



THE BARON OVER A BOTTLE RELATES HIS TRAVELS.

THE
TRAVELS BY SEA AND LAND
OF THE RENOWNED
BARON MUNCHAUSEN,
INCLUDING
A TOUR THROUGH THE UNITED STATES
IN THE YEAR 1803.

“ TRUTH IS STRANGE MORE STRANGE THAN FICTION.”

ILLUSTRATED WITH ENGRAVINGS.



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THE
ADVENTURES OF
BARON MUNCHAUSEN.

CHAPTER I.

The Baron over a bottle relates to his friends his travels. Astonishing effects of a storm. Arrives at Ceylon. Conquers two extraordinary opponents. Returns to Holland.

SOME years before my beard announced approaching manhood, I expressed a strong desire of seeing the world from which I was discouraged by my parents. A cousin by my mother's side took a liking to me and was much inclined to gratify my curiosity. His eloquence had more effect than mine for my father consented to my accompanying him in a voyage to the Island of Ceylon where his uncle had resided as governor many years.

We sailed from Amsterdam with dispatches from their High Mightinesses the States of Holland. The only circumstances which happened on our voyage worth relating was the wonderful effects of a storm, which had torn up by the roots a great number of trees of enormous bulk that had been carried by the wind so high that they appeared like feathers of small birds floating in the air for they were at least five miles above the earth: however, as soon as the storm subsided, they all fell perpendicularly

into their respective places and took root again except the largest which happened, when it was blown into the air, to have a man and his wife on its branches, gathering cucumbers, which here grew on trees; the weight of this couple, as the tree descended, overbalanced the trunk, and brought it down in a horizontal position: it fell upon the chief man of the island, and killed him on the spot to the great joy of the inhabitants.

In about six weeks we arrived at Ceylon, where we were received with great marks of friendship and politeness.

One day being out on a shooting party, I lost my companions in passing through a wood. Having reached the banks of a large piece of water, I heard a rustling noise behind; on turning about, I was almost petrified at the sight of a lion evidently approaching with the intent of satisfying his appetite with my poor carcass. What was to be done in this horrible dilemma? My piece was only charged with swan shot, and I had no other about me: however, though I could have no idea of killing such an animal with that weak kind of ammunition, yet I had some hopes of frightening him by the report, and perhaps of wounding him. I immediately let fly, but the report did but enrage him, for he now quickened his pace, and seemed to approach me full speed: I attempted to escape, but the moment I turned about, I found a large crocodile, with his mouth extended, almost ready to receive me; in short, I gave myself up as lost, for the lion was now on his hind legs, in the very act of seizing me; I fell involuntarily to the ground with fear, and, as it afterwards appeared, he sprang over me: after lying in this horrible situation a few seconds, I

heard a violent but unusual noise ; after listening for some time I ventured to raise my head and look round, when, to my unspeakable joy, I perceived the lion had by the eagerness with which he sprung at me, jumped forward as I fell, into the crocodile's mouth which was wide open ; the head of the one stuck in the throat of the other, and they were struggling to extricate themselves ; with my *couteau de chasse* I cut off the lion's head at one blow, then, with the but end of my fowling-piece, I rammed the head farther into the throat of the crocodile, and destroyed him by suffocation. The crocodile was just forty feet in length.

The lion's skin I had made into tobacco pouches, which were presented by me, on our arrival in Holland, to the burgomaster. The skin of the crocodile was stuffed, and makes a capital article in their public museum at Amsterdam, where the exhibiter relates the whole story to each spectator, with such additions as he thinks proper: one of them is, that the lion jumped quite through the crocodile, and was making his escape at the back door, when, as soon as his head appeared, Monsieur, the Great Baron, (as he is pleased to call me,) cut it off and three feet of the crocodile's tail along with it ; nay so little attention has this fellow to the truth, that he adds, " As soon as the crocodile missed his tail, he turned about, snatched the *couteau de chasse* out of Monsieur's hand, and swallowed it with such eagerness, that it pierced his heart, and killed him on the spot."

The little regard this impudent knave has to veracity, makes me apprehensive that my *real facts* may fall under suspicion, by being found in company with his confounded inventions.

CHAPTER II.

The Baron loses his horse, and finds a wolf. Makes him draw his sledge.

I SET off from Rome on a journey to "the frightful climate" of Russia, in the midst of winter on horseback, as the most convenient manner of travelling; I was but lightly clothed, and of this I felt the inconvenience the more I advanced north-east. Charity, however, induced me to throw my mantle over an old man lying almost naked, on a bleak common in Poland. At length night and darkness overtook me. No village was to be seen. The country was covered with snow. Tired, I alighted, and fastened my horse to something like a pointed stump of a tree, which appeared above the snow, and lay down on the snow, where I slept so soundly that I did not open my eyes till daylight. Conceive my astonishment to find myself in the midst of a village, lying in a churchyard; my horse was not to be seen, but I heard him soon after neigh somewhere above me. On looking upward, I beheld him hanging by his bridle, to the weathercock of the steeple. Matters were now very plain: the village had been covered with snow over night; a sudden thaw had taken place; I had sunk down gently to the churchyard as the snow had melted away; and what in the dark I had taken to be a stump of a tree appearing above the snow, proved to have been the weathercock of the steeple! I took one of my pistols, shot the bridle in two, brought down the horse, and proceeded on my journey.

Advancing into the interior parts of Russia, I found travelling on horseback rather unfashionable



THE BARON IN A SNOW STORM TIES HIS HORSE TO A CHURCH STEEPLE.—*Face page 8*

in winter, therefore I took a sledge and drove toward St. Petersburg. In the midst of a dreary forest I spied a terrible wolf making after me; he soon overtook me. Mechanically I laid myself down flat in the sledge, and let the horse run for our safety. The wolf did not mind me, but took a leap, and falling furiously on the horse, began instantly to tear and devour the hind part of the poor animal, who ran the faster for his pain and terror. Thus unnoticed and safe, I lifted my head, and with horror beheld that the wolf had ate his way into the horse's body; I took my advantage, and fell on him with my whip. This unexpected attack frightened him so; that he leaped forward with all his might; the horse's carcass dropt on the ground; and in his place the wolf was in the harness; and I, on my part, whipping him continually, we arrived in full career safe at St. Petersburg, contrary to our respective expectations, and to the astonishment of the spectators.

CHAPTER III.

Encounter between the Baron's nose and a door post. Fifty brace of ducks and other fowls destroyed by one shot. Flogs a fox out of his skin. Vanquishes a wild boar.

ONE morning while I was in Russia, I saw through the windows of my bed-room, that a large pond not far off, was covered with wild ducks. In an instant I took up my gun, ran down stairs and out of the house in such a hurry that I imprudently struck my face against the door post. Fire flew out of my eyes, but it did not prevent my intention; I

soon came within shot, when levelling my piece I observed to my sorrow, that the flint had sprung from the cock, by the violence of the shock I had just received. There was no time to be lost. I presently remembered the effect it had upon my eyes, therefore opened the pan, levelled my piece against the wild fowls, and hit my fist against one of my eyes. A hearty blow drew sparks again; the gun went off, and I killed fifty brace of ducks, twenty widgeons, and three couple of teals. Presence of mind is the soul of manly exercise. In a noble forest in Russia, I met a black fox, whose fine skin it would have been a pity to tear by a ball or shot. Reynard stood close to a tree. In a twinkling I took out my ball, and placed a spike nail in its room, fired and took so dexterous an aim that I nailed his brush fast to a tree. I went up to him, took out my hanger, gave him a cross cut over the face, laid hold of my whip and fairly flogged him out of his skin. Once in a forest, unprepared for attack or defence, I had a misfortune to meet a wild boar. I retired behind an oak tree, just when the furious animal levelled a blow at me, with such force, that his tusks pierced through the tree, by which means he could neither repeat the blow nor retire. Immediately I laid hold of a stone, and hammered and bent his tusks in such a manner that he could not escape; while I went to the next village for ropes and a cart, to secure him properly, and to carry him off safe and alive, in which I perfectly succeeded.

CHAPTER IV.

Shoots a stag with cherry stones, the wonderful effects of it. Kills a bear by extraordinary dexterity. Attacked by a wolf, which he turns inside out. Is assailed by a mad dog, from which he escapes; but his cloak is seized with madness, by which his whole wardrobe is thrown into confusion.

A VERY singular circumstance occurred to me one day, when I was out a shooting. Having spent all my shot, I found unexpectedly before me a stately stag. I charged immediately with powder, and put in a good handful of cherry stones, which I happened to have in my pouch. I let fly at him, but he made off. A year after, being with a party in the same forest, I beheld a noble stag with a fine full grown cherry tree above ten feet high between his antlers. I immediately recollected my adventure, looked on him as my property, and brought him to the ground by one shot, which at once gave me the haunch and cherry sauce; for the tree was covered with the richest fruit I ever tasted. Sportsmen must on emergencies have recourse to any expedient. Daylight and my powder were spent one day in a Polish forest. When I was going home a terrible bear made up to me in great speed, with open mouth ready to fall upon me: I had two spare flints; one I flung with all my might into the monster's open jaws, down his throat. It gave him pain, and made him turn about, so that I could level the second at his rear, which I did with wonderful success; for it flew in, met the first flint in the stomach, struck fire, and blew up the bear with a terrible explosion. Though I came safe off yet I should not wish to try the experiment again, or venture against bears with no

other ammunition. However, another day, a frightful wolf rushed upon me so suddenly that I could do nothing but follow mechanical instinct and thrust my fist into his mouth. I pushed on, till my arm was fairly in up to the shoulder. How should I disengage myself? If I withdrew my arm, then the animal would fly the more furiously upon me: this I saw in his flaming eyes. I laid hold of his entrails, turned him inside out, like a glove, and flung him to the ground.

The same expedient would not have answered against a mad dog, which soon after came running against me in a narrow street at St. Petersburg. Run who can, I thought; and to do this the better, I threw off my fur cloak, and was safe within doors in an instant. I sent my servant for the cloak, and he put it in the wardrobe with my other clothes. The day after I was amazed and frightened by Jack's bawling "For God's sake, sir, your cloak is mad!" I hastened, and found my clothes tossed about and torn to pieces. The fellow was perfectly right in his apprehensions about the fur cloak's madness. I saw it myself just then falling on a fine full dress suit, which it shook and tossed, with all the symptoms of hydrophobia.

CHAPTER V.

The effects of activity and presence of mind. A favorite hound pups while pursuing a hare. The hare also litters while pursued by the hound. The consequence. Presented with a famous horse by Count Przebosky, with which he performs extraordinary feats.

ALL these narrow escapes, gentlemen, were chances turned to advantage, by presence of mind and

vigorous exertions; which, taken together, make the fortunate sportsman, sailor, and soldier; but he would be a very imprudent sportsman, admiral, or general, who would always depend on chance, without providing the very best implements which secure success. I was not blameable in this way; for I have always been as remarkable for the excellence of my horses, dogs, guns and swords, as for the proper manner of using them. I shall not enter here into any detail of my stables, kennel, or armory: but a favorite bitch of mine I cannot help mentioning to you—a greyhound, and I never had or saw a better. She ran so fast, so much, and so long in my service, that she actually ran off her legs so that in the latter part of her life, I was under the necessity of working and using her as a turnspit, in which quality she still served me many years. Coursing one day a very large hare, I pitied my poor bitch, being big with pups, yet she would run as fast as ever. I could follow her on horseback only at a distance. At once I heard a cry as it were of a pack of hounds, but so weak and faint that I hardly knew what to make of it. Coming up I was astonished. The hare had littered in running; the same had happened to my bitch in coarsing and there were just as many leverets as pups. By instinct the former ran, the latter followed: and thus I found myself in possession at once of six hares and as many dogs, at the end of a course, which had only begun with one of each.

I remember this, my wonderful bitch, almost with the same pleasure, as a superb Lithuanian horse, which became mine by an accident. I was at Count Przobosky's noble country seat Lithuania, and re-

mained with the ladies at tea in the drawing-room, while the gentlemen were down in the yard, to see a young horse of blood, which was just arrived from the stud. We heard a noise: I hastened down stairs, and found the horse so unruly that nobody durst approach or mount him. In one leap, I was on his back, took him by surprise, and worked him quite into gentleness and obedience. To show my horsemanship to the ladies, and save them unnecessary trouble, I forced him to leap in at one of the windows of the drawing-room, walked round several times, pace, trot, and gallop; and at last made him mount the tea table, there to repeat his lessons, in a style which was exceedingly pleasing to the ladies, for he performed them amazing well, and did not break a single cup or saucer. The noble lord with his usual politeness, begged I would accept of this young horse, and ride him to conquest and honor, in the campaign against the Turks, which was soon to be opened, under the command of Count Munich. We took the field, among several other reasons, with an intention to retrieve the character of the Russian arms, which had been blemished a little by Czar Peter's last campaign on the Pruth; and this we accomplished after several very fatiguing and glorious campaigns. Modesty forbids individuals to arrogate to themselves great successes or victories, the glory of which is generally engrossed by the commander. Nor do I claim any particular share of glory in the great engagements with the enemy. We all did our duty. Having had the command of a body of hussars, I went on a particular expedition, with discretionary powers: the success of which I think, fairly and only to be placed to my account, and that of

the brave fellows whom I led on to victory. We had very hot work in the van of the army, when we drove the Turks into Oczakow. My spirited Lithuanian had almost brought me into a scrape ; I had an advanced forepost, and saw the enemy coming against me in a cloud of dust, which left me rather uncertain about their actual numbers and real intentions : therefore, I let my flankers, on both wings, spread to the right and left, and I myself led on straight upon the enemy, to have a nearer sight of them ; in this I was gratified, for they stood and fought, till, for fear of my flankers, they began to move off rather disorderly. This was the moment to fall on them with spirit. We broke them entirely, made a terrible havock, and drove them not only back to a walled town in their rear but even through it ; to our most sanguine expectation.

The swiftness of my Lithuanian made me foremost ; and seeing the enemy flying through the gate, I thought it prudent to stop in the market-place, to order the men to rendezvous. I stopped, gentlemen, but judge my astonishment, when, in this market-place, I found myself quite alone, not one of my hussars about me. I walked my panting Lithuanian to a spring, and let him drink. He drank with an eagerness altogether insatiable, but natural enough, for when I looked round for my men, what should I see ! the hind part of the poor creature's croup and legs missing, as if he had been cut in two, and the water ran out as it came in, without refreshing or doing him any good ! This was quite a mystery to me, till I returned to the town gate. There I saw, that when I rushed in pell-mell with the flying-enemy, they had drop-

ped the portcullis, which had totally cut off his hind part, that still lay quivering on the outside of the gate. It would have been an irreparable loss, had not our farrier (a very ingenious fellow) contrived to bring both parts together while hot. He sowed them up with sprigs and young shoots of laurel that were at hand; the wound healed; and what could only have happened to so glorious a horse, the sprigs took root in his body, grew up, and formed a bower above me; so that afterward, I could fight under the shade of my own, and my horse's laurel.

CHAPTER VI.

The Baron is made a prisoner of war, and sold for a slave. Keeps the Sultan's bees, which are attacked by two bears. Loses one of the bees. A silver hatchet, which he throws at the bears, rebounds, and flies up to the moon. Brings it back by an ingenious invention. Falls to the earth on his return, and helps himself out of a pit. Extricates himself from a carriage which meets him in a narrow road, in a new manner. The wonderful effects of the frost on a French horn.

I WAS not always successful. I had the misfortune to be overpowered with numbers, to be made prisoner of war; and what is worse, but always usual among the Turks, to be sold for a slave. My daily task was to attend the Sultan's bees. One evening I missed a bee, and soon observed that two bears had fallen upon her, to tear her to pieces for the honey she carried. I had in my hands only the silver hatchet which is the badge of the Sultan's gardeners and farmers. I threw it at the robbers, with an intention to frighten them away, and set the poor bee at liberty; but by an unlucky

turn of my arm, it flew upward, and continued rising till it reached the moon. How should I recover it? How fetch it down again? I recollected that a species of Turkey bean grows very quick, and runs up to an astonishing height. I planted one immediately; it grew, and actually fastened itself to one of the moon's horns. I had now only to climb up by it to the moon, where I safely arrived, but had a troublesome piece of business before I could find my hatchet; at last, however, I found it in a heap of chaff and chopped straw. I was now for returning: but alas! the heat of the sun had dried up my bean; so I fell to work, and twisted me a rope of the chopped straw, as long and as well as I could. This I fastened to one of the moon's horns, and slid down to the end of it. Here I held myself fast with the left hand, and with the hatchet in my right I cut the long, now useless end of the upper part, which when tied to the lower end brought me a good deal farther down; but when I was four or five miles from the earth at least, it broke; I fell to the ground with such amazing violence, that I found myself stunned, and in a hole nine fathoms deep, made by the weight of my body falling from so great a height: to get out, I dug steps with my nails, and easily accomplished it.

Peace was soon after concluded with the Turks; and gaining my liberty, I left St. Petersburg. The winter was then uncommonly severe all over Europe. I travelled post, and finding myself in a narrow lane, bade the postilion give a signal with his horn, that other travellers might not meet us in the narrow passage. He blew with all his might; but his endeavors were in vain, he could not make the horn

sound, which was unaccountable and rather unfortunate, for soon after we found another coach coming the other way : there was no proceeding ; however, I got out of my carriage, and being pretty strong, placed it, wheels and all on my head ; I then jumped over a hedge about nine feet high (which, considering the weight of the coach was rather difficult) into a field, and came out again by another jump into the road beyond the other carriage ; I then went back for the horses, and placing one on my head, and the other under my left arm, by the same means brought them to my coach, put to, and proceeded to an inn at the end of our stage. After we arrived at the inn, my postillion and I refreshed ourselves ; he hung his horn on a peg near the kitchen fire ; I sat on the other side.

Suddenly we heard a *Tereng ! tereng ! teng ! teng !* We looked round, and now found the reason the postillion had not been able to sound his horn ; his tunes were frozen up in it, and came out by thawing, plain enough, and much to the credit of the driver, so that the honest fellow entertained us for some time with a successive variety of tunes, without putting his mouth to the horn. •

CHAPTER VII.

The Baron relates his adventures on a voyage to North America. Pranks of a whale. A dangerous leak stopped a posteriori.

I EMBARKED at Portsmouth in a first-rate English man-of-war, for North America. When we arrived within three hundred leagues of the river St. Lawrence, the ship struck against (as we supposed) a rock ; however, on heaving the lead, we could find

no bottom. What made this circumstance the more wonderful was that the violence of the shock was such that we lost our rudder, broke our bowsprit in the middle, and split all our masts from top to bottom. While we were all in a state of astonishment at the general and unaccountable confusion in which we were involved, the whole was suddenly explained, by the appearance of an enormous whale, who had been basking asleep, and was so much displeased with the disturbance which our ship had given him, that he beat in all the gallery and part of the quarter deck with his tail, and almost at the same instant took the main sheet anchor, which was suspended as usual from the head between his teeth, and ran away with the ship, at least sixty leagues, at the rate of twelve leagues an hour, when fortunately the cable broke. On our return to Europe, some months after, we found the same whale, within a few leagues of the same spot floating dead on the water; it measured above half a mile in length. We got our boats out and with much difficulty cut off his head, were to our great joy, we found the anchor, and above forty fathom of the cable concealed on the left side of his mouth, just under his tongue. One part of our distress I had like to have forgotten: while the whale was running away with the ship, she sprung a leak, and the water poured in so fast that all our pumps could not keep us from sinking; it was however my good fortune to discover it first. I found it a large hole about a foot diameter: I had infinite pleasure that this noble ship was preserved, with all its crew, by a most fortunate thought! I immediately stopped the hole with the hinder part of my body. My situation, while I sat there was rather cool, but the carpenter's art soon relieved me.

CHAPTER VIII.

Bathes in the Mediterranean. Jumps into the Belly of a Fish.
His Release.

I WAS once in great danger of being lost in a most singular manner in the Mediterranean: I was bathing near Marseilles, one summer's afternoon, when I discovered a very large fish approaching me with the greatest velocity. There was no time to be lost, nor could I possibly avoid him, I immediately reduced myself to as small a size as possible, by closing my feet, and placing my hands also near my sides, in which position I passed directly between his jaws, and into his stomach, where I remained some time in total darkness: at last it occurred to me, that by giving him pain, he would be glad to get rid of me: as I had plenty of room, I played my pranks, such as tumbling, hop, step, jump, &c., but nothing seemed to disturb him so much as the motion of my feet in attempting to dance a hornpipe; he roared horridly, and stood up almost perpendicular in the water, with his head and shoulders exposed, by which he was discovered by the people on board an Italian trader, then sailing by, who harpooned him. As soon as he was brought on board, the crew began to cut him up, by opening the bottom of his belly. As soon as I perceived a glimmering of light, I called out lustily to be released from a situation in which I was almost suffocated. It is impossible for me to do justice to the astonishment which sat on every countenance at hearing a human voice issue from a fish, but more so at seeing a naked man walk upright out of his body: in short, gentlemen, I told them the whole

story, as I have done you, whilst amazement struck them dumb. Indeed, this circumstance appears so incredible, that I should hardly venture to recount it, but that the whole crew of the Italian vessel are living witnesses of its truth.

CHAPTER IX.

Adventures in Turkey and on the River Nile. Sees a Balloon over Constantinople. Shoots at and brings it down. Finds a French Experimental Philosopher suspended from it. Goes on an Embassy to Grand Cairo, and returns on the Nile, where he is thrown into an unexpected situation, and detained six weeks.

WHEN I was in the service of the Turks, I frequently amused myself in a pleasure barge on the Marmora. I observed a globular substance in the air, which appeared to be about the size of a twelve inch globe, with something suspended from it. I immediately took up my fowling-piece, and charged it with five or six balls : all the balls took effect, and tore one side open, and brought it down. Judge my surprise, when a most elegant gilt car, with a man in it, and a part of a sheep which seemed to have been roasted, fell within two yards of me. When my astonishment had in some degree subsided, I ordered my people to row close to this ærial traveller.

I took him on board of my barge, and found he was a French philosopher, who about eight days before, had set out in a balloon from the Land's End, in Cornwall, in the Island of Great Britain, on a voyage of experiment to Exeter, but from the failure of the string fixed to a valve in the balloon, instead of Exeter, he was carried by the wind with incredible velocity to Constantinople.

The Grand Seignior employed me to negotiate a matter of great importance at Grand Cairo, whether I went in great state by land. Having completed the business, I dismissed all my attendants, and returned like a private gentleman; the weather was delightful, and the Nile beautiful beyond all description. I was tempted to hire a barge, to descend by water to Alexandria. On the third day of my voyage the river began to rise, and the next day it overspread the whole country for many leagues on each side! On the fifth, at sunrise, my barge became entangled with what I at first took for shrubs; but as the light became stronger, I found myself surrounded by almonds, perfectly ripe, and in the highest perfection. On plumbing with a line, my people found we were at least sixty feet from the ground, and unable to advance or retreat. At about eight or nine o'clock the wind rose suddenly, and canted our barge on one side; here she filled and I saw no more of her. Fortunately we all saved ourselves (six men and two boys) by clinging to the almond tree. In this situation we continued three weeks and six days, living upon the almonds. I need not inform you we had plenty of water. On the forty second day of our distress, the water fell as rapidly as it had risen, and on the forty sixth we were able to venture down on *terra firma*. In four days, after a very tiresome journey on foot, we reached the river, which was now confined to its banks, related our adventure to Murad Bey, who kindly accommodated all our wants, and sent us forward in a barge of his own. In six days more we arrived at Alexandria, where we took shipping for Constantinople. I was received kindly by the Grand Seignior, had the honor of seeing the seraglio, to which

his highness introduced me himself, and presented me with as many ladies as I thought proper to select for my own amusement and that of my friends.

CHAPTER X.

Pays a Visit, during the Siege of Gibraltar, to his old friend General Elliot. Sinks a Spanish Man-of-War. Wakes an old woman on the African Coast. Destroys all the enemy's cannon. Frightens the Count d'Artois, and sends him to Paris.

DURING the celebrated siege of Gibraltar, I went with a provision-fleet, under Lord Rodney's command, to see my old friend, General Elliot, who had, by his distinguished defence of that place, gained never-fading laurels. After the usual expressions of joy which generally attend the meeting of old friends, I went to examine the state of the garrison, and view the operations of the enemy. I had a most excellent telescope with me, by the help of which I found the enemy were going to discharge a thirty-six pounder at the very spot where we stood. I told the general what they were about; he looked through the glass also, and found my conjecture right. I immediately, by his permission, ordered a forty-eight pounder to be brought from a neighboring battery, which I placed with so much exactness that I was sure of my mark.

I continued watching the enemy till I saw the match placed at the touch-hole of their piece; at that instant I gave the signal for our gun to be fired also. About midway between the two pieces of cannon, the balls struck each other with amazing force and the effect was astonishing. The enemy's ball recoiled with such violence as to kill the man

who discharged it, carrying his head fairly off, with sixteen others, which it met with in its progress to the Barbary coast; where its force, after passing through three masts of vessels that then lay in a line behind each other in the harbor, was so much spent, that it only broke through the roof of a poor laborer's hut, about two hundred yards inland, and destroyed the few remaining teeth of an old woman, who lay asleep on her back, with her mouth open. The ball lodged in her throat. Her husband soon after came home, and endeavored to extract it; but finding that impossible, he forced it into her stomach, whence it was discharged downward in a natural way. Our ball did excellent service; for it not only repelled the other in the manner just described, but having been loaded with a double quantity of powder, proceeding as I intended it should, dismounted the very piece of cannon that had just been employed against us, and forced it into the hold of the ship, where it fell with so much force as to break its way through the bottom. The ship immediately filled and sunk, with above a thousand Spanish sailors on board, besides a considerable number of soldiers.

As I am very partial to the English, I determined not to take my leave of the garrison till I had rendered them another piece of service. I dressed myself in the habit of a *Popish priest*, and about one o'clock in the morning stole out of the garrison, passed the enemy's lines, and arrived in the middle of their camp, where I entered the tent in which the Prince d'Artois was with the commander-in-chief and several other officers, in deep council, concerning a plan to storm the garrison next morning. My disguise was my protection; they

suffered me to continue there, hearing every thing that passed, till they went to their several beds. When I found the whole camp, and even the sentinels, were wrapped in the arms of Morpheus, I began my work, which was that of dismounting all their cannon, (above three hundred pieces,) from forty-eight to twenty-four pounders, and throwing them three leagues into the sea. I then piled all the carriages together in the centre of the camp, and a noble appearance they made, as high at least as the rock of Gibraltar. I applied a lighted match; I had laid the combustibles at the bottom so judiciously, that the whole was in a blaze in a moment. To prevent suspicion, I was one of the first to express my surprise. But this fact I have never divulged before, (though I alone saved Gibraltar, by this night's business,) not even to General Elliot. The Count d'Artois, and all his attendants, ran away in their fright, and never stopped on the road till they reached Paris, which they did in about a fortnight.

About two months after, by means of a sling made in exact imitation of that with which David killed Goliath, and was luckily in my pocket, I threw a shell among a number of the enemy, which did good service indeed. They were just going to hang two English officers, one a general and the other a major, both my particular friends, who had been detected as spies. The shell burst and killed every individual, except the two culprits, who were fortunately raised above the rest in order to be turned off. You may easily conceive their astonishment as well as their gratitude for so unlooked for a deliverance.

CHAPTER XI.

The Balloon. Windsor Castle moved to St. George's Fields. College of Physicians. Undertakers, Sextons, &c., almost ruined.

I MADE a balloon of such extensive dimensions, that an account of the silk it contained would exceed all credibility; every mercer's shop and weaver's stock in London, Westminster, Spitalfields, contributed to it. With this balloon and my sling, which had almost miraculous powers, I played many tricks, such as taking one house from its situation and placing another in its stead, without disturbing the inhabitants. When the sentinel at Windsor Castle heard St. Paul's clock strike thirteen, it was through my dexterity. I brought the buildings nearly together that night, by placing Windsor Castle in St. George's Fields, and carried it back again before daylight, without waking any of the inhabitants.

On the 30th of September, when the College of Physicians choose their annual officers, and dine sumptuously together, I filled my balloon and brought it over the dome of the building, clapped the string round the golden ball at the top, fastening the other end of it to the balloon, and immediately ascended with the whole College to an immense height, where I kept them upward of three months. You will naturally inquire what they did for food such a length of time? To this I answer, had I kept them suspended twice the time, they would have experienced no inconvenience on that account, so amply had they spread their table for that day's feasting.

Though this was meant as an innocent frolic, it

was productive of much mischief to several respectable characters among the clergy, undertakers, sextons, and grave-diggers; for it is a well known fact, that during the three months the college was suspended in the air, no deaths happened, except a few who fell before the scythe of Father Time, and those who in the absence of the physicians received the aid of the apothecaries.

CHAPTER XII.

The Baron sails with Lord Mulgrave. Attacks two large bears, and has a verry narrow escape. Gains the confidence of those animals, and then destroys thousands of them. Loads the ship with their hams and skins. The Baron declines the honor of a throne, and an empress into the bargain.

WE all remember Lord Mulgrave's voyage of discovery to the North. I accompanied the captain not as an officer, but as a private friend. When we arrived in a high northern latitude, I was viewing the objects around me with my telescope. I thought I saw two white bears in violent action on a body of ice, and about half a league distant. I immediately took my carbine, slung it across my shoulders and ascended the ice. As I approached near enough to reach them, I found they were only at play. I immediately began to calculate the value of their skins; unfortunately, at the very instant I was presenting my carbine, my right foot slipped, I fell on my back, and the violence of the blow deprived me totally of my senses, for near a half an hour; however, when I recovered, judge of my surprise at finding one of those large animals had turned me on my face, and was just laying hold of the

waistband of my breeches, when I took this clasp-knife out of my pocket, made a chop at one of his hind feet, and cut off three of his toes ; he immediately let me drop, and roared most horridly. I took up my carbine, and fired at him as he run off ; he fell directly. The noise of the piece roused several thousand of those white bears who were asleep on the ice. A most fortunate thought arrived in my pericranium just at that instant. I took off the skin and head of the dead bear, and wrapped myself in it, placing my own head directly under Bruins ; the whole herd came round me immediately, smelling, and evidently took me for a brother. After they had smelt me, we seemed very sociable, and I found I could mimic all their actions tolerably well ; but at growling, roaring, or hugging, they were quite my masters. I began now to think how I might turn the general confidence I had created among these animals to my advantage. I had heard that a wound in the spine was instant death. I now determined to try the experiment, and had again recourse to my knife, with which I struck the largest in the back of the neck, near the shoulders, but under great apprehensions, not doubting but the creature would if he survived the stab, tear me to pieces. However I was remarkably fortunate ; he fell dead at my feet, without making the least noise. I resolved, therefore, to demolish them every one in the same manner, which I accomplished without the least difficulty ; for though they saw their companions fall, they had no suspicion of either the cause or the effect. To make short of the story, I went back to the ship, and borrowed part of the crew to assist me in skinning them, and carrying the hams on board, which we did in a few

hours, and loaded the ship with them. The bearskins I sent to the empress of Russia, to clothe her majesty and her court in the winter, for which she wrote a letter of thanks with her own hand, and sent it by an ambassador extraordinary, inviting me to share the honors of her bed and crown ; but, as I never was ambitious of royal dignity, I declined her majesty's favor in the politest terms. What the sex see in me I cannot conceive ; but the empress is not the only female sovereign who has offered me her hand. Lord Mulgrave has since often expressed a dissatisfaction that he had no share in the honors of that day which he emphatically called the bearskin day.

CHAPTER XIII.

Our Baron excels Baron Tott, beyond all comparison ; yet fails in part of his attempt. Get into disgrace with the Grand Seignior, who orders his head to be cut off. Escapes, and gets on board a vessel, in which he is carried to Venice.

You remember the circumstance Baron De Tott boasts of, namely, having on the banks of Simios, fired a Turkish cannon loaded with 330 pounds weight of gunpowder, and a marble ball of 1,100 pounds weight, the firing of which made a shock like an earthquake, burst the ball into three pieces the fragments crossed the strait, rebounded on the opposite mountain, and left the surface of the water all in a foam, through the whole breadth of the channel.

Now when I was there not long since, the anecdote of Tott's firing this tremendous piece was mentioned as a proof of that gentleman's extraordinary courage.

I was determined not to be outdone by a Frenchman ; therefore took this very piece on my shoulder, and after balancing it properly jumped into the sea with it, and swam to the opposite shore, whence I unfortunately attempted to throw it back into its former place ; for it slipped a little in my hand just as I was going to discharge it, and fell into the middle of the channel, where it now lies without a prospect of ever recovering it ; and notwithstanding the high favor I was in with the Grand Seigneur, as before mentioned, his cruel Turk, as soon as he heard of the loss of his famous piece of ordinance issued an order to cut off my head. I was immediately informed of it by one of the Sultanas, with whom I was become a great favorite, and that very night I made my escape on board a vessel bound to Venice, which was then weighing anchor to proceed on her voyage.

CHAPTER XIV.

An account of a journey from Harwich to Helvoetsluys. Description of a number of marine objects never mentioned by any traveller before. Rocks seen in this passage equal to the Alps in magnitude. Lobsters, crabs, &c., of an extraordinary magnitude. A woman's life saved. Her falling into the sea.

I HAVE in my possession a manuscript account of my father's journey across the English channel to Holland, which, that it may not be totally lost, I will now faithfully give you in his own words. " On my arrival," says my father, " at Helvoetsluys, I was observed to breathe with some difficulty ; on the inhabitants inquiring into the cause, I informed them that the animal upon whose back I

rode from Harwich across to their shore did not swim; such is their peculiar form and disposition, that they cannot float or move on the surface of the water; he ran with incredible swiftness upon the sands, from shore to shore, driving fish in millions before him. I crossed," continued he, "one prodigious range of rocks, equal in height to the Alps on the sides of which there were a great variety of tall aquatic trees loaded with marine fruit, such as lobsters, crabs, oysters, scollops, muscles, &c. some of which were a cartload, and none less than a porter's! those which were brought on shore and sold in our markets, are of an inferior dwarf kind, or properly waterfalls, *i. e.* fruit shook off the branches of the tree it grows on by the motion of the water, as those in our gardens are by that of the wind! The lobster-trees appeared the richest but the crab and oysters were the tallest. The periwinkle is a kind of shrub; it grows at the foot of the oyster-tree, and twines round it as the ivy does the oak. I observed the effects of several accidents by shipwrecks, &c., particularly a ship that had been wrecked by striking against a mountain or rock, the top of which lay within three fathoms of the surface. As she sunk she fell on her side, and forced a very large lobster-tree out of its place. It was in the spring, when the lobsters were very young; and many of them being separated by the violence of the shock, they fell on a crab-tree which was growing below them; they have, like the farina of the plants, united and produced a sort of mule-fish. I endeavored to bring one with me, but it was too cumbersome, and my saltwater Pegasus seemed much displeas'd at every attempt to stop his career while I continued on his back; be-

sides I was then, though galloping over a mountain of rocks that lay about midway the passage, at least five hundred fathom below the surface of the sea, and began to find the want of air somewhat inconvenient; therefore I had no inclination to prolong the time. As we drew near the Dutch shore, and the body of water over our heads did not exceed twenty fathoms, I thought I saw a human figure in a female dress then lying on the sand before me, with some signs of life: when I came close, I perceived her hand move; I took it into mine, and brought her on shore as a corpse. An apothecary who had just been instructed by Dr. Hawes, of London, treated her properly and she recovered."

CHAPTER XV.

This chapter contains a fact, for which the Baron's memory ought to be dear to every Englishman.

ON my return from Gibraltar, I travelled by way of France to England. I found in the harbor of Calais a ship just arrived with a number of English sailors, prisoners of war. I immediately conceived an idea of giving these brave fellows their liberty, which I accomplished as follows. After forming a pair of large wings, each of them forty yards long, and fourteen wide, and annexing them to myself, I mounted at break of day, when every creature, even the watch upon deck, was fast asleep. As I hovered over the ship, I fastened three grappling irons to the top of the three masts, with my sling, and fairly lifted her several yards

out of the water, and proceeded across to Dover, where I arrived in half an hour. The wings I made a present of to the governor of Dover Castle, where they are now exhibited to the curious. As to the prisoners, and the Frenchmen who guarded them, they did not awake till they had been two hours on Dover pier. The moment the Englishmen understood their situation, they changed places with their guard, and took back what they had been robbed of, and got a good booty besides. They generously offered me salvage, but I on my part was too disinterested to accept their offer.

CHAPTER XVI.

Voyage eastward. The Baron introduces a friend who never deceived him. Wins a hundred guineas by pinning his faith upon that friend's nose. Game started at sea.

IN a voyage I made to the East Indies with Captain Hamilton, I took a favorite pointer with me; a dog worth his weight in gold. One day when we were at least three hundred leagues from land, my dog pointed: I observed him for near an hour with astonishment, and mentioned the circumstance to the captain, asserting that we must be near land, for my dog smelt game. This occasioned a general laugh; but that did not alter in the least the good opinion I had of my dog. After much conversation pro and con, I boldly told the captain, I placed more confidence in Tray's nose than I did in the eyes of every seaman on board; and boldly proposed laying one hundred guineas,

that we should find game within half an hour.—The captain laughed heartily, desired Mr. Crawford, the surgeon, who was present, to feel my pulse: he did so, and reported me in perfect health. The captain being incredulous, took my wager. Done! and done! were scarcely said on both sides, when some sailors who were fishing in the long boat, which was made fast to the stern of our magnificent ship, harpooned a large shark, which they brought on board, and began to cut up for the purpose of barrelling the oil, when, behold, they found no less than *six brace of live partridges* in this animal's stomach! They had been so long in that situation, that one of the hens was sitting on four eggs, and a fifth was hatching, when the shark was opened! We all had a hearty meal from them; but such was their predisposition to breed, that the boatswain, who had eaten most heartily, and warmed his stomach with the largest quantity of brandy, kept the whole crew awake for about a week with the noise of young partridges drumming in his upper abdomen, and was at the end of nine days actually relieved by cascading fourteen young partridges with shells on their heads!!!

CHAPTER XVII.

A second visit to the moon. The ship driven by a whirlwind a thousand leagues above the surface of the water, where a new atmosphere meets them, and carries them into a capacious harbor in the moon. A description of the inhabitants, and their manner of coming into the Lunarian world. Animals, customs, weapons of war, wine, vegetables, &c.

I HAVE informed you of one trip I made to the moon, in search of my silver hatchet. I afterward made another in a much pleasanter manner and staid in it long enough to take notice of several things, which I will endeavor to describe as well as my memory will permit.

I went on a voyage of discovery at the request of a distant relation. On the eighteenth day after we had passed the island of Otahete, a hurricane blew our ship at least one thousand leagues above the surface of the water, and kept it at that height till a fresh gale, arising filled the sails in every part, and onward we travelled at a prodigious rate: thus we proceeded above the clouds for six weeks. At last we discovered a great land in the sky, like a silver island, round and bright; where, coming into a convenient harbor, we went on shore and soon found it was inhabited. Below us we saw another earth, which by my teloscope I discovered to contain cities, trees, mountains, rivers, seas, &c. and which I conjectured was the world which we had left. Here we saw huge figures riding upon vultures of a prodigious size, and each of them having three heads. To form some idea of the magnitude of these birds, I must inform you, that each of their wings are as wide and six times the length of the main sheet of our vessel. Thus, instead of riding on horses, as we do in this world, the

inhabitants of the moon,) for we now found we were in madam Luna,) fly about on these birds. The king we found was engaged in a war with the Sun, and he offered me a commission but I declined the honor his majesty intended me.

Every thing in the lunar world is of extraordinary magnitude ; a common flea being much larger than one of our sheep ; in making war their principle weapons are radishes, which are used as darts ; those who are wounded by them die immediately. Their shields are made of mushrooms ; and their darts (when radishes are out of season) of the tops of asparagus. None of the natives are less in stature than thirty-six feet ; and they never indulge themselves with food more than twelve times in a year, or once a month.

There is but one sex of the animals in the moon ; they are all produced from trees of various size and foliage : that which produces the human species, is much more beautiful than any of the others ; it has large straight boughs, and flesh-colored leaves, and the fruit it produces are nuts or pods with hard shells, at least two yards long : when they become ripe, they are gathered with great care, and laid by as long as is thought proper : when they choose to animate the seed of these nuts, they throw them into a large cauldron of boiling water, which opens the shells in a few hours, and out jumps the creature. Nature forms their minds for different pursuits before they come into the world ; from one shell comes forth a warrior ; from another a philosopher ; from a third a divine ; from a fourth a lawyer ; from a fifth a farmer ; from a sixth a clown, &c. &c. and all of them immediately begin to perfect themselves, by practicing what they before knew only in theory.

When they grow old, they do not die, but turn into air and dissolve like smoke. As for their drink, they need none; the only evacuations they have, are insensible, and by their breath. They have but one finger on each hand, with which they perform every thing in as perfect a manner as we who have four besides the thumb. Their heads are placed under their right arm; and when they travel, they generally leave them at home; this is a very common practice: and when those of rank or quality among the Lunarians have an inclination to see what is going forward among the common people, they stay at home, *i. e.* the body stays at home, and sends the head only, which is suffered to be present *incog.* and return at pleasure with an account of what has passed. If when wanted, their heads are out of the way, they borrow a neighbor's. Curious mistakes happen in this way sometimes, such as politicians seeing with philosopher's eyes: and thence undertaking to regulate commerce by destroying it, &c.

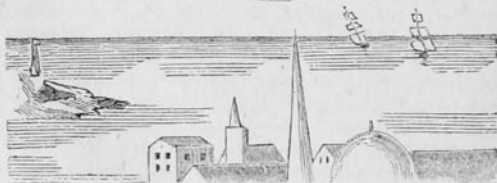
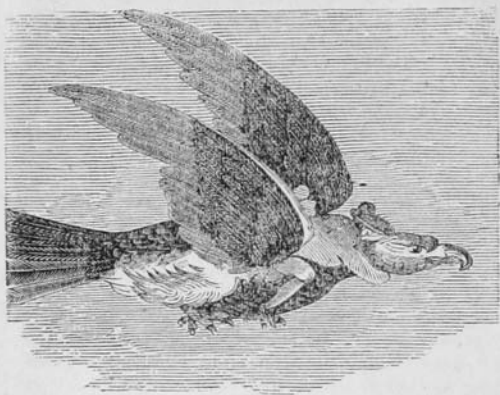
Their eyes they can take in and out when they please; and can see as well with them in their hand as in their head! and if by any accident they lose or damage one, they can borrow or purchase another, and see as clearly with it as their own.

These things appear strange; but if the shadow of a doubt can remain on any person's mind, I say let him take a voyage there himself, and then he will know I am a traveller of veracity.

CHAPTER XVIII.

The Baron crosses the Thames against his will. Rouses himself after a long nap, and destroys a monopolist.

My first visit to England was about the beginning of the present king's reign. I had occasion to go down to Wapping, to see some goods shipped for Hamburg: after that I took the Tower wharf in my way back. I was so much fatigued that I stepped into one of the cannon to compose me, where I fell fast asleep. This was about noon; it was the fourth of June: at one o'clock the cannon were discharged, in memory of the day; and I was shot over the houses on the opposite side of the river, into a farmer's yard, where I fell upon a large hay-stack, with out waking, and continued there in a sound sleep till hay became to be so extravagantly dear, (which was about three months after,) that the farmer found it his interest to send his whole stock to market; the stack I was reposing upon was the largest in the yard, containing above five hundred loads; they began to cut that first. I waked (with the voices of the people who had ascended the ladders to begin at the top,) and got up totally ignorant of my situation; in attempting to run away, I fell on the farmer to whom the hay belonged, and broke his neck, yet received no injury myself! I afterward found, to my great consolation, that this fellow was a most detestable character, always keeping the produce of his farm for extravagant markets; one, in short who first reduced to system that monopoly which has lately so much ground the faces of the poor.



FLIGHT ON THE BACK OF AN EAGLE.—*Face page 43.*

CHAPTER XIX.

Extraordinary flight on the back of an Eagle, over France to Gibraltar, South and North America, the Polar Regions, and back to England within six-and thirty hours.

ABOUT the beginning of his present Britannic majesty's reign, I had some business with a distant relation who then lived on the Isle of Thanet; it was a family dispute, and not likely to be finished soon. I made it a practice during my residence there, the weather being fine, to walk out every morning. After a few of these excursions, I observed an object on a great eminence about three miles distant; I extended my walk to it, and found the ruins of an ancient temple: on the eastern there was the remains of a lofty tower, near forty feet high, overgrown with ivy, the top apparently flat; I surveyed it on every side very minutely, thinking that if I could gain its summit, I should enjoy the most delightful prospect of the circumjacent country. Animated by this hope, I resolved if possible, to gain the summit; which I at length effected by means of the ivy, though not without great difficulty and danger: the top I found covered with this evergreen, except a large chasm in the middle. Curiosity prompted me to sound the opening in order to ascertain its depth; as I entertained a suspicion that it might communicate with some unexplored subterranean cavern in the hill; but having no line I was at a loss how to proceed. After revolving the matter in my thoughts, I resolved to drop a stone down, and listen to the echo: which I had no sooner done, than I heard a rustling below, and suddenly a monstrous eagle put up

his head right opposite my face ; and rising up with irresistible force, carried me away seated on its shoulders. I instantly grasped it round the neck, which was large enough to fill my arms ; and its wings, when extended were ten yards from one extremity to the other. As it arose with a regular ascent, my seat was perfectly easy, and I enjoyed the prospect below with inexpressible pleasure. It hovered over Margate for some time, then directed its course to Dover Cliff, where it alighted, and I thought of dismounting, but was prevented by a sudden discharge of musketry from a party of marines that were exercising on the beach. It instantly reascended, and flew over the sea toward Calais, but so very high, that the channel seemed to be no broader than the Thames at London bridge. In a quarter of an hour I found myself over a thick wood in France, where the eagle descended very rapidly, which caused me to slip down to the back of its head ; but alighting on a large tree, and raising its head I recovered my seat as before, but saw no possibility of disengaging myself, without the danger of being killed by the fall ; so I determined to sit fast. After resting a few minutes, it took wing and proceeded. In three hours I saw the rock of Gibraltar very distinctly. The day being clear, notwithstanding my degree of elevation, the earth's surface appeared just like a map, where land, sea, lakes, rivers, mountains, and the like, were perfectly distinguishable ; and having some knowledge of geography, I was at no loss to determine what part of the globe I was in. My eagle however proceeded, and looking before me with inexpressible pleasure, I observed that he was preparing to alight on the peak of Teneriffe ; he de-

scended on the top of a rock ; but seeing no possibility of escaping if I dismounted, determined me to remain where I was, and I fell fast asleep. In the cool of the evening, when the sun had retired from the horizon, I was roused from sleep by the eagle's moving under me ; and having stretched myself along its back, I sat up and reassuming my travelling position, when he took wing, and having placed himself as before, directed his course to South America. The moon shining bright during the whole night, I had a fine view of all the islands in those seas.

About the break of day we reached that part of the great continent of America called Terra Firma, and descended on the top of a very high mountain. At this time the moon, far distant in the west, and obscured by dark clouds, but just afforded light sufficient for me to discover a kind of shrubbery all around, bearing fruit something like cabbages, which the eagle began to feed on very eagerly. I endeavored to discover my situation, but fogs and passing clouds involved me in the thickets darkness. When daylight began to appear, I thought of examining the fruit which I had seen the eagle eat : and some was hanging, which I could easily come at, I took out my knife, and cut a slice but how great was my surprise to see that it had all the appearance of true English roast beef ! I tasted it and found it well flavored and delicious ; then cut several large slices, and put in my pocket, where I found a crust of bread which I had brought from Margate. I made a hearty meal of bread and cold beef fruit. I then cut down two of the largest that were near me, and tying them together with one of my garters, hung them over the eagle's

neck for another occasion, filling my pockets at the same time. While I was settling these affairs, I observed a large fruit like an inflated bladder, which I wished to try an experiment upon; and striking my knife into one of them, a fine pure liquor like gin gushed out. By this time the eagle began to stagger against the shrubs. I endeavored to keep my seat but was soon thrown to some distance among the bushes. In attempting to rise, I put my hand upon a large hedgehog, which happened to lie among the grass upon its back; it instantly closed round my hand, so that I found it impossible to shake it off. I struck it several times against the ground without effect; but while I was thus employed, I heard a rustling among the shrubbery, and looking up, I saw a huge animal within three yards of me. I could make no defence, but held out both my hands, when it rushed on me, and seized that on which the hedgehog was fixed. My hand being soon relieved I ran to some distance where I saw the creature suddenly drop down, and expire with the hedgehog in his throat. When the danger was past, I went to view the eagle, and found him lying on the grass fast asleep, along with another, both intoxicated with the liquor they had drank. Indeed, I found myself considerably elevated by it, and seeing every thing quiet, I began to search for some more, which I soon found; and having cut down two large bladders, about a gallon each, I tied them together, and hung them over the neck of the other eagle; and two smaller ones I tied with a cord round my own waist. Having secured a good stock of provisions, and perceiving the eagles begin to recover, I again took my seat. In half an hour they arose majestically from the

place, without taking the least notice of their encumbrance. Directing their course to the northward, they crossed the Gulf of Mexico, entered North America, and steered directly for the Polar regions; which gave me the finest opportunity of viewing this vast continent that can possibly be imagined. Passing over Baltimore, I drew off from one of the bladders a hogshead of the gin and sent it with my compliments to Gen. Smith, with a request to treat my friend Mumma and the mob, and burn the remainder on my birth day. When we entered the frigid zone, the cold, began to affect me; but piercing one of my bladders, I took a draught, and found that it could make no impression on me afterward.

In these cold climates I observed that the eagles flew with greater rapidity, in order, I suppose, to keep their blood in circulation. While I was surveying these wonders of nature, it occurred to me that this was a good opportunity to discover the northwest passage. But while my thoughts were absorbed in this pleasing reverie I was alarmed by the first eagle striking its head against a solid transparent substance; and in a moment that which I rode experienced the same fate, and both fell down, seemingly dead.

Here our lives must inevitably have terminated, had not a sense of danger inspired me with a degree of dexterity, which enabled us to fall near two miles perpendicular, with as little inconvenience, as if we had been let down with a rope: for no sooner did I perceive the eagles strike against a frozen cloud, which is very common near the poles, than I laid myself along the back of the foremost, and took hold of its wings to keep them extended, at

the same time stretching out my legs behind to support the wings of the other. This had the desired effect ; and we descended on a mountain of ice, which I supposed to be about three miles above the level of the sea. I dismounted, and unloaded the eagles ; but suddenly a monstrous bear began to roar behind me, with a voice like thunder. I turned round, and seeing the creature just ready to devour me, having the bladder of liquor in my hands, through fear I squeezed it so hard that it burst, and the liquor flying in the eyes of the animal, totally deprived him of sight. He instantly turned from me, ran away in a state of distraction, and soon fell over a precipice of ice into the sea.

The danger being over, I again turned my attention to my eagles, whom I found in a fair way of recovery ; and suspecting that they were faint for want of victuals, I took one of the beef fruits, cut it into small slices, and presented them with it, which they devoured with avidity. Having given them plenty to eat and drink, and disposed of the remainder of my provision, I took possession of my seat as before. In a few hours I saw the western Isles ; and soon after had the inexpressible pleasure of seeing Old England.

The eagles descended gradually as they drew near the shore to alight. I once more looked down upon the earth ; when to my inexpressible joy, I saw Margate at a little distance, and the eagles descended on an old tower. They no sooner came down than I threw myself off, happy to find that I was once more restored to the world. The eagles flew away in a few minutes, and I sat down to compose my fluttering spirits, which I did in a few hours.

CHAPTER XX.

The Baron forms a design of making discoveries in the interior parts of Africa. Sets out for the purpose in the chariot of Queen Mab. Convoys a squadron to Gibraltar. Declines the acceptance of the island of Candia. Runs foul of Pompey's Pillar and Cleopatra's Needle. Reaches the Cape of Good Hope, and forms the Table Mountain.

HAVING passed some time in England, I began to revolve in my mind what a prodigious field of discovery must be in the interior part of Africa. I could not sleep with the thoughts of it ; I therefore determined to gain every proper assistance from government, to penetrate the source of the Nile, and assume the viceroyship of the interior kingdoms of Africa, or, at least, the great realm of Monomotapa. Happily, I had one most powerful friend at court, whom I shall call the illustrious Hilario Frosticos. You perchance know him not by that name, but we had a language among ourselves, as well we may ; for, in the course of my peregrinations, I have acquired precisely nine hundred and ninety-nine languages. What ! gentlemen, do you stare ? Well, I allow they are not so many languages spoken in the world ; but, then, have I not been in the moon ? and trust me, whenever I write a treatise upon education, I shall delineate methods of inculcating whole dozens of languages at once, French, Spanish, Greek, Hebrew, Cherokee, &c. in such a style as will shame all the pedagogues existing. Having passed a whole night without being able to sleep for the vivid imagination of African discoveries, I hastened to the levee of my illustrious friend Hilario Frosticos ; and having mentioned my intention with all the vigor of fancy, he gave my plan

the warmest applause, and led me to the lady Fragrantia, to have her opinion of the matter. The lady Fragrantia, my dear friends, was one of the most divine creatures in all Great Britain, and was desperately in love with me. She was drawing my portrait on a piece of white satin, when the most noble Hilario Frosticos advanced. He pointed to a cap of dignity, which he placed upon my head. I declare, Hilario, said the lovely Fragrantia, 'tis pretty, 'tis interesting. I love you and I like you, my dear Baron, said she, putting on another plume; and against whatever enemies you go I shall have the sweet satisfaction to remember you bear my favor on your head! I snatched it with trepidation, and gracefully dropping on my knee, I three times kissed it with all the rapture of romantic love. I swear, cried I, by thy bright eyes, that no savage, tyrant, or enemy, on the face of the earth, shall despoil me of this favor, while one drop of the blood of the Munchausen's doth circulate in my veins!

Every thing being ready, I was seated in the chariot of Queen Mab, and taking the reins in my hand, while music gave a general salute, I cracked my whip; away they went, and in three hours I found myself between the Isle of Wight and the main land of England. Here I remained four days, until I had received part of my accompaniment, which I was ordered to take under my convoy. 'Twas a squadron destined for the Mediterranean. By the assistance of large hooks and eyes, the men of war hooked themselves on the wheels of the vehicle; and in fact nothing could be more simple or convenient; because they could be hooked or unhooked in an instant with the utmost facility. In short, having given a general discharge of their artillery, and

three cheers, I cracked my whip: away we went, helter skelter, and in six hours I found myself and all my retinue safe and in good spirits, just at the Rock of Gibraltar. Here I unhooked my squadron, and having taken an affectionate leave of the officers, I suffered them to proceed in their ordinary manner to the place of their destination. The whole garrison was highly delighted with the novelty of my vehicle. I took the reins and again made forward down the Mediterranean to the Island of Candia.

Here I received despatches from the Sublime Porte entreating me to assist in the war against Russia, with a reward of the whole island of Candia, for my alliance. At first I hesitated, thinking that the island of Candia would be a valuable acquisition, yet, when I considered the trade of the East-India Company, which would probably suffer by the intercourse with Persia, through the Mediterranean; I at once rejected the proposal, and had afterwards the thanks of the honorable the House of Commons for my disinterested conduct.

Having been properly refreshed at Candia, I again proceeded, and in a short time arrived in Egypt. The land in this country, at least that part of it near the sea, is very low, so that I came upon it, ere I was aware, and Pompey's Pillar got entangled in the wheels of the machine, and damaged the whole considerably. Still I drove on through thick and thin, till passing over Cleopatra's Needle, the work got entangled again, and jolted at a miserable rate over the mud and swampy ground of all that country; yet my bullstrotted on with astonished labor across the Isthmus of Suez, into to the Red Sea, and left a track, an obscure channel, which has since

been taken by de Tott for the remains of a canal cut out by some of the Ptolomies from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean; but, as you perceive, was in reality no more than the track of my chariot, the car of Queen Mab. I now thought it most advisable to proceed by sea, as the surface of the waters afforded less resistance to the wheels of my vehicle; it passed along the waves like the chariot of Neptune, and having got into the Red Sea, we scudded away to admiration, through the pass of Babelmandel to the great western coast of Africa, where Alexander had not courage to venture. I drove on with the most amazing rapidity; and thinking to halt on shore at the Cape, I unfortunately drove too close, and shattered the right side wheels of my vehicle against the rock now called the Table Mountain. The machine went against it with such impetuosity, as completely, shivered the rock in a horizontal direction; so that the summit of the mountain, in the form of a semisphere, was knocked into the sea; and the steep mountain becoming thereby flatted at the top, has received the name of the Table Mountain, from its similarity to that piece of furniture.

CHAPTER XXI.

The Baron wrecked on an island of ice. Rears a variety of vegetables on the island. Advances to the interior of Africa. Destroys a thousand lions.

I took my passage in a homeward bound Indian, to return to London. We met with nothing particular until we arrived upon the coast of Guin-

ea, where, to our utter astonishment, we perceived a great hill, seemingly of glass, advancing against us, in the open sea ; the rays of the sun were reflected from it with such splendor, that it was extremely difficult to gaze at the phenomenon. I immediately knew it to be an island of ice, and though in so very warm a latitude, determined to make all possible sail from such horrible danger ; but all in vain, for about eleven o'clock at night, blowing a very hard gale, and exceedingly dark, we struck on the island. Nothing could equal the distraction, the shrieks and despair of the whole crew, until I, knowing there was not a moment to lose, cheered up their spirits, and bade them not despair, but do as I should request them. In a few minutes the vessel was half-full of water ; and the enormous castle of ice that seemed to hem us in on every side, in some places falling in hideous fragments upon the deck, killed the one half of the crew ; upon which getting on the summit of the mast, I contrived to make it fast to a great promontory of the ice, and calling to the remainder of the crew to follow me, we all escaped from the wreck, and got on the island. The rising sun soon gave us a dreadful prospect of our situation, and the loss of the vessel ; for being closed in on every side with castles of ice during the night, she was absolutely frozen over and buried, in such a manner, that, (the ice being as clear as crystal,) we could behold her under our feet, in the centre of the island. Having debated what was best to be done, we immediately cut down through the ice, and got up some of the cables of the vessel and the boats, which making fast to the island, we towed it with all our might, determined to bring home island and all, or perish

in the attempt. On the summit of the island we placed what oakum and dregs of every kind of matter we could get from the vessel; which, in the space of a few hours, on account of the liquifying of the ice, and the warmth of the sun, were transformed into a very fine manure; and as I had some seeds of exotic vegetables in my pocket, we very shortly had a sufficiency of fruits and roots growing on the island to supply the whole crew; especially the bread fruit tree, a few plants of which had been in the vessel.

After incredible fatigue, we reached the warmer climates, where the heat of the sun gradually dissolved the island of ice, and we again found ourselves on water in our ship, and we proceeded to the Cape. The Dutch government of the Cape, to do them justice, gave us every possible assistance for the expedition into the interior part of Africa. I presume they had received instruction on that head from their High Mightinesses in Holland. As to the face of the country, as we advanced, it appeared in many places capable of every cultivation and of abundant fertility. The natives and Hottentots of this part of Africa have been frequently described by travellers, and, therefore, it is not necessary to say any more about them; but in the more interior parts of Africa the appearance, manners, and genius of the people are totally different.

We directed our course by the compass and the stars, getting every day prodigious quantities of game in the woods, and at night encamping within a proper inclosure for fear of the wild beasts. One whole day in particular, we heard on every side, among the hills, the horrible roaring of lions, resounding from rock to rock like broken thunder.

That whole day we advanced with caution, our hunters scarce venturing beyond pistol shot from the caravan, for fear of dissolution. At night we encamped as usual, and threw up a circular entrenchment round our tents. We had scarce retired to repose, when we found ourselves serenaded by at least one thousand lions, approaching equally on every side, and within a hundred paces. Our cattle showed the most horrible symptoms of fear. I directly ordered the whole company to stand to their arms, and not to make any noise. I then took a large quantity of tar, which I had brought with our caravan for that purpose, and strewed it in a continual stream round the encampment; within which circle of tar I immediately placed another train or circle of gunpowder; and having taken this precaution, I anxiously waited the approach of the lions. These dreadful animals, knowing, I presume, the force of our troop, advanced very slowly, and with caution; approaching on every side of us with an equal pace, and growling hideously in concert, so as to resemble an earthquake. When they had at length advanced and steeped all their paws in the tar, they put their noses in it, smelling as if it were blood, and daubed their great bushy hair and whiskers with it equal to their paws. At that very instant when, in concert, they were going to give the mortal dart upon us, I discharged a pistol at the train of gunpowder, which, instantly exploding on every side, made all the lions recoil in general uproar, and take to flight with the utmost precipitation. In an instant we could behold them scattered through the woods at some distance, roaring in agony, and moving about like so many will-o'-the-wisps, their paws and faces all on fire from

the tar and gunpowder. We followed them on every side through the woods, their own light serving as our guide, unfil, before the rising of the sun, we followed into their fastnesses, and shot or otherwise destroyed every one of them. And during the whole of our journey after, we never heard the roaring of a lion; nor did any wild beast presume to make another attack upon our party, which shows the excellence of immediate presence of mind, and the terror inspired into the most savage enemies by a proper and well timed proceeding.

CHAPTER XXII.

Feast on live bulls and kava. The Baron appointed heir of the African empire. Resolved to abolish eating of bull's flesh and kava. Symptoms of sedition. At length succeeds, and introduces roast beef, plum pudding and English porter. Great advantage to the London brewers.

HAVING passed over the nearest mountains, we entered a delightful vale, where we perceived a multitude of persons at a feast on living bulls, whose flesh they cut away with great knives. Nothing seemed requisite to add to the barbarity of this feast but *kava*, made as described in Cook's voyages; and at the conclusion of the feast we perceived them brewing this liquor, which they drank with the utmost avidity. From that moment, inspired with an idea of universal benevolence I determined to abolish the custom of eating live flesh, and drinking of kava. But I knew that such a thing could not be immediately effected, whatever in future might be performed.

We at length arrived at the metropolis, situated



FEAST OF LIVE BULLS AND KAVA.—*Face page 56.*

on the banks of a noble river ; and the emperor, attended by all his court, came out in grand procession to meet us. The emperor appeared on a dromedary, royally caprisioned. He was rather above the middle stature of that country, four feet three inches in height, with a countenance like all his countrymen, as white as snow ! He was preceded by a band of most exquisite music, according to the fashion of the country, and his whole retinue halted within about fifty paces of our troop. I then commanded our caravan to halt, and, dismounting, advanced uncovered with only two attendants, towards his majesty. The emperor was equally, polite, and descending immediately from his dromedary, he advanced to meet me. " I am happy," said he, " to have the honor to receive so illustrious a traveller, and assure you that everything in my empire shall be at your disposal."

I thanked his majesty for his politeness, and expressed how happy I was to meet so polished and refined a people in the centre of Africa ; and that I hoped to show myself and company grateful for his esteem, by introducing the arts and sciences of Europe among the people.

The emperor conducted us to his court amid the admiration of his courtiers, and paid us every possible politeness that African magnificence could bestow. He never presumed to proceed on any expedition without consulting us ; and looking upon us as a species of superior beings, paid the greatest respect to our opinions. We taught him to regulate the government nearly on the same plan with the British constitution, and to institute a parliament and degrees of nobility. His majesty was the last of his royal line ; and on his decease, with the unan-

ymous consent of the people, he made me heir to the whole empire. The nobility and chiefs of the country immediately waited upon me with petitions, entreating me to accept the government: and after much consultation it was agreed that I should accept the government, not as actual and independent monarch of the place, but as viceroy to his majesty of England.

I now thought it high time to do away the custom of eating live flesh and drinking of kava; and for that purpose used every persuasive method to wean the majority of the people from it. This, to my astonishment, was not taken in good part by the nation, and they looked with jealousy at those strangers who wanted to make innovations among them. In fine perceiving that gentleness could be of no avail, I prohibited under pain of the severest penalties, the drinking of kava, or eating of live flesh, for the space of nine days, within the districts of Angilinar and Paphgalon.

But this created such a universal abhorrence and detestation of my government, that my ministers, and even myself, were universally pasquinaded: lampoons, satires, ridicule, and insult, were showered upon the name of Munchausen wherever it was mentioned; and in fine, there never was a government so much detested, or with so little reason. At length, however, after incredible difficulties and unwearied patience, I completely succeeded in abolishing the eating of live bulls and kava, and substituting roast beef, plum pudding, and London porter, which accounts for the prodigious quantity of that wholesome beverage, which ever since has been exported to the interior of Africa.

CHAPTER XXIII.

Builds a cast iron bridge of one arch, from the interior of Africa to England. Journey on it to England; and views of the country. Bridge destroyed by an earthquake. The Baron nearly dashed on the rocks near Sicily. Swims up the channel. Saves an English frigate. Ingratitude toward merit.

HAVING succeeded in this grand reform, I set about a work of immense magnitude. This was no other than a cast iron bridge of a single arch to reach from Africa to Great Britain. The whole nation went heartily to the business, to build an edifice such as was never seen in any other country. The tower of Babylon, which, according to Hæmogastricus, was seven miles high, or the Chinese wall, was a mere trifle, in comparison to this stupendous edifice; which was completed in a very short space of time.

It was an immense height, far beyond anything that had been before erected; and of such a gentle ascent, that a regiment of cavalry, with a train of cannon, could ascend with perfect facility. It seemed like a rainbow in the heavens, the base of which appeared to rise in the centre of Africa, and the other extremity seemed to stoop into Great Britain.

The building being completed, I caused an inscription to be engraven in the most magnificent style on the summit of the arch, in large letters, so great and luminous, that all vessels sailing to the East or West Indies might read them. An easy intercourse being thus established between Great Britain and the centre of Africa, numbers travelled continually to and from both countries, and at my request, mail coaches were ordered to run on

the bridge between both empires. After some time, having settled the government perfectly to my satisfaction, I requested permission to resign, as a great cabal had been excited against me in England: I therefore received my letters of recall, and prepared to return to Old England.

In fine I set out on my journey, covered with applause and general admiration. We advanced at a great rate along the bridge, which was so very extensive that we could scarcely perceive the ascent, but proceeded insensibly till we arrived on the centre of the arch. The view from thence was glorious beyond conception; we saw all the kingdoms of the earth. Africa seemed of a tawny brownish color, burned up by the sun; Spain more inclining to a yellow; France appeared somewhat of a bright straw color, intermixed with green; and England appeared covered with the most beautiful verdure. I admired the appearance of the Baltic sea, which evidently seemed to have been introduced between those countries by the sudden splitting of the land, and that originally Sweden was united to the western coast of Denmark; in short, the whole interstice of the Gulf of Finland had no being, until these countries by mutual consent, separated from one another. At length, after a most delightful journey of two months and thirteen days we reached very near to the coast of England, where there happened a most tremendous earthquake, occasioned by the French Revolution, which in one moment destroyed the grand bridge, and I was precipitated into the sea, from a height of about fifteen leagues. Had I fallen a hundred yards to the eastward I must inevitably have been dashed to pieces on the rocks of Sicily. As it was, I only got a good sous-



THE BARON AND HIS ATTENDANTS SCALPED AND ROASTED
ALIVE.--Face page 65.

ing. Being a most expert swimmer, I resolved to proceed to London by water, and in the course of my voyage up the channel, I was so fortunate as to save a number of valuable lives. A frigate was nearly overturned by a sudden squall; I was just below her, and self interest, I must confess, more than patriotism, induced me to exert myself to prevent her from falling over me, and perhaps crushing me to atoms. I therefore laid hold of a mast that happened to be floating past me, and with all my force pressed it against the side of the frigate below the gunwale, and held it in that position till the crew were able to right her. The gratitude of all on board toward me for this act I shall never forget. The captain although he was bound to the West Indies with dispatches, immediately changed his course, in order to convey me to London, there to lay before the lords of the admiralty the incredible service I had performed. Their lordships thanked me, and promised me large rewards, but envy of my merit must have had a baneful effect, for not only did I never receive any recompense, but this extraordinary preservation of one of his majesty's ships was never even mentioned in the London Gazette.

CHAPTER XXIV.

The Baron and his attendants scalped and roasted alive in the Wilds of America. They extricate themselves. Conquers a bear and a Polish govenor, resident in America. Generously grants the latter his life. Battle of the Nile. The Baron, with his own hand, blows up the French admiral's ship L'Orient. Proves himself to be the sole conqueror of Bonaparte.

I SHALL not trespass on you, gentlemen, with an account of all my adventures. I cannot, however, forebear mentioning one in which I ran a greater

risk than ever. Having gone to make discoveries in the interior of North America, I penetrated the frightful deserts and gloomy woods beyond the source of the Ohio, through countries utterly unknown before. I frequently took the diversion of shooting in the woods ; and one day that I happened with three attendants to wander far from our troops, we were suddenly set upon by a number of savages. We had expended our powder and shot, and happened to have no side arms, it was in vain to make any resistance against hundreds of enemies. In short, they bound us, and made us walk before them to a gloomy cavern in a rock, where they feasted on what game they had killed ; but which not being sufficient, they took my three unfortunate companions, and myself, and scalped us. The pain of losing the flesh from my head was most horrible ; it made me leap in agonies, and roar like a bull. They then tied us to stakes, and making great fires around us, began to dance in a circle, singing with much distortion and barbarity, and at times set up the warwhoop. As they had on that day also made a great prize of wine and spirits belonging to our troops, these barbarians finding it delicious, and unconscious of its intoxicating quality, began to drink it in profusion, while they beheld us roasting ; and in a very short time they were all completely drunk, and fell asleep round the fires. Perceiving some hopes, I used most astonishing efforts to extricate myself from the cords with which I was tied, and at length succeeded. I immediately unbound my companions, and though half roasted, they still had power enough to walk. We sought about for our scalps, and immediately adapted them to our bloody heads, stick-

ing them on with a kind of glue of a sovereign quality that flows from a tree in that country, and the parts united and healed in a few hours. We took care to revenge ourselves on the savages, and with their own hatchets put every one of them to death. We then returned to our troop, who had given us up for lost; and they made great rejoicings on our return.

We proceeded to a dark and gloomy castle, surrounded with strong ramparts, and a broad ditch, where we were received by the governor in a manner which shows that the age of chivalry is still extant in the wilds of America. In short we entered the castle. The governor sat with our company at table, surrounded by his friends of a very fierce and warlike appearance. They spoke but little, and seemed very austere and reserved. We dined; and after dinner the governor forced the company to push the bottle about with alacrity and excess. He informed us that he was the Nareskin Rouskimowmowsky, who had retired amidst these wilds disgusted with the court of Petersburg. I was rejoiced to meet him; I recollected my old friend, whom I had known at the court of Russia, when I rejected the hand of the empress. The Nareskin, with all his knights companions, drank to an astonishing degree, and we all set off upon hobby horses in full cry out of the castle. Never was there seen such a cavalcade before. Having got into the woods, the Nareskin called me aside, and told me I must give him satisfaction for having refused the hand of his sovereign. An enormous bear at the same time attacked me; but I ran my hand down his throat and tore up his tongue by the roots. I then seized his carcass by the hind legs,

and whirling it over my head, gave the Nareskin such a blow with the bear, as evidently stunned him. I repeated my blows, knocking the bear's head against the Nareskin's head, until by one happy blow, I got his head into the bear's jaws; and the creature being still somewhat alive and convulsive, the teeth closed on him like nut crackers. I threw the bear from me, but the Nareskin remained sprawling, unable to extricate his head from the bear's jaws, imploring for mercy. I gave the wretch his life—a lion preys not upon carcasses.

I have mentioned, gentlemen, a few of the achievements I have performed to the infinite advantage of Great Britain, since I entered its service; were I to detail the whole I have done for this country, you would hardly believe me, notwithstanding the conviction you must have of my honor and veracity. It is, however, the misfortune of all great men to have enemies and calumniators, and likewise it universally happens that the commanders in all actions carry off the credit of victories due often to those in a subordinate situation. I have served as a volunteer in most of the sea engagements that have taken place during this war: and although my modesty prevented me from publicly claiming the merit of some of the most glorious victories that ever astonished Europe, to you, however, gentlemen, I may in confidence just mention one or two circumstances. I was on board Admiral Nelson's ship at the battle of the Nile, and had the honor to be consulted by him on all occasions, as he will readily acknowledge. Well, during the heat of the fight, I thought matters began to be dubious, on which I stated to the admiral, that unless we could blow up the French admiral's flag ship,

our success would be very uncertain ; and I volunteered my service on the occasion, offering to do it with my own hand. He readily gave his consent, and I having cut off the stores, provided myself with proper materials, immediately leaped overboard, and being altogether unperceived from the confusion of the fight I immediately bored a hole in the bottom of the L'Orient, just under the powder room. Here I inserted a large skyrocket, (since called a "torpedo," though I was certainly the inventor,) to which I set fire to with a match I carried all the while in my mouth. It took complete effect ; the ship blew up with an astonishing explosion. You all know the result, gentlemen, but perhaps you never till now knew that this splendid victory was owing to me. I afterward fought as a volunteer at the siege of Acre ; and I refer it to Sir Sidney himself, whether that siege could have been raised but for my exertions. The general similarity of person between Sir Sidney and myself made most of the army mistake me for him ; but I assure you, gentlemen, on the honor of a soldier, that I am the only man that has ever conquered Bonaparte.

CHAPTER XXV.

The Baron flies from France to England. Meets Mr. P—— in St. James's Park. Offered a liberal pension by the minister, who invites him to dinner. Intoxication of the guests. Exploit of the Baron. He terrifies the barmaid of a celebrated Inn.

It is true I might have been of essential service in Paris, during the frequent executions, as in consequence of my surgical skill, I could so easily have replaced the heads of persons guillotined, and by

restoring them to society, would doubtless have conciliated the esteem of numbers. On inquiry, however, finding that many of those put to death were very bad men, I resolved to leave them to their fate; and one evening about sunset, fastening on my wings, I took my flight from the army, and sailing with a fine breeze, arrived at St. Jame's Park, in London, just as the guard was relieved at the palace.

Mr. P—, who happened to be taking the air in the Mall, accompanied by Mr. D—, as I alighted; when folding up my wings, I approached and saluted the gentlemen, saying, "Permit your correspondent, the Baron Munchausen, to introduce himself." Mr. P—, embraced me, welcomed me to London, and swore that I should have a pension of *one hundred thousand pounds a-year*, if I could put him on a plan of subverting the French republic. "That is the very purport of my visit," said I; "and like some empirics, I agree to your proposal with the proviso, *no cure no pay*. With my assistance and that of the stock-brokers in change-alley, you shall soon triumph over the opinions and the arms of the French. The very name of P— makes them tremble; they think you a confounded *deep* jockey, let me tell you." "Do they?" replied he, "I'll give them reason to think so, if I can. Well Baron you must come and dine with me to-day, and we will crack a bottle together when, with the assistance of D—, G—, and the D— of P—, we must contrive some new scheme for the preservation of regular governments." "We have heard much of the young nobleman who has threatened to *march to Paris*," cried I; "the Parisians are panic struck lest he should come, and the ladies have painted

him to their imagination as a most terrible herculean fellow." "O! you mean Lord H—," said the minister, "he is a lord of the new creation, and instead of being so dreadful as they think, he is a poor effeminate little fellow as ever you saw in your life. But you know that it is necessary to make a noise. The common people must be kept in awe by strong measures, boisterous sounds, the firing of cannon, the beating of drums, military associations, barracks, and all the pride, pomp, and circumstance of glorious *deception* must be practised to operate on their fears. The precepts of Machiavel and Mandeville are my directors in my political progress; and I find what Mr. W— calls '*a vigor beyond the law*,' absolutely necessary to enable us to retain our places."

On my return to the inn, the barmaid, after rubbing her eyes and staring at me for a moment, was seized with a fit of trembling, and ran shrieking into the kitchen. I discovered that her terror arose from the simple circumstance of my head not being in the usual place; I took it out of my pocket, and immediately replaced it on my neck, so that when the young woman returned with two or three of the waiters, they burst into a violent fit of laughter while she stood aghast with astonishment. The waiters then apologized to me, and told me the occasion of their mirth, at which I affected to laugh, but in retiring to my apartment, I resolved to be a little more circumspect, lest I should be taken for a magician.

CHAPTER XXVI.

Quack doctors take advantage of the Baron's communicative disposition. Brodum's nervous cordials, Solomon's Balm of Gilead, Perkin's metallic tractors, all inventions of the Baron. Meets Mr. Perkins, who is grateful. Performs a curious surgical operation in his presence. Descants on the impropriety of using oxygen gas. Ingratitude of quack doctors. Anecdote of an Egyptian Emir. Recommends the mode of punishing unsuccessful physicians practised in the east.

AND here I must own with regret, that my generous and communicative disposition has been the cause of much evil to the good people of England'; for it is owing to my ingenuity that their health is annoyed with such a multitude of specifics for every disease. Little did I imagine, while exhibiting my arcana to the company, that so many empirics would avail themselves of my discoveries in medicine, and by the misapplication of things in themselves innocent, nay, efficacious, if administered with judgement, they should be the death of such numbers of credulous people.

As the only atonement I can make to the public for the unforeseen misery of which I have been the source, I will now describe the most popular nostrums. The most notorious of these is, the *nervous cordial* and the *botanical syrup*; the origin of which was simply this: Dining with the late Dr. Bossy, (who for years lived sumptuously, by pretending to restore sight,) the footman came up to acquaint the Doctor that a plum-pudding had burst in the cloth, and was unfit for use. "Let me have a little of the liquid in which it was boiled," said I; upon which he brought me a basin full of brownish liquor, intermixed with raisins, flour and other ingredients of the pudding. "Doctor," said I, "an

ingenious man might soon realize a fortune by selling the liquor, under the name of botanical syrup, and, by intermingling a little mercury, it might, in some cases be efficacious." "Aye," replied Bossy, "but I am afraid it would do more harm than good." Then," said I, "mix it with a small quantity of brandy, instead of mercury, and call it a nervous cordial." "Well, Baron," said he, smiling, "you are a very ingenious man, and blessed with a most fertile invention; but for my part, I can get plenty of money by enlightening the eyes of the credulous English." I observed the footman listen with great attention, but never once thought that he would afterward fleece the people of their money by realizing what I had merely suggested to excite mirth. Thus, alas! I have inadvertently been the death of thousands!

Another instance of imposition deserves also to be mentioned. When I was in Liverpool a few years ago, bargaining with the W. I. merchants to conduct ten thousand slaves annually to their plantations, by the excellent conveyance of air balloons, I happened one evening, in company with some Jews, to enter into a description of Jerusalem, Mount Gilead, and the remarkable places in Asia mentioned by travellers; and among other particulars, I described the famous resinous substance, called Balm of Gilead. At the same time I hinted that any man who could obtain this medicine in its purity, would soon make a fortune, by healing the diseased in this opulent nation. The Jews, who are ever attentive when gain is the subject, made several enquiries respecting the best method of collecting this precious gum, when, unfortunately for mankind, I jocularly said that an imitation of it would do just

as well, *i. e.* an infusion of ginger, mace, cinnamon, and other spices, intermingled with honey, and sold at an exorbitant price, would be bought with avidity by valetudinarians and the rich, who often fancy themselves sick, when in perfect health. To give this medicine a greater degree of dignity, it might be called by some well sounding name, the *anti-impetigines*, for instance. For as the majority of the human species seldom think of themselves, whoever will tickle their ears with a curious name, will undoubtedly gain their attention.

My Jewish auditors smiled, but shrugged up their shoulders when I finished my speech, which I meant as a kind of satire on quackery and the credulity of the people; but I find that one enterprising Jew has since collected a great many guineas, by laying the public under contribution in the manner I had recommended.

This ingenious man has facilitated his imposture, by publishing fictitious accounts of cures, puffing paragraphs in the newspapers; and it must be acknowledged to the honor of the disinterested editors of those diurnal journals, that they excel in fiction, an indubitable proof of their superiority of genius.

I remember that in a former journey through the air, in crossing the Atlantic ocean, I felt a desire to visit America, that I might have the pleasure of an interview with Dr. Franklin. He received me with all imaginable hospitality, and introduced me to Dr. Perkins, a quaker, whose researches were turned to improvements in electricity, and experiments with the magnet.

After listening to a very learned conversation between the two doctors, my natural vivacity suggested an improvement in surgery. "An ingenious

fellow," said I, "might, by giving a new name to magnetised metals, attract the heaviest of all metals from the purses of the rich and credulous; and I venture to assert, make a fortune in a few years, by pretending to cure rheumatic pains, toothache, gout, inflammation, burns, and scalds, and similar ailments to which people of all ranks are subject." Franklin smiled, saying, "No, Munchausen, your project is ingenious, but it would be unsuccessful among the Americans, who are a shrewd, cunning people themselves, and therefore very cautious in patronizing the pretensions of an imposture." "Then," replied I, "let the philosophic adventurer make his experiments in France or England. Let him prepare a number of pretty little bits of iron and brass, and call them *metallic tractors*, and my life for it, he will attract many superfluous guineas that lie loose in the pockets of dupes; nay, his metallic tractors will disencumber the credulous of their cash with greater certainty than even the famous knife of that celebrated pickpocket, George Barrington." Franklin chuckled at what he called a whimsical idea, but Dr. Perkins seemed seriously affected.

Well, gentlemen, who would have thought it; on my revisiting England, I found a young American practicing with great success. With what? Why, with the very metallic tractors which I had formerly mentioned, by Jove! Supposing him to be some friend of Dr. Perkins, I honored him with a visit, when I recollected that he was the self same chubby-faced boy, who had formerly rubbed down my horse when I visited his father in Connecticut.

He recognized me at the first glance, and presenting me a pair of the metallic tractors, "There,

Baron," said he, "are the instruments which owe their existence to your ingenuity." He then proceeded to inform me, in a confidential way, that he imported the tractors from America, in order to keep up appearances, though he could have them just as well fabricated in London. He had taken out a patent, he said, that he might be authorized to practice imposition, and acknowledged that his efforts to dupe men had in general been successful, but he found women much more credulous. "Were it not for the ladies, horses, and I might add asses," said he, smiling, "I should soon be obliged to return to America; but now, by puffing paragraphs in the newspapers' and letters from hypocritical or fanatical old women, I am in a fair way of making a fortune; nay I have bought largely in the American funds already."

After congratulating my ingenious young friend on this successful outset, I hinted that I could communicate greater secrets in the art of healing. "For instance, Sir," said I, "my skill in surgery is so great, that I can take off a head, or put it on at pleasure. 'Tis one of the easiest things in nature," continued I, giving my head a sudden twist, and taking it off with my right hand. When I replaced my head, I observed the young surgeon staring with amazement. He offered me one thousand guineas for the secret, but I declined it, at the same time pointing out the impolicy of healing diseases. "I could cure any disorder my dear friend," said I; "nay, even prevent death, and confer immortality more effectually than the oxygen gas of Dr. Beddoes. But the consequence would be most calamitous indeed! The world would become so populous, that the fears expressed by Mr. Godwin, in his

Political Justice, would be realized, insomuch that mankind would not have bread to eat, but would actually turn cannibals, and devour one another. Only think what a tragic circumstance it would be, when a beautiful young virgin whom you beheld walking through the streets in the morning, adorned with the most costly and elegant dress, should be seized by some blood thirsty butcher, killed, and served up, instead of venison, for your dinner! No sir, we must e'n let the people die according to the course of nature. Indeed, so dreadful is this superabundance among the human species, that statesmen, like true philanthropists, go to war with one another to lessen the superfluity of population, that the survivors may have a sufficient supply of necessaries."

The ingratitude of several empirics, to whom I have communicated several valuable secrets, deserves to be mentioned. I first recommended the administration of the *digitalis*, or fox glove, which has since poisoned numbers of patients with the greatest success! To my sapience is the world indebted for the discovery, that an intermixture of treacle and water is worth a high price, under the name of Godbold's Vegetable Balsam; and many years ago, I instructed M. De Velno to prepare his precious syrup, by mixing mead and wine, which is now recommended to John Bull as an *excellent sweetener of the blood!* and, indeed, if honey will not sweeten a man's blood, I don't know what will. I was the inventor of Dr. Barton's Vital Wine, which is nothing in the world but raisin wine, quickened with some of Dr. Beddoes' oxygen gas, and which will inflate the stomach of a man like a bladder. The ladies should be particularly cautious in the

use of this *patent cordial*, as the too free use of it may occasion the tympany, dropsy, and I know not what, to the great detriment of their reputation in this censorious age.

Among the most ingenious of these imposters, called quack doctors, may be reckoned a fellow named Gardener, who was once a common soldier, but on coming to London, he suddenly felt himself inspired by the love of money, and invented pills for the cure of rheumatism. He also electrifies such patients as are stupid enough to apply to him: and it really is laughable too see how easy this bungler imposes on the credulous. Doctor Taylor, too, who pretends he can cure the effects of a certain disease, has, by my advice, stationed an honest-looking hale country fellow, as porter. On application by a patient for some of the doctor's medicine, this young Esculapius ushers his visitor into a parlor, and telling him the doctor is not at home, adds, "But I can give you *adwize*; take one box of the doctor's anti-venereal pills, and if they don't cure you, why, e'en take another."

Such are the principal empirics to whom the good people of England are so liberal of their money; but were they to take my advice, they would adopt the custom practised in Egypt, which would soon lessen the number of quack doctors.

In the year 1777, when I was in Egypt, the Emir Hadge was severely wounded in a battle. M. Grace, the French physician, was called in, and cured him, but not without suffering many fears, for his life depended upon that of his patient.

This is the general custom in the East, at least wherever I have travelled; and it renders the profession of medicine rather dangerous. In Europe, alas, the danger is confined to the patient!

Now I would recommend it to the English legislature to adopt this test of medical skill, and to make a law, by which all physicians should be accountable for the lives of their patients. In the instance of quack doctors, the greatest severity would be necessary; and instead of the eastern mode of executing criminals, by decapitation, such quacks as failed to cure any disease for which they proposed a specific, should be hanged, and their bodies given to the surgeons for dissection, as the case in some instances of atrocious murder. Let this law be put in force, and my life for it, in six months hence, we shall neither hear of quack doctors, nor their panaceas.

CHAPTER XXVII.

Plan to promote happiness in the world. Destruction of all warlike instruments. Motives by which all statesmen would enjoin peace. The laws administered gratis. Attorneys suppressed. Physicians to be paid by the state. Quack doctors banished. Gambling prohibited. Marriage encouraged by rewards. Celibacy subject to fine and imprisonment.

A PLAN for the happiness of mankind, conceived by the queen of love and beauty herself, will doubtless be acceptable to readers of both sexes; but I apprehend it would require all the influence of her smiles and her eloquence to carry it into effect.

In the first place, she required that cannon, muskets, swords, and, in short, all instruments of war should be destroyed, or formed into implements of agriculture, and tools for the promotion of arts and sciences. In order to prevent the ambition of statesmen from opposing the measure, she proposed to

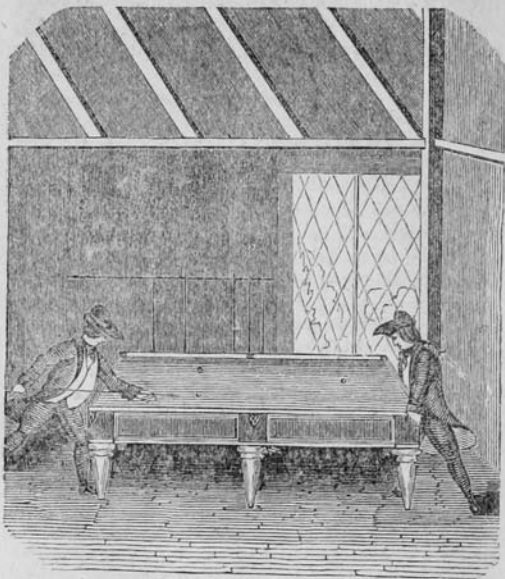
double their salaries on the establishment of a peace, with a proviso, that whoever should propose any thing hostile to the universal peace, should be immediately discarded, and declared unfit to govern the community.

The temple of justice was to be open to the rich and the poor alike, and lawyers were to attend as priests, to administer the benefit of the law gratis. To prevent litigation as much as possible, the goddess recommended the total suppression of attorneys, notaries, and all persons who wrote to ferment ill will among mankind.

For the preservation of health, she enjoined that nobody but regular physicians should prescribe medicines, and that such only should be employed by the community as were authorized and paid by government. Quack doctors, fabricators of cosmetics, and distillers of ardent spirits, were to be banished to a general receptacle for those deemed pernicious to society.

Gambling of every kind, whether horse-races, lotteries, cards, or stock-jobbing, were to be prohibited; and nothing inimical to the general happiness encouraged.

Marriages were to be promoted by rewards from the state; and a life of celibacy punished by fine and imprisonment. Such was the code of laws dictated by Venus herself; but whether they are practicable in this world of ours, in the present state of society, is a question to be decided by our modern philosophers.



THE BARON PLAYING AT BILLIARDS.—*Face page 83.*

CHAPTER XXVIII.

The Baron becomes tired of a quiet life. Visits a billiard table to overcome his ennui. Is disappointed. Informs how he had been cheated of his money, and at length determines once more to set out on his travels, Visits America, to see a Philosophic Statesman, and lands at Boston, New England.

I know not how it was, but time became so heavy on my hands that every place was equally irksome. I frequented the billiard table, having heard that it was a game the most fascinating in the world, but I found little amusement in making a white ball hit a red one, nor could I perceive any inducement for a man to learn to be an adept at a game to which it seemed to me no interest could belong, except when the player went for money ; but as gambling was a vice of which I had been entirely cured about twenty years before, in a manner that I shall presently relate, billiards had no charms for me, I therefore quitted the table and never returned to it.

Before I proceed with my narrative, I find you desirous to know in what manner I was so cheated, that I became disgusted, and determined never to play afterward. It was not in a single instance ; I was frequently cheated, as I always discovered when it was too late ; that is, after my money was gone. At one time I was cheated in the following manner, at pass die, as it was called, by a Frenchman. To prevent foul play, all the dice were examined before we began, but my antagonist having lost several times in succession, at length in a violent rage took up one of the dice and clapped it between his teeth, so as to bite it in two out of revenge : My dear sir, said I, what are you about ? He knew very well ; for he contrived to exchange

it for a loaded die that he had ready in his cheek, after which he won at pleasure, till he emptied my pockets of all the money I had about me; I ended by giving my note for a thousand pounds sterling.

At another time, an American with whom I had insensibly become very intimate, came to me one evening, as I sat in an adjoining box, at a coffee-house in London, drinking my lemonade, and proposed that we should retire to another room and take a hand at piquet: at first I won, but it ended in his getting all my money, though I perceived he was not very skilful at the game. The next day I was told by the waiter that he had taken up the cards after we left off, and he found them every one slightly marked at the corners with the little dots of tobacco spittle, made upon them in the course of our play.

One afternoon, as I was sauntering along Cheapside, I met an old acquaintance, to whom I mentioned my late losses, and the manner in which I had been cheated. Take my advice, said he, if you have a passion for play, never suffer yourself to indulge it with an individual, or even in private company, for you'll undoubtedly get cheated: there is but one way to play with safety, and that is, to go at once to the public tables. The game of *rogue et noir* is the fairest game in the world; there can be no such thing as deception. Well, I went the next night, accompanied by my friend, to play a game where there was no possibility of being cheated. Happy, at last, to have made such a discovery, and promising myself not only good sport whenever I pleased, but, as I was a great calculator, and understood figures, I hugged myself in the belief that I should soon be able to rewin at

this table all the money I had lost before. For two or three nights I won constantly, but the sums were not considerable, as I played quite low: however, my success served to assure me of the truth of all my sanguine calculations, and I determined at length to make a bold push and break the bank in one night. For this purpose I provided myself with as many guineas as I could well carry, and I loaded the pockets of my friend, who was to share one quarter of my winnings. The game began; I played low and ventured cautiously; I won every thing. I ventured deeper; I sometimes lost and sometimes won; at length, *le noir* having won twelve times in succession, it could not possibly, according to all my calculations, win thirteen times; I therefore put every guinea I had about me, and persuaded my friend to put all he had on *le rouge*; *le rouge* came up thirty-nine; we were sure; *le noir* ran forty; *le noir gagne*," said the dealer. We were thunderstruck. I got up almost ruined, but still sure that the game was the fairest in the world, and I the most unlucky fellow. The next day, standing with my arms folded in a melancholy posture, I perceived a little Frenchman making towards me, whom I presently recognized to be the man who had been the dealer at *rouge et noir* the night before; he knew me; "Monsieur, (said he,) I am just going on board this vessel for France, whence I shall probably not return. You, perhaps, do not recollect me; I am the person who dealt at the table last night, where you lost all your money; reduced by misfortune from affluence to poverty, I have subsisted some time by serving as a dealer at that public gaming table.—Your behaviour and your misfortunes interested

me in your favor ; and to make but few words, I shall now as your friend caution you never again to visit those public gaming houses : for you must as certainly be cheated as you go there, in some way or other. One method, and the most common of cheating at *rouge et noir*, is this : the dealer, you observe, always places one card at the bottom of the parcel he holds in his hand ; the man who sits opposite him, informs him of the number of spots on the card, by placing just so many guineas before him ; as soon as it is perceived to be important that one color should win in preference to the other, by having more money placed on it, the bottom card is brought up in a twinkling and counted. Last evening I brought up a ten for *le noir* just in time to make *forty*. And in this or some other manner, Monsieur, you must always lose if you frequent public gaming houses ; no, Monsieur, when you play, play with a friend or at a private party."

Before I could thank him, the boatman called him to go on board, and he was out of sight, leaving me to ruminate on the folly of gambling for money, whether with a *friend* who cheats with false dice and marked cards, or a public gaming table, though the fairest in the world.

After such experience, I determined never to play for money ; and, as I said before, not finding any interest excited by the game of billiards where no money was depending, I left the table in disgust. Several different amusements were successively tried, and thrown aside in the same manner ; at length I determined to indulge my propensity to travel. While I was balancing with myself what part of the globe should be the object of my first

visit, a friend to whom I mentioned my situation, recommended to me in the strongest terms, if I wanted to gratify the laudable curiosity of a man of sense, to visit once more the United States; assuring me at this time (1803) I should find such a change of men and things as would exceed all conception. He particularly assured me that I should there see the most surprising *Lusus Naturæ* the world ever witnessed: no less than the greatest philosopher in the world, who made whirligig chairs and gimcrack bandboxes, united in the same person with the greatest statesman on the globe, who knew the art of governing the people by being governed by them, and of increasing the funds in the public treasury by the diminution of its receipts, with several other useful and entertaining discoveries. This more than any thing fired my imagination, and raised an unextinguishable curiosity. I, therefore, the next day, furbished up my wings and in one week was fairly across the Atlantic.

Being determined to make as rapid an excursion through the United States as possible, for my improvement, after the manner of other travellers, I thought the best way would be to go to the northward by water, and take my departure from Boston; travelling in the stages by land to Charleston, S.C., thence to go to New Orleans, and if time permitted, to take a sail up as far as the Missouri.

To save the enumeration of uninteresting particulars, you may imagine me already at the capital of Massachusetts; and in snug lodgings at the Bunch of Grapes Tavern.

CHAPTER XXIX.

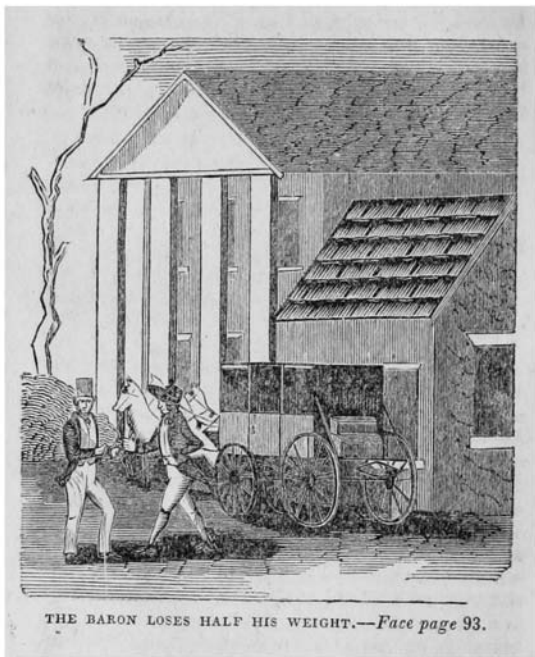
The Baron goes out on a shooting party. His successful manner of shooting round a hay-cock. Visits a Boston Printing Office. Sees several interesting characters. Meets with an accident. Is hunted by the bailiffs, and leaves town.

THE next day after my arrival it was proposed at dinner that we should make a shooting party. I was extremely pleased, and offered to bet Tray's nose against any dog's that could be brought; but to my mortification I found that the people of Boston had no idea of hunting game with pointers, never shooting upon the wing; and that they only hunt with Newfoundland dogs, to bring the birds to them when they happen to fly off wounded, and fall into the water. To astonish the company, and to give them some idea of my dog's wonderful powers, I told them the story at full length of his scenting the partridges in the shark's guts, three hundred leagues from land. I might as well have told them that Tray spoke with fluency all the living languages; not a soul believed me. However we went down to Noodle's Island to shoot snipe. Pretty soon after I and my companion had left the rest of the party, and were walking carelessly along, what should we see but about fifty meadow snipes, feeding around a cock of hay, which they had nearly surrounded. What was to be done to make the best shot? without loss of time each bent his barrel over his knee, into a semicircle, and pointing in opposite directions we shot at the same instant round the cock; the plan was excellent, but happening both of us to present a little too low, when we ran to pick up our birds, instead of the fifty snipes we we only found one hundred snipes legs, shot off

just above the foot. However, we put them in our pocket as evidence of what we might have done. Having thus lost this excellent opportunity, and not meeting with another, after wandering about most of the day, we returned home with a single dunghill cock, which my companion, having straightened his gun, shot in a farmer's yard, just before we came off the island; observing that this was undoubtedly the surest and best way of filling a shooting bag. The other gentlemen, five in number, came in soon after us with much glee, assuring us they had most capital sport: on this they began to unload their coat pockets of about twenty birds which they had killed sitting, the largest of which was a robin.

Wishing one day to look at a newspaper, I went into the office of the * * * * *, which is kept in a chamber or rather garret, in the third story. While the boy was getting my paper, I observed a man's hand shoving something like a piece of manuscript in at the window; surprised I ran to the window, and perceived that this hand belonged to an arm that, by no more than ordinary extension, reached with ease from the ground to where I stood. The owner I perceived sitting very quietly below in a necessary in the back yard, with one knee across the other, and pen, ink, and paper before him composing for the gazette. I hardly know how to describe this curiously shaped animal. He must have been thirty feet high, though I think he was not thicker than an ordinary youth of twelve. He seemed to be a miserable ghost, whose "withered face, scorched by parchement, betrayed the constant burning of malignant fires, kindled by the worst of passions in his heart,"

and impelled him to seek to gratify them, by attacking respectable persons through the medium of the press. They told me he was called *Hony*, that he constantly contributed to the columns of this paper, and most commonly from the same place where he then sat. I was about to survey a little more at leisure a man of so much industry, and such extraordinary talents, but on putting out my head a second time, my nostrils were saluted by such an insufferable hogoo, that I made a very precipitate retreat; alas! in my hurry, as I descended the stairs, I accidentally struck my foot against an open keg of printers' ink, which a lad was bringing up on his shoulder, and instantly upset the contents into the bosom and breeches of a fellow following behind him, and who, I was tolled, was called "*Tony Pasquin*," another of the literati, who supplied this paper; but he wiped his face with his hands, and his fingers on the bottom of his shirt, which he pulled out for that purpose, and said he did not mind it a fig, it was clean dirt. In a few days afterward however, I understood that Squire Pasquin had been taken sick, in consequence of swallowing a larger quantity of printers' ink than he at first imagined, and had been ever since under the operation of an incessant diarrhœa, insomuch that he was to be traced all along the streets where he had been, just as plainly as if he had no breeches on; that the stench he had made of late was so intolerable, that the selectmen had made it a question whether he ought not to be removed from town, lest he should give it yellow fever, a majority of that board believing in domestic origin. It it added, that being apprehensive of such a measure, he had been on the look out to dis-



THE BARON LOSES HALF HIS WEIGHT.—*Face page 93.*

cover who was the cause of this disaster, for the purpose of bringing a suit against him to recover damages. Although from what I heard of the man, I was satisfied that it was impossible for any sort of filth to disagree with him so as to make him sick; yet not wishing to get entangled in a lawsuit, I ordered my baggage all sent to the stage house, and the next day set out for Hartford.

CHAPTER XXX.

The Baron loses half his weight, by excessive heat in the stage-coach. Passes through Worcester, meets an old acquaintance there and stays a night. Is conducted into secrets of American parties. Arrives at Hartford, where he sees a battle between Queersoul and Chartres. Goes to New Haven, is invited to a ball by Deacon ——. Finds the company one half negroes. Makes his escape as soon as possible.

HAVING got into the stage and taken the back seat, I soon found myself accompanied by such a crowd of passengers, not less than seventeen being stowed away in a wagon only large enough to hold, with any comfort, nine, that I begged with all my force to get out, but those before said that would delay the stage, and *drive on* was the cry. When we came to our place of dining, which was a village called Worcester, and I got out, I was not a little astonished at perceiving my clothes quite wet through with sweating, and hanging about me as loose as a bag. A very lean man who was present began to jest upon it, and offered a wager that I had lost at least one half of my weight. We stepped into a store, where was a large pair of scales into which I got; my ordinary weight was about eighteen stone; what was my surprise to find myself

reduced since the morning to nine; that is from 252lbs. to 126.

I concluded it would not be safe for me to venture any further that day, because, if there was any truth in logic, I should at night have lost the other half of me. I therefore concluded to stay and recruit. As I sat amusing myself with a cigar in the evening, the landlord entered without ceremony, introducing to me a Mr. *Woothe*, a customer of his who always made it a practice to come to his inn for the purpose of hearing the news, and and passing a convivial hour with the guests who occasionally lodged at his house, and who, he told me in a whisper, at a moment when his friend was helping himself to a glass of brandy and water, was one of the greatest men in the village. His ordinary occupation, he said was that of an apothecary, and he was also an excellent distiller of gin, and attended justices' courts, for the purpose of *squashing* the young lawyers' writs. Having told me this very rapidly, he withbrev, leaveng us together. No sooner had *Woothe* opened his mouth, than I instantly recognized my old fellow in captivity, when we were both swallowed off the coast of Coromandel, by an enormous shark, as I have related in a former part of my travels. Bless me, said I, my dear *Woothe*, have I indeed the happiness to see you, and what adventures have you met with since I left you in the belly of that monster, and by what accident came you here? You shall hear the whole, said he, getting up and locking the door that no one should enter to disturb us. The day after you, as you remember, more fortunate than myself, was thrown out by that terrible shark into the stern sheets of a boat just then passing be-

fore his mouth, was I, by a similar exertion of the fish, thrown completely into the main top of a 74 gun ship to which the boat belonged, and which was coming direct to the port of Boston. Your boat we lost sight of, and never expected to hear of it again, supposing you had gone down in the gale that struck us directly after I was aboard. We landed at Boston, and, tired of the roving life I had so long led, I determined to retire into some village, not very remote from the sea shore, where I could live in quietness and earn a decent subsistence. I accordingly came hither, and having been six months in the shop of Mr. Julep, in London, I concluded the easiest method of obtaining a subsistence would be to vend drugs; I therefore got enough on credit to supply a small shop, and commenced a village apothecary. Besides this, I attended justices' courts, and plead small cases, having been taught a smattering of law by my brother, who is a great counsellor and politician, in South Wales. Last summer I turned a penny by distilling gin, and on the whole got along pretty well, though I once in a while am obliged to wear a torn coat. And now pray what have been your adventures? On this head, I satisfied him in the best, that is to say, the shortest manner I could. Having informed him that my design was to go to Washington, for the purpose of being introduced to the President, of whom I expressed the greatest admiration, on account of the liberal patronage he had extended to my old friend Henry and the Count de Crillon, I found I had led my friend's hobby-horse out of the stable. He begged I would allow him to make me acquainted with the state of American politics: I told him I was no politician,

and had no desire to intermeddle in the affairs of the country, but I had set a string in motion which could not easily lose its vibration.

You must know, said he, that this country is divided into two great parties, the federalists and the democrats; but out of the desponding of the former, and the discontented and most daring of the latter, there is about to spring up a third party, which, as sure as fate, will in a short time become more numerous than either of the other two, and put them both down. Between you and me, the New England republicans, almost to a man, secretly belong to the third party, and before the world is aware, you may look out for our showing ourselves in such a force as shall make our enemies on all sides tremble. He then proceeded to make out a detail of the checks and balances of the different states; gave me a long, and, to me, cursedly tedious, history of parties, till it seems his narrative was interrupted by my snoring. He started from his chair and left the room in a huff, before my eyes were sufficiently open to perceive what he was about.

The next day I arrived at a place called Hartford, in the State of Connecticut. Nothing happened worthy of notice on the way, but just as I was getting out of the stage-coach, I perceived two men engaged at fisticuffs, not stripped in the manner I have been accustomed to see the boxers in England, but both dressed in black, tearing each other's clothes, pulling hair and kicking shins. This was so amusing that I stood by to see the issue. The shortest of the two, I was told, was a Mr. Abraham Quersoul: he had been in his time a lawyer, then a traveller, and, lastly a mountebank, exhibiting

himself on a stage for a shilling a head. At length he got an office, and turned politician and pamphleteer. His antagonist was a celebrated lawyer by the name of *Chartres*.

The cause of this affray, I was informed, arose in the following manner: *Chartres* frequently resided for ten days together at Hartford, in his attendance upon the courts; and, for his convenience and amusement, kept a paramour there, whose name, if I mistake not, was *Hecow*, daughter of an eminent publican of that name. As *Chartres* was getting out of her window one night, the ladder broke, as he set his foot upon it, and down he came, as ill luck would have it, just as a man was passing underneath, having that moment emerged from the cellar, where he had been on the same errand with a handsome wench. It was no other than his friend *Queersoul*. They were both too much alarmed at that time, to stop for explanations: each ran as hard as his legs could carry him: meaning to go opposite ways, but in fact taking the same way through fright. By this means each knew the other before they arrived at the place of separation, but each kept his knowledge to himself. *Queersoul* supposed that he had been altogether unrecognized by *Chartres*, and *Chartres* on his part, thought himself unknown to *Queersoul*. Each, therefore, divulged the other's secret, in the first barber's shop he entered in the morning, so that before night the whole story, as it related to both, was very fairly and satisfactorily understood throughout the town; and after a little trouble each of the parties traced the report up to the other. The consequence was a rencontre of fisticuffs the first instant they met, which was only a few moments

before I arrived to enjoy the sport. After bruising and mauling each other, and tearing their clothes they were seperated.

The next day I arrived at New Haven without any occurrence worth mentioning. The evening after my arrival, I was invited to a ball, which was to be given in compliment to the President of these States, being a celebration of his election, which had taken place a few years before. I was not a little surprised at the appearance of the acting manager, who came in person to give me the invitation as being a stranger of some reputed distinction. This gentleman by his appearance, could not have been less than 80 years of age; and I was afterwards told he was actually 79, and had been for many years a deacon of the church. He wore an old fashioned white wig, and was to all appearance quite superannuated; but he assured me he felt as young as he did at twenty one, that he meant to prove it that evening in a pair of new strong channel pumps, made for the occasion. I thanked him for the invitation, and told him I would do myself the honor to attend. Accordingly a little after dusk, I set out, accompanied by the landlord and his wife, for in this happy village no distinctions are known between any classes of its citizens. When we had got within a dozen feet of the house, where the assembly room was held, my nose was suddenly assailed by the most unpleasant odor that can be imagined. I proceeded however, and entering the room, where a number of persons were dancing with great violence, what in America is called jigs, disguised in, as I first supposed, black masks, but judge of my surprise to find that, instead of masks, what I saw was neither

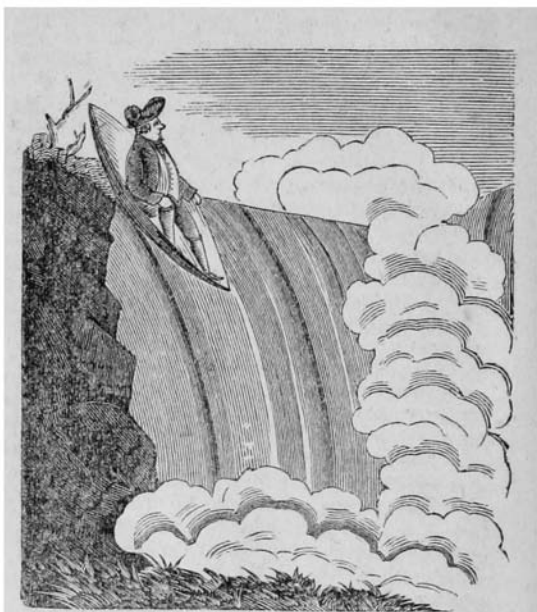
more or less than a number of negroes, mixing in the same dance with whites. The fetor was almost intolerable, and I was about making a precipitate retreat ; but just at that moment I recognized my friend, the deacon, sitting at the far corner of the room with his feet elevated over the fire place, and smoking his pipe with much composure. I advanced towards him, and respectfully inquired into the meaning of what I saw there. He told me it happened by their tickets having been exposed to public sale, and most of them having been purchased by the people of color, and since it was so, they must e'en make the best *on't it for't he knew*. I was determined to make the best on't too, and ran away as soon as possible. But who should I meet with at the entrance, but Mr. Chartres, who had come to endeavor to remonstrate with the ladies and gentlemen of color, and induce them to withdraw. But I did not wait to see the issue, and got to my lodgings as well as I could, being almost suffocated with the intolerable stench. I was afterwards told that there was a sort of compromise effected, by which a certain portion of the people of color only should be allowed to remain in the company ; to be determined by lot. The next morning as I was walking towards the wharf, just before sun-rise, to take my departure for New York in the packet, I met those who had composed the dancing assembly the evening before, black, white, and gray, just coming out of the ball room. This circumstance is merely mentioned for the purpose of conveying an idea of the manners, not of the people in general, but only of the more worthless class of them, who, under pretence of destroying artificial distinctions among men, in reality discard that

salutary subordination which is the cement of society.

CHAPTER XXXI.

The Baron visits Canada: description of a sleigh ride. Visits Niagara Falls; the American camps; and arrives at New York just at the time of the celebration of the Naval Victory of the United States frigate over the Macedonian.

I SET out for Canada, by the way of New York, meaning to pass the best part of a year at Quebec. During my residence at this place I saw nothing extraordinary, or at least nothing that was thought extraordinary by the natives. In the winter season of 1810, I joined a party one evening to enjoy the pleasures of a sleigh ride. We drove out of the city a few miles, and stopped at a public house where we supped, danced, drank hot punch, and at 11 o'clock set out on our return. We had got back, I should suppose, about half way, when my cabriole began to slacken in its pace, and in a few minutes came to a full stop; which was very soon the case with the rest as they came up, consisting of about a dozen of this sort of sleighs. Inquiring of the driver what was the matter, he informed me that the horse was froze up in all his limbs, but that there was no cause for alarm, as this was not the first time such an accident had befallen him, and that the only remedy was patience, as we must remain where we were, wrapped up in our furs, until the rising of the sun should thaw the horse in the morning: to which we were compelled to submit with the best grace we could; for, to leave our sleighs and attempt to make our way to any



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dwelling house would be the height of imprudence. So all the party sat quiet until we were relieved about eight o'clock, and our horses set in motion by a clear sun, for had it been otherwise we might, and probably should have had to remain in the same comfortless situation another day and night. It was the only sleigh-ride I ever attempted.

In the latter part of the summer, or rather the beginning of autumn of 1812, I begun my journey toward New York, and had the curiosity to go by the way of Niagara Falls. Here I amused myself for several days in descending those celebrated cataracts, in certain light Indian canoes, which are kept there for that purpose, and let out at a cheap rate to travellers who choose to take the risk of such amusement. I then visited slightly the American encampments in that quarter, and was not a little struck at a piece of economy introduced, as I was told, by the army contractor. The soldiers lived principally on sole-leather, when in camp, rendered friable by a process which I could not understand, being kept a secret, and palatable by a pepper made of dried flag root, as it is commonly called, or calamus, and which grows very plentifully in that quarter of the country. When the soldier marches to battle, which is expected to last two or three days or a week, he is served with his rations of sole-leather and flag root, and the officers receive double rations of the same; and on this they knaw at pleasure, after dipping it in water to make it tender and chewable. If this invention is a good substitute for wheat, as they say it is, it must certainly be allowed to be a great saving in *bread-stuffs*, as they call it in the States.

A few weeks after this, from motives of curios-

ity, I visited another American encampment at a place called Greenbush near Albany, to see whether troops could thrive and look well under such regimen; for if they could, I meant to communicate the secret, without delay, to the Emperor Alexander. I found, however, that here they eat both bread and meat, and had not even heard of the improvement in soldiers' living adopted at the northward. But *here* there was as much singularity in their encampment, as *there* in their mode of living. It was laid out on a piece of wet ground, recently ploughed up very deep. I attempted to walk through it from mere motives of curiosity, but a large quantity of rain having fallen the night before, I soon began to feel the mud adhering to my feet, which presently became alarming, and in ten minutes I found myself fairly cemented with the soil, from which I was only extricated by a file of men, who turned out to my assistance. This spot was chosen, and its condition thus improved, as they called it, in compliance with an opinion held by the governor of their state, that *nothing was so good as to season raw recruits, as an encampment in wet, ploughed grounds, and leaky tents in case of rain.* As I was leaving the camp I perceived, at a little distance, a platform of about six feet square, elevated about eight feet from the ground, on which was placed a hogshead, in which was placed a man, with his head protruded through an aperture in the bulk; standing thus, the platform was put in violent motion round a vertical axis, for about fifteen minutes, when it was stopped, supposing the culprit had been sufficiently punished for once. When he was taken out, however, all signs of life had ceased. The surgeon was sent

for and felt his pulse, but they answered not—they never beat again. I asked the meaning of this, when I was told that as they never flog in the American army, being forbidden by an act of congress, they had endeavored to invent something equally severe and effectual in its place, and among other devices this of the *whirligig*, which I had just seen, was one. It was not, however, they confessed, intended to kill the man thus exposed to it, and in this instance death was an unexpected occurrence.

I had seen enough of the American army and its improvements, and set out the same evening in the stage, and came thirty miles on my way to the city of New-York. Here I found a good public house, and went immediately to bed; but I had hardly got into a sound sleep, when I was awakened by the sound of music and dancing in the adjoining room. "Get up! get up!" cried my landlady, bursting into my chamber, "Get up and see the General dance; here he is, sir, in his famous five hundred dollar coat, and in a few minutes is going to begin a *conte-danse* with Miss Vanderlee, one of the sweetest dancers in Hudson." "General who?" said I. "General *Granny-dere*," said she. The woman's importunity was irresistible, so up I got and stole unobserved in the dancing room. There stood the General, or rather there a coat with the General in it, buried up to his eyes and ears in a stiff gold lace cape, just going to lead off Miss Vanderlee, to the tune of Yankee-doodle. The General was apparently about sixty-five years of age; Miss Vanderlee not above seventeen. He was quite six feet high; Miss Vanderlee not more than four feet six. His face was an oblong square, covered with a well-dried parchment; Miss Van-

derlee's a handsome spheroid, with a complexion, of roses and lilies.

Thus paired, when the music struck up, off they went, she with the bound of the roe, he, poor man, was scarcely able to keep pace with her by any movement he could make. He hopped, he ran, and all eyes were turned upon this couple. The General soon began to sink under the double weight of his age and his military coat, covered as it was from top to bottom with gold lace in every direction; he became breathless; he blundered; he lost the figure and his balance, and at length, his foot taking a nail in the floor, he stumbled and fell with all his length against Miss Vanderlee, and Miss Vanderlee, unable to resist such an attack, fell against Mrs. Gubblestone, who stood next her, (and who was delivered of a fine nine months' the same night,) Mrs. Gubblestone fell under Miss Vanderlee, and in her fall overset Mrs. Frobisher, a lusty lady and protuberant withal: thus there was Mrs. Frobisher and Mrs. Gubblestone, and Miss Vanderlee, and General Granny-dere, like four bricks in a row all sprawling on the floor together. The ladies screamed with all their might, but the General could not recover his legs without the assistance of all about him. I took advantage of the noise and confusion, and stole off, as I had stole in, unobserved.

In two days afterwards I found myself in the city of New-York. Nothing was talked of but a grand naval dinner that was about to be given by the corporation to the crew of one of their frigates, as a reward for their bravery in capturing an English frigate. The idea was a good one, and everybody was anxious to contribute his might of ap-

pause on the occasion. The guns were fired, the bells were rung, and the sound of music was heard in every street. But the greatest compliment was paid by the wife of a gentleman by the name of Bradshaw, who lived directly opposite the hotel where the dinner was given. This patriotic lady was taken in labor of her first child on Tuesday morning, and had made some considerable progress under the care of Dr. Egometipse, equally celebrated for physic and oratory. But being informed by him of the compliment about to be paid to the brave tars that captured the Macedonian, she taking advantage of an interval, hastily asked the Doctor if he did not think the remainder of the labor might be postponed until the coming Thursday, the day fixed upon for the dinner, when she would send over for the brave captain who commanded this brave crew, and name the child after him if it was a boy, as she doubted not it would be, and Mr. Bradshaw, her husband, should make a speech on the occasion. The Doctor seemed highly pleased with the project, if it could, as he thought it might, be brought about with the assistance of laudanum and rhetoric, both of which he would duly administer. Accordingly, she took the laudanum and he fell to speaking, and thus affairs were procrastinated until Thursday, half past 2 o'clock, when the joy-inspiring information was given, that the sailors had arrived. The Doctor stopped short, in the midst of a new rhetorical flourish; nature sprang forward, and the boy was born. As soon as things could be got ready to receive him, the commander was sent for. He came, and Mr. Bradshaw began a speech; but the greatness of the occasion overcame him, a word stuck

across his throat, and he was in danger of immediate strangulation, had not a lucky thought at that very instant struck his friend Mr. Newman, who was present, and who, having an immense foot, placed it, with all his strength, directly against Mr. Bradshaw's belly, and forced the word upward and out of his mouth. The boy was named after the captain, the captain returned the compliment by bestowing his blessing on the boy and handing it back to its happy mother. Such is American enthusiasm. Nature herself is arrested in her course to give it utterance.

THE END.

