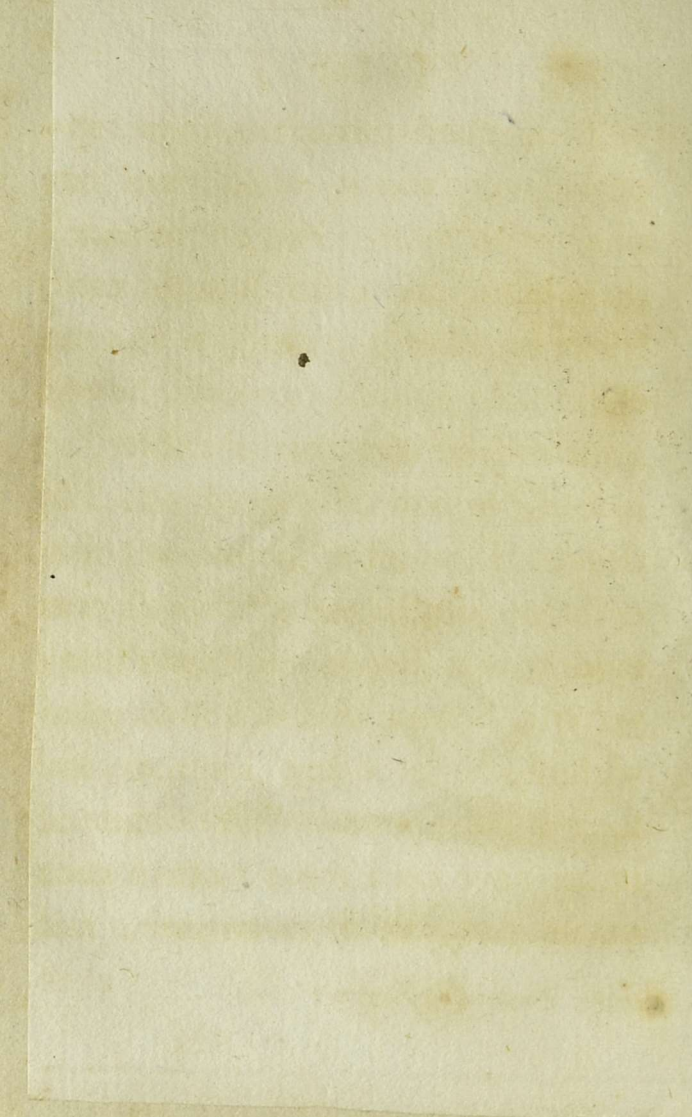
not let me make any further acknowledgement."

This was not sufficient; for Jasper insisted that his kinsman should ask his pardon in a more submissive manner. He added another blow, which Harry returned; Eliza finding them engaged, and endeavouring in vain to part them, returned, and called Mr. Selwyn, who entering found the offender lying on the ground, his antagonist, whose skill had been too much for him, offering to raise him, a favour that he did not chuse to accept.

This



Harry knocks Jasper down.



This good gentleman now appeared very angry, which was not usual with him. He reprimanded them both, and at first was the most severe on Harry, because he was the elder. At length, however, he was informed of the true state of the matter, which the other did not deny. This gave something of a different turn to the affair. It was evident that Jasper was blameable; yet Mr. Selwyn was still displeased with both, as being kinsmen, for such a contention. "You should rather have been ready to take each others part, than to dispute, and

even to fight about trifles. The passion of anger is most frequently found to be the child of folly, and often defeats even its own purposes.

I remember to have heard a story of an old English Baron, who had a son, from whom he formed great expectation. Young Edgar possessed good talents, great genius, and some judgement; but he was of a passionate temper, and at times quarrelsome to excess, a circumstance that took much from his good qualities, and rendered him disagreeable to many

many that otherwise would have been highly pleased with his company and conversation. This youth, at a very early time, expressed a desire of travelling into foreign countries, in which his father did not think proper to thwart him. Therefore he set out for the continent, properly provided, and it was not doubted but that he would return much the better for his travels, and he was full of hopes to answer such expectations.

On his first arrival in Germany, he was much esteemed and carested,

because his behaviour appeared to merit this good treatment. But as it is easy to glide along the smooth stream, so it is to proceed on your way, when there is nothing to disturb or ruffle us. Edgar did not find this always the case; in truth it would not have been reasonable for him to expect it. He knew he had abilities; but he did not seem to be aware that he should have rivals, and forgot that he had not been used to attend to the lessons of moderation.

This

This noble youth being introduced to the Emperor's court, was highly flattered with the respect shewn him on account of his country, his birth and appearance. All this was very well, but he ought to have considered that a proper behaviour must be necessary to continue it. It was in this he failed, for it was not long before he displayed his temper abroad as he had done before at home; got into quarrels unbecoming of him, received some wounds that did him no honour, and began to be as much hated as he had ever

ever been respected at the Court of the Emperor.

He had a servant named Edmund, that had always been faithful to him, one who was honest, honourable, and descended of a good family; yet such was this forward temper of Edgar, that whenever any thing vexed or perplexed him, he constantly insulted, and sometimes beat this unhappy man. And once he went so far as to hurt him dangerously in the course of an undeserved chastisement. It is true this domestic could have left him, or
made

made a regular complaint, but he seemed willing to bear, to the uttermost. However, as the proverb says, "*Ill usage* may cause a dog to hate his master"—Edmund, on recovering from his illness, thought himself in some measure made amends for his sufferings, when he was told that the young nobleman was sorry he had proceeded so far.—“ If Lord Edgar repents after all, and if he can think me his friend, as well as his servant, (said he) I shall be satisfied.”

But

But he soon found that he had been too hasty in supposing there was such a favourable alteration. His master returned to his angry disposition with returning health, and seemed as if he had been resolved to try the patience of all about him; more especially of those that Heaven had placed in a dependent station.

It happened that one day when Edgar chose to divert himself with shooting, he ordered Edmund to attend him, and went out in a very good temper in the morning; but
not

not meeting with such success as he wished and expected, he grew ill-humoured, and Edmund, as usual, was doomed to feel the ill effects of his unreasonable passion. Vexed as the latter was, and conscious of his own good behaviour, he ventured to put the young Lord in mind of his unworthy conduct, observing, that he was his fellow-creature, possessed of principles of honour, and a faithful heart; and added, that had he been revengeful, opportunities might have been found to retaliate injuries received. “Even now my Lord, added he, are we not on a level?—

I see

I see your design to insult me. By your own order, I have fire-arms as well as you, and youth and spirit fully equal to your own; I may say it without any sort of disparagement to your Lordship; but—"Do you challenge me? (cried Edgar) or dare you think of lifting your hand against your master."—"Be patient, Sir, replied Edmund, and hear me out; I am not a coward, yet I meant no challenge; all I wished was to set matters in a true light between us; and "Tis false," (Edgar exclaimed) and loading his gun levelled it at Edmund,

Edmund, who put on self-defence, drew a pistol, but as it plainly appeared without any other design than that of preventing his Lord's rashness. He might have fired instantly ; he did not. But the impetuous young nobleman gave fire immediately. He was too much blinded by passion to take a proper aim. He forgot the piece had been already loaded ; and, in consequence, without hurting Edmund it burst in his hand, and shattered his arm most dreadfully. The servant, faithful to the last, came up, gave all the aid in his power, and led him to the

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nearest

nearest village, in order to get assistance. A surgeon was procured; Edgar's arm was cut off; yet even this did not answer the end; for he died of the consequences, at the age of 22, in a foreign country, falling a victim to his own folly, and a sad example of ungoverned passion.

C H A P. X.

*Adventure in a Morning's Walk.—
 Story of an unfortunate Person,
 and other Particulars.*

IT has been already observed that Miss Eliza sometimes went abroad, attended by her maid Lucy, in whom her parents could place proper confidence, being as serious and prudent as many a much older servant.

One morning as they were taking a walk, Miss Selwyn being led into a track different from that which she was generally used to, being pleased with the variety, a sudden shower falling, they came to a cottage, at the door of which stood a pretty young woman, dressed in a clean, but very homely manner, who invited them to walk in, and take shelter from the rain. They accepted the offer, and when they entered, found an old woman sitting in an armed chair, who endeavoured to rise to receive them. But the young lady, perceiving that she was ill
and

and infirm, would not allow her so to do. It was plain to observe that the mistress of this poor mud-built tenement had been bred to good manners, and indeed it was natural to conclude, from their behaviour, that they had seen better days, whilst every appearance of that poverty, which they seemed in vain endeavouring to conceal, sufficiently denoted their present real situation.

Eliza being anxious to know something further concerning them, gave hints in a manner that proved her fear of offending; on which the

young woman, whose name was Maria, gave her a short history of their misfortunes.

She informed them that her mother had been left a widow, in good circumstances, while she was but a child; but finding herself unable to carry on the extensive business of her late husband, had left it with prudence, as she thought, in time, and put the chief part of her money into the hands of a banker, and one whom she supposed her friend. But the banker broke, and this was lost; on which account she drew the little
yet

yet remaining, that was preserved for her by a relation, and rented a very small farm, consisting of a few acres ; but bad crops, and other accidents obliged her to give that up, and retire with what few goods she had to a still smaller tenement, which being consumed by fire she lost near the whole of her little property, and was obliged to put up with the cottage they now inhabited, which was built in its room. Even here misfortune followed her, for three sheep, from a common, and a cow died, that was greatly serviceable for her subsistence, and that of her daughter.

daughter. The good, but unhappy woman, was soon after afflicted with a severe fit of illness, from which, though not yet recovered, she was threatened to be turned out of doors, and the little she had to be seized, because she was not able to pay a small matter of rent, when she found herself in want of proper assistance, and scarcely supplied with common necessities.

This melancholy tale much affected Miss Selwyn, who privately begged Maria to accept what money she had about her; and the good-natured Lucy shed tears on the occasion.

They

“ They did not fail to inform Mr. and Mrs. Selwyn, who waited breakfast for them, of this adventure, and Lucy, now confessed that she had seen Maria before, whom she conceived to be distressed; but all she could learn was, that the young woman had a sick mother that was but in indifferent circumstances.

“ I commend your compassion, Eliza, said her Father, for these unfortunate people; perhaps we shall be able to do more than pity them. I know Sir John Worthland, on whose estate I find by your description

tion

tion their cottage stands. I shall apply to him, and hope I shall prevail on him not to distress them.— At the worst, I thank Heaven, it is in my power to give them some assistance. And I would have you understand that the great disposer of all things is often pleased to succour the good even when they least expect it; attend to one instance of this nature which I have read in history.

“ There lived a woman in Bohemia whilst it was a kingdom of itself, who from good circumstances had fallen to decay, and seemed to be perpetually unfortunate; but she
had

had a cousin that had been bred up with her in early youth that appeared to be always fortunate. He had succeeded in all his undertakings, till at length he was taken notice of by a Nobleman, who from the station of an upper servant, raised him to be his secretary. When he was thus promoted, and grew very rich, he took no notice of this poor woman, who in the vexation of her heart, repined, that one who was so unworthy, should be so successful. You should observe my good friend (said a Tradesman, who, though not in very good circumstances, sometimes

sometimes relieved her) that though you are now reduced to beggary, you are yet alive; till death, none can be said to have been completely unhappy, or completely blest. She little regarded this observation; and continually deplored her hard fate. But she was one day surpris'd at being accosted by a servant in a rich livery who, after enquiring her name, asked whether she were not the Kinswoman of a certain Nobleman's Secretary? Being told that she was, he informed her that her cousin was accused, found guilty of treason, and condemned to die. You are happy,

(added he) that you have not had any connection with him. It turned out that she was still happier, for the secretary and master, both suffered for their crimes, The king having heard of this woman's misery, caused her to be sought out, and gave her all her late kinsman's wealth and possessions.—She then confessed the truth of the tradesman's observation, that till death, none could be called entirely miserable or completely blest."

The next day both Mr. and Mrs. Selwyn went privately, to visit Maria and her Mother, the latter of whom,

whom, they both recollected to have known before her misfortunes ; though since they had not seen her, because she had hidden herself from all her old acquaintances. As they now knew the particulars of her situation, Sir John Worthland was applied to, who readily forgave the rent due, and also removed her into a more comfortable dwelling. Mr. Selwyn, after making her an agreeable present in money, bought her a cow or two and some sheep, to stock a little farm to repair her loss ; and Mrs. Selwyn recommended Maria to the place of an upper servant, in



*Mr. & Mrs. Selwin, relieving
the Sick Woman in distress.*

in the family of a lady of quality ;
 whilst Eliza, and the kind Lucy re-
 joiced at having been the instruments
 of doing good to the deserving.

CHAPTER THE LAST,

*In which the History takes leave of
Mr. Selwyn and his Family.—
Conclusion.*

EVERY day shewed the propriety of the education of these young people, who constantly gave tokens in youth of what they would be when arrived at maturer years. As for Harry not a fable, a history, or any maxim of instruction, appeared to be misapplied with him.

His

His sister Eliza also well rewarded the care that had been bestowed on her; and Jasper, whose temper promised least, was by degrees moulded into such a frame of mind as rendered him agreeable to others, whilst it proved advantageous to himself. Having lost his heedlessness, and a disposition to passion and self-will, he grew both prudent and tractable. Being put apprentice to a wholesale dealer, at his uncle's expence, he succeeded, and became in time a reputable merchant.

Harry and Eliza not only shared the fortune of their parents, but so much

much recommended themselves to a noble, though distant branch of the same family, that the Baron left each of them a portion of his estate, not annexed to the title. The young lady married to advantage, and both lived in their old neighbourhood, patterns of charity to the poor, and of good-will and benevolence to every one. Lucy lived and died happy in the service of her young mistress.

Thus,

Thus, Reader, ends our little History, in the course of which we have endeavoured to lead you as it were by the hand, from smaller to larger improvements, still observant to proportion the means to the end. Whatever amusement arises in the course of the whole, is connected with the design, and those that seek the

the

the one are heartily welcome to the other. For the present we drop the curtain, and bid all heartily farewell.

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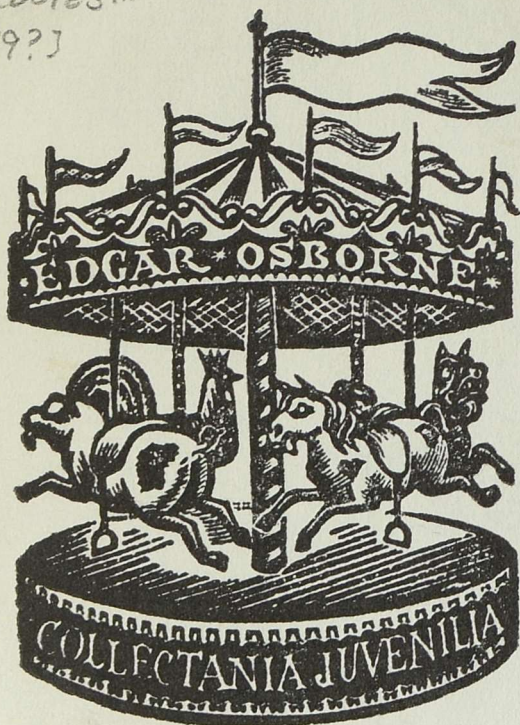
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