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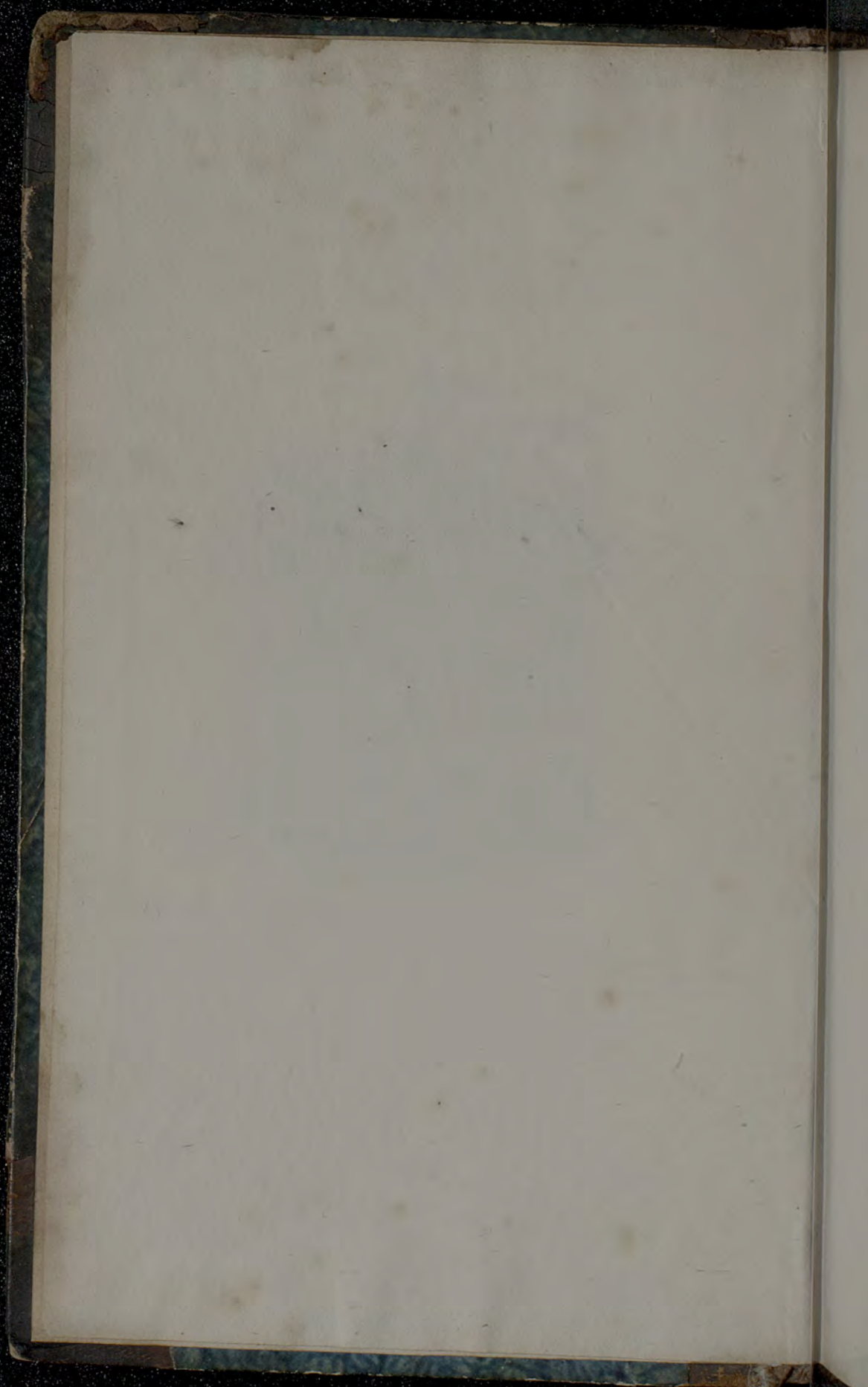


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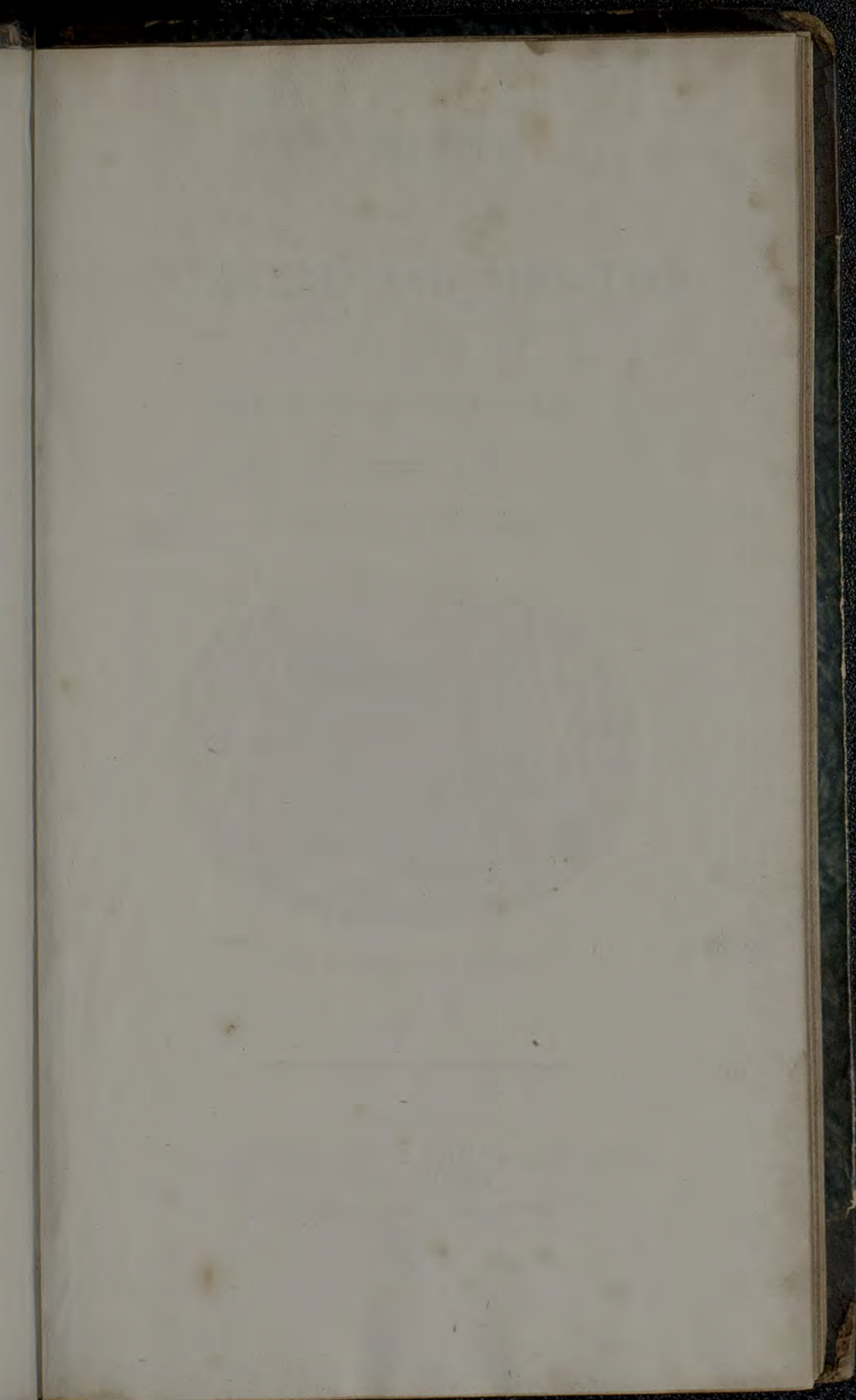


Edith Bentha Lea















The History  
OF  
SANDFORD AND MERTON.

INTENDED FOR  
THE USE OF CHILDREN.

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BY THOMAS DAY, ESQ.



IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

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LONDON:  
PRINTED FOR WHITTINGHAM AND ARLISS,  
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PATER-NOSTER ROW.

1816.



THE EDITOR

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THE  
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THE summer had now completely past away while Tommy was receiving these improvements at the house of Mr. Barlow. In the course of this time, both his body and mind had acquired additional vigour; for he was neither so fretful and humoursome, nor so easily affected by the vicissitudes of the season.

And now the winter had set in with unusual severity. The water was all frozen into a solid mass of ice; the earth was bare of food; and the little birds that used to hop about and chirp with gladness, seemed to lament in silence the inclemency of the weather. Tommy was



one day surprised, when he entered his chamber, to find a very pretty little bird flying about it. He went down stairs and informed Mr. Barlow, who, after he had seen the bird, told him it was called a Robin-red-breast; and that it was naturally more tame and disposed to cultivate the society of men than any other species. But, at present, added he, the little fellow is in want of food, because the earth is too hard to furnish him any assistance, and hunger inspires him with this unusual boldness. Why then, said Tommy, sir, if you will give me leave, I will fetch a piece of bread and feed him. Do so, answered Mr. Barlow, but first set the window open, that he may see you do not intend to take him prisoner. Tommy accordingly opened his window, and, scattering a few crumbs of bread about the room, had the satisfaction of seeing his guest hop down and make a very hearty meal. He then flew out of the room, and settled upon a neighbouring tree, singing all the time, as if to re-



turn thanks for the hospitality he had met with

Tommy was greatly delighted with his new acquaintance, and from this time never failed to set his window open every morning, and scatter some crumbs about the room; which the bird perceiving hopped fearless in, and regaled himself under the protection of his benefactor. By degrees, the intimacy increased so much, that little Robin would alight on Tommy's shoulder, and whistle his notes in that situation, or eat out of his hand; all which gave Tommy so much satisfaction, that he would frequently call Mr. Barlow and Harry to be witness of his favourite's caresses; nor did he ever eat his own meals without reserving a part for his little friend.

It however happened that one day Tommy went up stairs after dinner, intending to feed his bird as usual; but as soon as he opened the door of his chamber, he discovered a sight that pierced him to the very heart. His little friend



and innocent companion lay dead upon the floor and torn in pieces; and a large cat taking that opportunity to escape, soon directed his suspicions towards the murderer. Tommy instantly ran down with tears in his eyes, to relate the unfortunate death of his favourite to Mr. Barlow, and to demand vengeance against the wicked cat that had occasioned it. Mr. Barlow heard him with great compassion, but asked what punishment he wished to inflict upon the cat.

TOMMY.  
Oh! sir, nothing can be too bad for that cruel animal. I would have her killed, as she killed the poor bird.

MR. BARLOW.  
But do you imagine that she did it out of any particular malice to your bird, or merely because she was hungry, and accustomed to catch her prey in that manner?

Tommy considered some time, but at last he owned that he did not suspect the cat of having any particular spite against



his bird, and therefore he supposed she had been impelled by hunger.

MR. BARLOW.

Have you never observed that it was the property of that species to prey upon mice and other little animals?

TOMMY.

Yes, sir, very often.

MR. BARLOW.

And have you ever corrected her for so doing, or attempted to teach her other habits?

TOMMY.

I cannot say I have.—Indeed I have seen little Harry, when she had caught a mouse and was tormenting it, take it from her and give it liberty. But I have never meddled with her myself.

MR. BARLOW.

Are you not then more to be blamed than the cat herself?—You have observed that it was common to the whole species to destroy mice and little birds, whenever they could surprise them, yet you have



taken no pains to secure your favourite from the danger; on the contrary, by rendering him tame, and accustoming him to be fed, you have exposed him to a violent death which he would probably have avoided had he remained wild. Would it not then be just and more reasonable to endeavour to teach the cat that she must no longer prey upon little birds, than to put her to death for what you have never taught her was an offence?

TOMMY.

But is that possible?

MR. BARLOW.

Very possible, I should imagine. But we may at least try the experiment.

TOMMY.

But why should such a mischievous creature live at all?

MR. BARLOW.

Because if you destroyed every creature that preys upon others, you would perhaps leave few alive.



TOMMY.

Surely, sir, the poor bird which that naughty cat has killed, was never guilty of such a cruelty?

MR. BARLOW.

I will not answer for that. Let us observe what they live upon in the fields, we shall then be able to give a better account.

Mr. Barlow then went to the window, and desired Tommy to come to him and observe a Robin which was then hopping upon the grass with something in its mouth, and asked him what he thought it was.

TOMMY.

I protest, sir, it is a large worm. And now he has swallowed it! I should never have thought that such a pretty bird could be so cruel.

MR. BARLOW.

Do you imagine that the bird is conscious of all that is suffered by the insect?

TOMMY.

No, sir.



MR. BARLOW.

In him then it is not the same cruelty which it would be in you, who are endowed with reason and reflection. Nature has given him a propensity for animal food, which he obeys in the same manner as the sheep and ox when they feed upon grass, or the ass when he browses upon the furze or thistles.

TOMMY.

Why then, perhaps, the cat did not know the cruelty she was guilty of in tearing that poor bird to pieces.

MR. BARLOW.

No more than the bird we have just seen is conscious of his cruelty to the insect. The natural food of cats consists in rats, mice, birds, and such small animals as they can seize by violence, or catch by craft. It was impossible she should know the value you set upon your bird, and therefore she had no more intention of offending you, than had she caught a mouse.

TOMMY.

But if that is the case, should I have



another tame bird, she will kill it as she has done this poor fellow.

MR. BARLOW.

That, perhaps, may be prevented—I have heard people that deal in birds affirm there is a way of preventing cats from meddling with them.

TOMMY.

Oh! dear sir, I should like to try it: Will you not show me how to prevent the cat from killing any more birds?

MR. BARLOW.

Most willingly.—It is certainly better to correct the faults of an animal than to destroy it. Besides, I have a particular affection for this cat, because I found her when she was a kitten, and have bred her up so tame and gentle that she will follow me about like a dog. She comes every morning to my chamber door, and mews till she is let in; and she sits upon the table at breakfast and dinner, as grave and polite as a visitor, without offering to touch the meat. Indeed, before she was guilty of this offence, I



have often seen you stroke and caress her with great affection; and puss, who is by no means of an ungrateful temper, would always pur and arch her tail, as if she was sensible of your attention.

In a few days after this conversation, another Robin, suffering, like the former, from the inclemency of the season, flew into the house, and commenced acquaintance with Tommy. But he, who recollected the mournful fate of his former bird, would not encourage it to any familiarity, till he had claimed the promise of Mr. Barlow, in order to preserve it from danger. Mr. Barlow, therefore, enticed the new guest into a small wire cage, and as soon as he had entered it shut the door, in order to prevent his escaping. He then took a small iron gridiron, such as is used to broil meat upon, and having almost heated it red hot, placed it erect upon the ground, before the cage in which the bird was confined. He then contrived to entice the cat into the room, and observing that she



fixed her eye upon the bird, which she destined to become her prey, he withdrew the two little boys, in order to leave her unrestrained in her operations. They did not retire far, but observed her from the door fix her eyes upon the cage, and begin to approach it in silence, bending her body to the ground, and almost touching it as she crawled along. When she judged herself within a proper distance, she exerted all her agility in a violent spring, which would probably have been fatal to the bird, had not the grid-iron placed before the cage received the impression of her attack. Nor was this disappointment the only punishment she was destined to undergo: the bars of the machine had been so thoroughly heated, that in rushing against them she felt herself burned in several parts of her body; and retired from the field of battle, mew-ing dreadfully and full of pain; and such was the impression which this adventure produced, that from this time she was never known again to attempt to destroy birds.



The coldness of the weather still continuing, all the wild animals began to perceive the effects, and, compelled by hunger, approached nearer to the habitations of man and the places they had been accustomed to avoid. A multitude of hares, the most timorous of all animals, were frequently seen scudding about the garden, in search of the scanty vegetables which the severity of the season had spared. In a short time they had devoured all the green herbs which could be found, and hunger still oppressing them, they began to gnaw the very bark of the trees for food. One day, as Tommy was walking in the garden, he found that even the beloved tree which he had planted with his own hands, and from which he had promised himself so plentiful a produce of fruit, had not escaped the general depredation, but had been gnawed round at the root and killed. Tommy, who could ill brook disappointment, was so enraged to see his labours prove abortive, that he ran with tears in his eyes to Mr. Barlow, to demand ven-



geance against the devouring hares. Indeed, said Mr. Barlow, I am sorry for what they have done, but it is now too late to prevent it. Yes, answered Tommy, but you may have all those mischievous creatures shot, that they may do no farther damage. A little while ago, replied Mr. Barlow, you wanted to destroy the cat, because she was cruel, and preyed upon living animals; and now you would murder all the hares, merely because they are innocent, inoffensive animals, that subsist upon vegetables. Tommy looked a little foolish, but he said, that he did not want to hurt them for living upon vegetables, but for destroying his tree. But, said Mr. Barlow, how can you expect the animal to distinguish your trees from any other? You should therefore have fenced them round in such a manner as might have prevented the hares from reaching them. Besides, in such extreme distress as animals now suffer from the want of food, I think they may be forgiven if they



trespass a little more than usual. Mr. Barlow then took Tommy by the hand, and led him into a field at some distance which belonged to him, and which was sown with turnips. Scarcely had they entered the field, before a flock of larks rose up in such innumerable quantities as almost darkened the air. See, said Mr. Barlow, these little fellows are trespassing upon my turnips in such numbers, that in a short time they will destroy every bit of green about the field; yet I would not hurt them upon any account. Look round the whole extent of the country, you will see nothing but a barren waste, which presents no food either to bird or beast. These little creatures therefore assemble in multitudes here, where they find a scanty subsistence, and though they do me some mischief they are welcome to what they can find. In the spring they will enliven our walks by their agreeable songs.

TOMMY.

How dreary and uncomfortable is this



season of winter! I wish it were always summer.

MR. BARLOW.

In some countries it is so: but there the inhabitants complain more of the intolerable heat than you do of the cold. They would with pleasure be relieved by the agreeable variety of cooler weather, when they are panting under the violence of a scorching sun.

TOMMY.

Then I should like to live in a country that was never either disagreeably hot or cold.

MR. BARLOW.

Such a country is scarcely to be found; or if there is, it contains so small a portion of the earth, as to leave room for very few inhabitants.

TOMMY.

Then I should think it would be so crowded that one could hardly stir; for every body would naturally wish to live there.



MR. BARLOW.

There you are mistaken, for the inhabitants of the finest climates are often less attached to their country than those of the worst. Custom reconciles people to every kind of life, and makes them equally satisfied with the place in which they are born. There is a country called Lapland, which extends a great deal farther north than any part of England, which is covered with perpetual snows during all the year, yet the inhabitants would not exchange it for any other portion of the globe.

TOMMY.

How do they live in so disagreeable a country.

MR. BARLOW.

If you ask Harry he will tell you. Being a farmer, it is his business to study the different methods by which men find subsistence in all the different parts of the earth.



TOMMY.

I should like very much to hear, if Harry will be so good as to tell me.

HARRY.

You must know then, master Tommy, that in the greatest part of this country which is called Lapland, the inhabitants neither sow nor reap; they are totally unacquainted with the use of corn, and know not how to make bread. They have no trees which bear fruit, scarcely any of the herbs which grow in our gardens in England; nor do they possess either sheep, goats, hogs, cows, or horses.

TOMMY.

That must be a disagreeable country indeed! What then have they to live upon?

HARRY.

They have a species of deer which is bigger than the largest stags which you may have seen in gentlemen's parks in England, and very strong. These animals are called rein-deer, and are of so gentle a nature, that they are easily



tamed, and taught to live together in herds, and to obey their masters. In the short summer which they enjoy, the Laplanders lead them out to pasture in the vallies, where the grass grows very high and luxuriant. In the winter, when the ground is all covered over with snow, the deer have learned to scratch away the snow, and find a sort of moss which grows underneath it, and upon this they subsist. These creatures afford not only food, but raiment, and even houses to their masters. In the summer the Laplander milks his herds, and lives upon the produce; sometimes he lays by the milk in wooden vessels to serve him for food in winter. This is soon frozen so hard, that when they would use it, they are obliged to cut it in pieces with an hatchet. Sometimes the winters are so severe, that the poor deer can scarcely find even moss; and then the master is obliged to kill part of them and live upon the flesh. Of the skins he makes warm garments for himself and family, and



strews them thick upon the ground to sleep upon.

Their houses are only poles stuck slanting into the ground, and almost joined at top, except a little hole which they leave to let out the smoke. These poles are either covered with the skins of animals, or coarse cloth, or sometimes with turf and the bark of trees. There is a little hole left in one side, through which the family creep into their tent, and they make a comfortable fire to warm them in the middle. People, that are so easily contented, are totally ignorant of most of the things that are thought so necessary here. The Laplanders have neither gold, nor silver, nor carpets, nor carvework in their houses. Every man makes for himself all that the real wants of life require, and with his own hands performs every thing which is necessary to be done. Their food consists either in frozen milk, or the flesh of the rein-deer, or that of the bear, which they frequently hunt and kill. Instead of bread, they



strip off the bark of firs, which are almost the only trees which grow upon those dismal mountains, and boiling the inward and more tender skin, they eat it with their flesh. The greatest happiness of these poor people is to live free and unrestrained: therefore they do not long remain fixed to any spot, but taking down their houses they pack them up along with the little furniture they possess, and load them upon sledges to carry and set them up in some other place.

TOMMY.

Have you not said that they have neither horses nor oxen? Do they then draw these sledges themselves?

HARRY.

I thought I should surprise you, master Tommy. The rein-deer which I have described are so tractable that they are harnessed like horses, and draw the sledges with their masters upon them near thirty miles a day. They set out with surprising swiftness, and run along



the snow, which is frozen so hard in winter, that it supports them like a solid road. In this manner do the Laplanders perform their journies, and change their places of abode as often as is agreeable. In the spring they lead their herds of deer to pasture upon the mountains; in the winter they come down into the plains, where they are better protected against the fury of the winds. For the whole country is waste and desolate, destitute of all the objects which you see here. There are no towns, nor villages; no fields enclosed or cultivated; no beaten roads; no inns for travellers to sleep at; no shops to purchase the necessaries or conveniences of life at; the face of the whole country is barren and dismal; wherever you turn your eyes, nothing is to be seen but lofty mountains white with snow, and covered with ice and fogs. Scarcely any trees are to be seen, except a few stunted fir and birch. These mountains afford a retreat to thousands of bears and wolves, which are continually



pouring down and prowling about to prey upon the herds of deer: so that the Laplanders are continually obliged to fight them in their own defence. To do this, they fix large pieces of flat board about four or five feet long to the bottom of their feet; and thus secured, they run along without sinking into the snow, so nimbly, that they can overtake the wild animals in the chase. The bear they kill with bows and arrows, which they make themselves. Sometimes they find out the dens where they have laid themselves up in the winter, and then they attack them with spears, and generally overcome them. When a Laplander has killed a bear, he carries it home in triumph, boils the flesh in an iron pot, which is all the cooking they are acquainted with, and invites all his neighbours to the feast. This they account the greatest delicacy in the world, and particularly the fat, which they melt over the fire and drink; then, sitting round the flame, they entertain each other with stories of their own exploits in



hunting or fishing, till the feast is over. Though they live so barbarous a life, they are a good-natured, sincere, and hospitable people. If a stranger comes among them, they lodge and entertain him in the best manner they are able, and generally refuse all payment for their services, unless it be a little bit of tobacco, which they are immoderately fond of smoking.

TOMMY.

Poor people! how I pity them to live such an unhappy life! I should think the fatigues and hardships they undergo, must kill them in a very short space of time.

MR. BARLOW.

Have you then observed that those who eat and drink the most, and undergo the least fatigue, are the most free from diseases?

TOMMY.

Not always; for I remember that there are two or three gentlemen that come to dine at my father's who eat an amazing quantity of meat, besides drinking a great deal of wine; and these poor gentlemen



have lost the use of almost all their limbs. Their legs are so swelled, that they are almost as big as their bodies; their feet are so tender, that they cannot set them to the ground; and their knees so stiff, that they cannot bend them. When they arrive, they are obliged to be helped out of their coaches by two or three people, and they come hobbling in upon crutches. But I never heard them talk about any thing but eating and drinking in all my life.

MR. BARLOW.

And did you ever observe that any of the poor had lost the use of their limbs by the same disease?

TOMMY.

I cannot say I have.

MR. BARLOW.

Then, perhaps, the being confined to a scanty diet, to hardship, and to exercise, may not be so destructive as you imagine. This way of life is even much less so than the intemperance in which too many of the rich continually indulge themselves.



I remember lately reading a story upon this subject, which if you please you shall hear. Mr. Barlow then read the following

*History of a surprising Cure of the Gout.*

In one of the provinces of Italy there lived a wealthy gentleman, who, having no taste either for improving his mind, or exercising his body, acquired an habit of eating almost all day long. The whole extent of his thoughts was what he should eat for dinner, and how he should procure the greatest delicacies. Italy produces excellent wines; but these were not enough for our epicure. He settled agents in different parts of France and Spain, to buy up all the most generous and costly wines of those countries. He had correspondencies with all the maritime cities, that he might be constantly supplied with every species of fish. Every poulterer and fishmonger in the town was under articles to let him have his choice of rarities. He also em-



employed a man on purpose to give directions for his pastry and desserts. As soon as he had breakfasted in the morning, it was his constant practice to retire to his library; for he too had a library, although he never opened a book. When he was there, he gravely seated himself in an easy chair, and, tucking a napkin under his chin, ordered his head-cook to be sent in to him. The head-cook instantly appeared, attended by a couple of footmen, who carried each a silver salver of a prodigious size, on which were cups which contained sauces of every different flavour which could be devised. The gentleman, with the greatest solemnity, used to dip a bit of bread in each, and taste it; giving his orders upon the subject with as much earnestness and precision as if he had been signing papers for the government of a kingdom. When this important affair was thus happily concluded, he generally threw himself upon a couch to repair the fatigues of such an exertion,



and refresh himself against dinner.— When that delightful hour arrived, it is impossible to describe either the variety of fish, flesh, and fowl, which was set before him, or the surprising greediness with which he ate of all; stimulating his appetite with the highest sauces and richest wines, till at length he was obliged to desist, not from being satisfied, but from mere inability to contain more.

This kind of life he had long pursued, but at last became so corpulent, that he could hardly move. His belly appeared prominent like a mountain, his face was bloated, and his legs, though swelled to the size of columns, seemed unable to support the prodigious weight of his body. Added to this, he was troubled with continual indigestions, and racking pains in several of his limbs, which at length terminated in a violent fit of the gout. The pains, indeed, at length abated, and this unfortunate epicure returned to all his former habits of intem-



perance. The interval of ease, however, was short, and the attacks of his disease becoming more and more frequent, he was at length deprived of the use of almost all his limbs. In this unhappy state he determined to consult a physician that lived in the same town, and had the reputation of performing many surprising cures. Doctor, said the gentleman to the physician, when he arrived, you see the miserable state to which I am reduced. I do, indeed, answered the physician; and I suppose you have contributed to it by your own intemperance. As to intemperance, replied the gentleman, I believe few have less to answer for than myself; I indeed love a moderate dinner and supper, but I never was intoxicated with liquor in my life. Probably then you sleep too much, answered the physician. As to sleep, said the gentleman, I am in bed near twelve hours every night, because I find the sharpness of the morning air extremely injurious to my constitution; but I am



so troubled with a plaguy flatulency and heart-burn, that I am scarcely able to close my eyes all night; or if I do, I find myself almost strangled with wind, and wake in agonies. That is a very alarming symptom indeed, replied the doctor; I wonder so many restless nights do not entirely wear you out. They would, indeed, answered the gentleman, if I did not make a shift to procure a little sleep two or three times a day, which enables me to hold out a little longer. As to exercise, continued the doctor, I fear you are not able to use a great deal. Alas! answered the sick man, while I was able, I never failed to go out in my carriage once or twice a week; but in my present situation I can no longer bear the gentlest motion. Besides disordering my whole frame, it gives me such intolerable twitches in my limbs, that you would imagine I was absolutely falling to pieces. Your case, answered the physician, is indeed bad, but not quite desperate; and if you could abridge the



quantity of your food and sleep, you would in a short time find yourself much better. Alas! answered the sick man, I find you little know the delicacy of my constitution, or you would not put me upon a method which will infallibly destroy me. When I rise in a morning, I feel as if all the powers of life were extinguished within me; my stomach is oppressed with nausea, my head with aches and swimming, and, above all, I feel such an intolerable sinking in my spirits, that without the assistance of two or three cordials, and some restorative soup, I am confident I never could get through the morning. No, doctor, I have such a confidence in your skill, that there is no pill or potion you can order me, which I will not take with pleasure; but as to a change in my diet, that is impossible. That is, answered the physician, you wish for health without being at the trouble of acquiring it, and imagine that all the consequences of an ill-spent life are to be washed away



by a julep, or a decoction of senna. But as I cannot cure you upon those terms, I will not deceive you for an instant. Your case is out of the power of medicine, and you can only be relieved by your own exertions.

How hard is this, answered the gentleman, to be thus abandoned to despair even in the prime of life! Cruel and unfeeling doctor, will you not attempt anything to procure me ease? Sir, answered the physician, I have already told you every thing I know upon the subject. I must, however, acquaint you, that I have a brother physician, who lives at Padua, a man of the greatest learning and integrity, who is particularly famous for curing the gout. If you think it worth your while to consult him, I will give you a letter of recommendation; for he never stirs from home even to attend a prince.

Here the conversation ended; for the gentleman, who did not like the trouble of the journey, took his leave of the



physician, and returned home, very much dispirited. In a little while he either was, or fancied himself worse; and as the idea of the Paduan physician had never left his head, he at last resolutely determined to set out upon the journey. For this purpose he had a litter so contrived that he could lie recumbent, or recline at his ease and eat his meals. The distance was not above one day's tolerable journey, but the gentleman wisely resolved to make four of it, for fear of over-fatiguing himself. He had, besides, a loaded waggon attending, filled with every thing that constitutes good eating; and two of his cooks went with him, that nothing might be wanting to his accommodation upon the road. After a wearisome journey, he at length arrived within sight of Padua, and eagerly inquiring after the house of Dr. Ramozini, was soon directed to the spot. Then, having been helped out of his carriage by half a dozen of his servants, he was shown into a neat but plain parlour,



from which he had the prospect of twenty or thirty people at dinner in a spacious hall. In the middle of them was the learned doctor himself, who with much complacence invited the company to eat heartily. My good friend, said the doctor, to a pale-looking man on his right hand, you must eat three slices more of this roast beef, or you will never lose your ague. My friend, said he to another, drink off this glass of porter; it is just arrived from England, and is a specific for nervous fevers. Do not stuff your child so with macaroni, added he, turning to a woman, if you would wish to cure him of the scrophula. Good man, said he to a fourth, how goes on the ulcer in your leg? Much better indeed, replied the man, since I have lived at your honour's table. Well replied the physician, in a fortnight you will be perfectly cured, if you do but drink wine enough. Thank heaven, said the gentleman, who had heard all this with infinite pleasure, I have at last met with



a reasonable physician; he will not confine me to bread and water, nor starve me under pretence of curing me, like that confounded quack from whose clutches I have so luckily escaped. At length the doctor dismissed his company, who retired loading him with thanks and blessings. He then approached the gentleman, and welcomed him with the greatest politeness, who presented him with his letters of recommendation; which after the physician had perused, he thus accosted him: Sir, the letter of my learned friend has fully instructed me in the particulars of your case; it is indeed a difficult one, but I think you have no reason to despair of a perfect recovery. If, added he, you choose to put yourself under my care, I will employ all the secrets of my art for your assistance; but one condition is absolutely indispensable; you must send away all your servants, and solemnly engage to follow my prescriptions for at least a month: without this compliance



I would not undertake the cure even of of a monarch. Doctor, answered the gentleman, what I have seen of your profession, does not, I confess, much prejudice me in their favour, and I should hesitate to agree to such a proposal from any other individual. Do as you like, sir, answered the physician, the employing me or not, is entirely voluntary on your part. But as I am above the common mercenary views of gain, I never stake the reputation of so noble an art, without a rational prospect of success. And what success can I hope for in so obstinate a disorder, unless the patient will consent to a fair experiment of what I can effect? Indeed, replied the gentleman, what you say is so candid, and your whole behaviour so much interests me in your favour, that I will immediately give you proofs of the most unbounded confidence. He then sent for his servants, and ordered them to return home, and not to come near him till a whole month was elapsed. When



they were gone, the physician asked him how he supported the journey. Why really, answered he, much better than I could have expected. But I feel myself unusually hungry; and therefore, with your permission, shall beg to have the hour of supper a little hastened. Most willingly, answered the doctor; at eight o'clock every thing shall be ready for your entertainment. In the mean time you will permit me to visit my patients.

While the physician was absent, the gentleman was pleasing his imagination with the thoughts of the excellent supper he should make. Doubtless, said he to himself, if Signor Ramozini treats the poor in such an hospitable manner, he will spare nothing for the entertainment of a man of my importance. I have heard there are delicious trouts and ortolans in this part of Italy. I make no doubt but the doctor keeps an excellent cook; and I shall have no reason to repent the dismissal of my servants.



With these ideas he kept himself some time amused; at length his appetite growing keener and keener every instant, from fasting longer than ordinary, he lost all patience, and, calling one of the servants of the house, inquired for some little nice thing to stay his stomach till the hour of supper. Sir, said the servant, I would gladly oblige you, but it is as much as my place is worth: my master is the best and most generous of men; but so great is his attention to his house patients, that he will not suffer one of them to eat unless in his presence. However, sir, have patience; in two hours more the supper will be ready, and then you may indemnify yourself for all. Thus was the gentleman compelled to pass two hours more without food, a degree of abstinence he had not practised for almost twenty years. He complained bitterly of the slowness of time, and was continually inquiring what was the hour. At length the doctor returned punctual



to his time, and ordered the supper to be brought in. Accordingly six dishes were set upon the table with great solemnity, all under cover, and the gentleman flattered himself he should now be rewarded for his long abstinence. As they were sitting down to table, the learned Ramozini thus accosted his guest: Before you give a loose to your appetite, sir, I must acquaint you, that, as the most effectual method of subduing this obstinate disease, all your food and drink will be mixed up with such medicinal substances as your case requires. They will not be indeed discoverable by any of your senses; but as their effects are equally strong and certain, I must recommend to you to eat with moderation. Having said this, he ordered the dishes to be uncovered, which, to the extreme astonishment of the gentleman, contained nothing but olives, dried figs, dates, some roasted apples, a few boiled eggs, and a piece of hard cheese. Heaven and earth! cried the gentleman,



losing all patience at this mortifying spectacle, is this the entertainment you have prepared for me, with so many speeches and prefaces? Do you imagine that a person of my fortune can sup on such contemptible fare as would hardly satisfy the wretched peasants whom I saw at dinner in your hall? Have patience, my dear sir, replied the physician; it is the extreme anxiety I have for your welfare that compels me to treat you with this apparent incivility. Your blood is all in a ferment with the violent exercise you have undergone; and were I rashly to indulge your craving appetites, a fever or pleurisy might be the consequence. But tomorrow I hope you will be cooler, and then you may live in a style more adapted to your quality. The gentleman began to comfort himself with this reflection, and, as there was no help, he at last determined to wait with patience another night. He accordingly tasted a few of the dates and olives, ate a piece



of cheese with a slice of excellent bread, and found himself more refreshed than he could have imagined was possible, from such an homely meal. When he had nearly supped he wanted something to drink, and, observing nothing but water upon the table, desired one of the servants to bring him a little wine. Not as you value the life of this illustrious gentleman, cried out the physician. Sir, added he, turning to his guest, it is with inexpressible reluctance that I contradict you, but wine would be at present a mortal poison; therefore, please to content yourself, for one night only, with a glass of this most excellent and refreshing mineral water. The gentleman was again compelled to submit, and drank the water with a variety of strange grimaces. After the cloth was removed, Signor Ramozini entertained the gentleman with some agreeable and improving conversation, for about an hour, and then proposed to his patient that he should retire to rest. This proposal the



gentleman gladly accepted, as he found himself fatigued with his journey, and unusually disposed to sleep. The doctor then retired, and ordered one of his servants to show the gentleman to his chamber. He was accordingly conducted into a neighbouring room, where there was little to be seen, but a homely bed, without furniture, with nothing to sleep upon but a mattress almost as hard as the floor. At this the gentleman burst into a violent passion again: Villain, said he to the servant, it is impossible your master should dare to confine me to such a wretched dog-hole! show me into another room immediately! Sir, answered the servant, with profound humility, I am heartily sorry the chamber does not please you; but I am morally certain I have not mistaken my master's order, and I have too great a respect for you to think of disobeying him in a point, which concerns your precious life. Saying this, he went out of the room, and, shutting the door on the outside,



left the gentleman to his meditations. They were not very agreeable at first; however, as he saw no remedy, he undressed himself and entered the wretched bed, where he presently fell asleep, while he was meditating revenge upon the doctor and his whole family.

The gentleman slept so soundly that he did not awake till morning, and then the physician came into his room, and with the greatest tenderness and civility inquired after his health. He had indeed fallen asleep in a very ill humour, but his night's rest had much composed his mind, and the effect of this was increased by the extreme politeness of the doctor; so that he answered with tolerable temper, only making bitter complaints of the homeliness of his accommodation. My dearest sir, answered the physician, did I not make a previous agreement with you, that you should submit to my management? Can you imagine that I have any other end in view than the improvement of your



health? It is not possible that you should in every thing perceive the reasons of my conduct, which is founded upon the most accurate theory and experience. However, in this case, I must inform you that I have found out the art of making my very beds medicinal; and this you must confess, from the excellent night you have passed. I cannot impart the same salutary virtues to down or silk, and therefore, though very much against my inclinations, I have been compelled to lodge you in this homely manner. But now, if you please, it is time to rise. Ramozini then rang for his servants, and the gentleman suffered himself to be dressed. At breakfast the gentleman expected to fare a little better; but his relentless guardian would suffer him to taste nothing but a slice of bread and a porringer of water-gruel, all which he defended, very little to his guest's satisfaction, upon the most unerring principles of medical science.



After breakfast had been some time finished, doctor Ramozini told his patient it was time to begin the great work of restoring him to the use of his limbs. He accordingly had him carried into a little room, where he desired the gentleman to attempt to stand. That is impossible, answered the patient, for I have not been able to use a leg these three years. Prop yourself, then, upon your crutches, and lean against the wall to support yourself, answered the physician: the gentleman did so, and the doctor went abruptly out, and locked the door after him. He had not been long in this situation, before he felt the floor of the chamber, which he had not before perceived, to be composed of plates of iron, grow immoderately hot under his feet. He called the doctor and his servants, but to no purpose; he then began to utter loud vociferations and menaces, but all was equally ineffectual; he raved, he swore, he promised, he entreated, but nobody came



to his assistance, and the heat grew more intense every instant. At length necessity compelled him to hop upon one leg in order to rest the other, and this he did with the greater agility than he could conceive was possible; presently the other leg began to burn, and then he hopped again upon the other. Thus he went on hopping about, with this involuntary exercise, till he had stretched every sinew and muscle more than he had done for several years before, and thrown himself into a profuse perspiration. When the doctor was satisfied with the exertions of his patient, he sent into the room an easy chair for him to rest upon, and suffered the floor to cool as gradually as it had been heated. Then it was that the sick man for the first time began to be sensible of the real use and pleasure of repose; he had earned it by fatigue, without which it can never prove either salutary or agreeable. At dinner, the doctor appeared again to his patient, and made him a thousand



apologies for the liberties he had taken with his person; these excuses he received with a kind of sullen civility; however, his anger was a little mitigated by the smell of a roasted pullet, which was brought to table and set before him. He now, from exercise and abstinence, began to find a relish in his victuals which he had never done before, and the doctor permitted him to mingle a little wine with his water. These compliances however were so extremely irksome to his temper, that the month seemed to pass away as slowly as a year. When it was expired, and his servants came to ask his orders, he instantly threw himself into his carriage without taking leave either of the doctor or his family. When he came to reflect upon the treatment he had received, his forced exercises, his involuntary abstinence, and all the other mortifications he had undergone, he could not conceive but it must be a plot of the physsscian he had left behind, and, full of rage and indignation,



drove directly to his house in order to reproach him with it. The physician happened to be at home, but scarcely knew his patient again, though after so short an absence. He had shrunk to half his former bulk, his look and colour were mended, and he had entirely thrown away his crutches. When he had given vent to all that his anger could suggest, the physician coolly answered in the following manner: I know not, sir, what right you have to make me these reproaches, since it was not by my persuasion that you put yourself under the care of doctor Ramozini. Yes, sir, but you gave me an high character of his skill and integrity. Has he then deceived you in either, or do you find yourself worse than when you put yourself under his care? I cannot say that, answered the gentleman, I am to be sure, surprisingly improved in my digestion; I sleep better than ever I did before; I eat with an appetite; and I can walk almost as well as ever I could in my life. And do



you seriously come, said the physician, to complain of a man that has effected all these miracles for you in so short a time, and, unless you are now wanting to yourself, has given you a degree of life and health which you had not the smallest reason to expect?—The gentleman, who had not sufficiently considered all these advantages, began to look a little confused, and the physician thus went on: All that you have to complain of is, that you have been involuntarily your own dupe, and cheated into health and happiness. You went to doctor Ramozini, and saw a parcel of miserable wretches comfortably at dinner. That great and worthy man is the father of all about him: he knows that most of the diseases of the poor originate in their want of food and necessaries; and therefore benevolently assists them with better diet and clothing. The rich, on the contrary, are generally the victims of their own sloth and intemperance; and therefore he finds it necessary to use a



contrary method of cure—exercise, abstinence, and mortification. You, sir, have been indeed treated like a child, but it has been for your own advantage. Neither your bed, nor meat, nor drink, has ever been medicated; all the wonderful change that has been produced, has been by giving you better habits, and rousing the slumbering powers of your own constitution. As to deception, you have none to complain of, except what proceeded from your own foolish imagination; which persuaded you that a physician was to regulate his conduct by the folly and intemperance of his patient. As to all the rest, he only promised to exert all the secrets of his art for your cure; and this, I am witness, he has done so effectually, that were you to reward him with half your fortune, it would hardly be too much for his deserts.

The gentleman, who did not want either sense or generosity, could not help feeling the force of what was said. He



therefore made an handsome apology for his behaviour, and instantly dispatched a servant to doctor Ramozini, with a handsome present, and a letter expressing the highest gratitude. And so much satisfaction did he find in the amendment of his health and spirits, that he never again relapsed into his former habits of intemperance, but, by constant exercise and uniform moderation, continued free from any considerable disease to a very comfortable old age.

Indeed, said Tommy, this is a very diverting, comical story, and I should like very much to tell it to the gouty gentlemen that come to our house. That, answered Mr. Barlow, would be highly improper, unless you were particularly desired. Those gentlemen cannot be ignorant that such unbounded indulgence of their appetites can only tend to increase the disease, and therefore you could teach them nothing new upon the subject. But it would appear highly improper in such a little boy as you, to take



upon him to instruct others, while he all the time wants so much instruction himself. Thus, continued Mr. Barlow, you see by this story, which is applicable to half the rich in most countries, that intemperance and excess are full as dangerous as want and hardship. As to the Laplanders, whom you were in so much pain about, they are some of the healthiest people which the world produces. They generally live to an extreme old age, free from all the common diseases which we are acquainted with, and subject to no other inconveniency than blindness, which is supposed to arise from the continual prospect of snow, and the constant smoke with which they are surrounded in their huts.

Some few days after this conversation, when the snow was a good deal worn away, though the frost and cold continued, the two little boys went out to take a walk. Insensibly they wandered so far that they scarcely knew their way, and therefore resolved to return as



speedily as possible. But, unfortunately, in passing through a wood, they entirely missed the track and lost themselves. To add to their distress, the wind began to blow most bitterly from the north, and a violent shower of snow coming on, obliged them to seek the thickest shelter they could find. There happened fortunately to be near an aged oak, whose inside gradually decaying was worn away by time, and afforded an ample opening to shelter them from the storm. Into this the two little boys crept safe, and endeavoured to keep each other warm, while a violent shower of snow and sleet fell all around, and gradually covered the earth. Tommy, who had been little used to hardship, bore it for some time with fortitude, and without uttering a complaint. At length hunger and fear took entire possession of his soul, and turning to Harry with watery eyes and a mournful voice, he asked him what they should do. Do? said Harry; we must wait here, I think, till



the weather clears up a little, and then we will endeavour to find the way home.

TOMMY.

But what if the weather should not clear up at all?

HARRY.

In that case we must either endeavour to find our way through the snow, or stay here, where we are so conveniently sheltered.

TOMMY.

But oh! what a dreadful thing it is to be here all alone in this dreary wood! And then I am so hungry, and so cold: oh! that we had but a little fire to warm us!

HARRY.

I have heard that shipwrecked persons, when they have been cast away upon a desert coast, have made a fire to warm themselves by rubbing two pieces of wood together till they caught fire; or, here is a better thing, I have a large knife in my pocket, and if I could but



find a piece of flint, I could easily strike fire with the back of it.

Harry then searched about, and with some little difficulty found a couple of flints, as the ground was nearly hidden with snow. He then took the flints, and striking one upon the other with all his force, he shivered them into several pieces; out of these he chose the thinnest and sharpest, and told Tommy with a smile, that he believed that would do. He then took the flint, and striking it several times against the back of his knife, produced several sparks of fire. This, said Harry, will be sufficient to light a fire, if we can but find something of a sufficiently combustible nature to kindle from these sparks. He then collected all the driest leaves he could find, with little decayed pieces of wood, and piling them into an heap, endeavoured to kindle a blaze by the sparks which he continually struck from his knife and the flint. But it was in vain; the leaves were not of a sufficiently combustible nature, and while



he wearied himself in vain, they were not at all the more advanced. Tommy, who beheld the ill success of his friend, began to be more and more terrified, and in despair asked Harry again what they should do. Harry answered, that, as they had failed in their attempt to warm themselves, the best thing they could do, was to endeavour to find their way home, more especially as the snow had now ceased, and the sky was become much clearer. This Tommy consented to, and with infinite difficulty they began their march; for, as the snow had completely covered every track, and the day-light began to fail, they wandered at random through a vast and pathless wood. At every step which Tommy took, he sunk almost to his knees in snow, the wind was bleak and cold, and it was with infinite difficulty that Harry could prevail upon him to continue his journey. At length, however, as they thus pursued their way, with infinite toil, they came to some lighted embers, which either



some labourers, or some wandering passengers, had lately quitted, and which were yet unextinguished. See, said Harry, with joy, see what a lucky chance is this! Here is a fire ready lighted for us, which needs only the assistance of a little wood to make it burn. Harry then again collected all the dry pieces he could find, and piled them upon the embers, which in a few moments began to blaze, and diffused a cheerful warmth. Tommy then began to warm and chafe his almost frozen limbs over the fire with infinite delight; at length he could not help observing to Harry, that he never could have believed that a few dried sticks could have been of so much consequence to him. Ah! answered Harry, Master Tommy, you have been brought up in such a manner, that you never knew what it was to want any thing. But that is not the case with thousands and millions of people. I have seen hundreds of poor children that have neither bread to eat, fire to warm, nor clothes to



cover them. Only think, then, what a disagreeable situation they must be in: yet they are so accustomed to hardship, that they do not cry in a twelvemonth as much as you have done within this quarter of an hour.

Why, answered Tommy, a little disconcerted at the observation of his crying, it cannot be expected that gentlemen should be able to bear all these inconveniences as well as the poor. Why not? answered Harry: Is not a gentleman as much a man as the poor can be? And, if he is a man, should he not accustom himself to support every thing that his fellow-creatures do?

TOMMY.

That is very true—But he will have all the conveniences of life provided for him, victuals to eat, a good warm bed, and fire to warm him.

HARRY.

But he is not sure of having all these things as long as he lives.—Besides, I have often observed the gentlemen and



ladies in our neighbourhood, riding about in coaches, and covered from head to foot, yet shaking with the least breath of air as if they all had agues; while the children of the poor run about bare-footed upon the ice, and divert themselves with making snow-balls.

TOMMY.

That is indeed true; for I have seen my mother's visitors sitting over the warmest fire that could be made, and complaining of cold, while the labourers out of doors were stripped to their shirts to work, and never minded it in the least.

HARRY.

Then I should think that exercise, by which a person can warm himself when he pleases, is infinitely a better thing than all these conveniences you speak of; because, after all, they will not hinder a person from being cold, but exercise will warm him in an instant.

TOMMY.

But then it is not proper for gentlemen



to do the same kind of work with the common people.

HARRY.

But is it not proper for a gentleman to have his body stout and hardy?

TOMMY.

To be sure it is.

HARRY.

Why then he must sometimes labour and use his limbs, or else he will never be able to do it.

TOMMY.

What, cannot a person be strong without working?

HARRY.

You can judge for yourself. You very often have fine young gentlemen at your father's house, and are any of them as strong as the sons of the farmers in the neighbourhood, that are always used to handle an hoe, a spade, a fork, and other tools?

TOMMY.

Indeed, I believe that is true, for I think I am become stronger myself, since I have



learned to divert myself in Mr. Barlow's garden.

As they were conversing in this manner, a little boy came singing along, with a bundle of sticks at his back, and as soon as Harry saw him he recollected him, and cried out, As I am alive here is Jacky Smithers, the little ragged boy that you gave the clothes to in the summer; he lives, I dare say, in the neighbourhood, and either he, or his father, will now show you the way home. Harry then spoke to the boy, and asked him if he could show them the way out of the wood. Yes, surely I can, answered the boy, but I never should have thought of seeing master Merton out so late, in such a tempestuous night as this. But, if you will come with me to my father's cottage, you may warm yourself at our fire, and father will run to Mr. Barlow to let him know you are safe. Tommy accepted the offer with joy, and the little boy led them out of the wood, and



in a few minutes they came to a small cottage which stood by the side of the road. When they entered, they saw a middle-aged woman busy in spinning; the eldest girl was cooking some broth over the fire; the father was sitting in the chimney-corner, and reading a book, while three or four ragged children were tumbling upon the floor, and creeping between their father's legs. Daddy, says the little boy, as he came in, here is master Merton, that was so good to us all in the summer. He has lost his way in the wood, and is almost perished in the snow. The man upon this arose, and with much civility desired the two little boys to seat themselves by the fire, while the good woman ran to fetch her largest faggot, which she threw upon the fire, and created a cheerful blaze in an instant. There, my dear little master, said she, you may at least refresh yourself a little by our fire, and I wish I had any thing to offer you that you could eat. But I am afraid you will never be able



to bear such coarse brown bread as we poor folks are obliged to eat. Indeed, said Tommy, my good mother, I have fasted so long, and am so hungry, that I think I could eat any thing. Well then, answered the woman, here is a little bit of gammon of bacon, which I will broil for you upon the embers, and if you can make a supper you are heartily welcome.

While the good woman was thus preparing supper, the man had closed his book, and placed it with great respect upon a shelf; which gave Tommy the curiosity to ask him what he was reading about. Master, answered the man, I am reading the book which teaches me my duty towards man, and my obligations to God; I was reading the Gospel of Jesus Christ, when you came in, and teaching it to my children.

TOMMY.

Indeed I have heard of that good book: Mr. Barlow has often read part of it to me, and promised I should read it myself. That is the book they read at



church; I have often heard Mr. Barlow read it to the people; and he always reads it so well and so affectingly, that every body listens, and you may hear even a pin drop upon the pavement.

## THE MAN.

Yes, master, Mr. Barlow is a worthy servant and follower of Jesus Christ himself. He is the friend of all the poor in the neighbourhood. He gives us food and medicines when we are ill; he employs us when we can find no work. But what we are even more obliged to him for, than the giving us food and raiment, and life itself, he instructs us in our duty, makes us ashamed of our faults, and teaches us how we may be happy not only here, but in another world. I was once an idle, abandoned man myself, given up to swearing and drinking, neglecting my family, and taking no thought for my poor wife and children. But since Mr. Barlow has taught me better things, and made me acquainted with this blessed book, my life and manners, I hope,



are much amended, and I do my duty better to my poor family. That indeed you do, Robin, answered the woman; there is not now a better and kinder husband in the world: you have not wasted an idle penny, or a moment's time, these two years; and without that unfortunate fever, which prevented you from working last harvest, we should have the greatest reason to be all contented. Have we not the greatest reason now, answered the man, to be not only contented, but thankful for all the blessings we enjoy? It is true, that I and several of the children, were ill this year for many weeks; but did we not all escape, through the blessing of God, and the care of good Mr. Barlow, and this worthy master Sandford, who brought us victuals so many days, with his own hands, when we otherwise should perhaps have starved? Have I not had very good employment ever since, and do I not now earn six shillings a week, which is a very comfortable thing, when many



poor wretches as good as I, are starving because they cannot find employment?

Six shillings a week! six shillings a week! answered Tommy in amazement; and is that all you and your wife and children have to live on for a whole week?

THE MAN.

Not all, master; my wife sometimes earns a shilling or eighteen-pence a week by spinning; and our eldest daughter begins to do something in that way, but not much.

TOMMY.

That makes seven shillings and six-pence a week. Why, I have known my mother give more than that, to go to a place where outlandish people sing. I have seen her and other ladies give a man a guinea for dressing their hair. And I knew a little miss, whose father gives half a guinea a time to a little Frenchman, that teaches her to jump and caper about the room.

Master, replied the man smiling, these



are great gentlefolks that you are talking about; they are very rich, and have a right to do what they please with their own. It is the duty of us poor folks to labour hard, take what we can get, and thank the great and wise God, that our condition is no worse.

TOMMY.

What, and is it possible that you can thank God for living in such a house as this, and earning seven shillings and sixpence a week?

THE MAN.

To be sure I can, master. Is it not an act of his goodness, that we have clothes and a warm house to shelter us, and wholesome food to eat? it was but yesterday that two poor men came by, who had been cast away in a storm, and lost their ship, and all they had. One of these poor men had scarcely any clothes to cover him, and was shaking all over with a violent ague, and the other had his toes almost mortified by walking barefooted in the snow. Am I not a great



deal better off than these poor men, and perhaps than a thousand others, who are at this time tost about upon the waves, or cast away, or wandering about the world, without a shed to cover them from the weather, or imprisoned for debt? Might I not have gone on in committing bad actions, like many other unhappy men, till I had been guilty of some notorious crime, which might have brought me to a shameful end? And ought I not to be grateful for all these blessings, which I possess without deserving them?

Tommy, who had hitherto enjoyed all the good things of this life, without reflecting from whom he had received them, was very much struck with the piety of this honest and contented man; but as he was going to answer, the good woman, who had laid a clean though coarse cloth upon her table, and taken up her savoury supper in an earthen plate, invited them to sit down; an invitation which both the boys obeyed with the greatest pleasure, as they had eaten



nothing since the morning. In the mean time the honest man of the house had taken his hat, and walked to Mr. Barlow's to inform him that his two pupils were safe in the neighbourhood. Mr. Barlow had long suffered the greatest uneasiness at their absence, and, not contented with sending after them on every side, was at that very time busy in the pursuit; so that the man met him about half way from his own house. As soon as Mr. Barlow heard the good news, he determined to return with the man, and reached his house just as Tommy Merton had finished one of the heartiest meals he had ever made. The little boys rose up to meet Mr. Barlow, and thanked him for his kindness, and the pains he had taken to look after them, expressing their concern for the accident which had happened, and the uneasiness which, without designing it, they had occasioned: but he, with the greatest good nature, advised them to be more cautious for the future, and not to extend their



walks so far; then thanking the worthy people of the house, he offered to conduct them; and they all three set out together, in a very cold, but fine and starlight evening. As they went home, he renewed his caution, and told them the dangers they had incurred. Many people, said he, in your situation, have been surprised by an unexpected storm, and losing their way have perished with cold. Sometimes both men and beasts, not being able to discern their accustomed track, have fallen into deep pits filled up and covered with the snow, where they have been found buried several feet deep and frozen to death. And is it impossible, said Tommy, in such a case to escape? In general it is, said Mr. Barlow, but there have been some extraordinary instances of persons who have lived several days in that condition, and yet been taken out alive; to-morrow you shall read a remarkable story to that purpose.

As they were thus walking on, Tommy looked up at the sky, where all the stars



glimmered with unusual brightness, and said, What an innumerable quantity of stars is here! I think I never observed so many before in all my life! Innumerable as they appear to you, said Mr. Barlow, there are persons that have not only counted all you now see, but thousands more which are at present invisible to your eye. How can that be? answered Tommy: for there is neither beginning nor end. They are scattered so confusedly about the sky, that I should think it as impossible to number them as the flakes of snow that fell to-day, while we were in the wood. At this Mr. Barlow smiled, and said, that he believed Harry could give him a different account, although perhaps he could not number them all. Harry, said he, cannot you show your companion some of the constellations? Yes, answered Harry, I believe I remember some, that you have been so good to teach me. But pray, sir, said Tommy, what is a constellation? Those, answered Mr. Barlow, that first began to observe



the heavens as you do now, have observed certain stars, remarkable either for their brightness or position. To these they have given a particular name, that they might the more easily know them again, and discourse of them to others; and these particular clusters of stars thus joined together and named, they call constellations. But come, Harry, you are a little farmer, and can certainly point out to us Charles's wain. Harry then looked up to the sky, and pointed out seven very bright stars towards the north. You are right, said Mr. Barlow; four of these stars have put the common people in mind of the four wheels of a waggon, and the three others of the horses; therefore, they have called them by this name. Now, Tommy, look well at these, and see if you can find any seven stars in the whole sky, that resemble them in their position.

TOMMY.

Indeed, sir, I do not think I can.

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D



MR. BARLOW.

Do you not think, then, that you can find them again?

TOMMY.

I will try, sir.—Now, I will take my eye off, and look another way.—I protest I cannot find them again.—Oh! I believe there they are—Pray, sir, (pointing with his finger), is not that Charles's wain?

MR. BARLOW.

You are right; and by remembering these stars, you may very easily observe those which are next to them, and learn their names too, till you are acquainted with the whole face of the heavens.

TOMMY.

That is indeed very clever and very surprising. I will show my mother Charles's wain the first time I go home; I dare say she has never observed it.

MR. BARLOW.

But look on the two stars which compose the hinder wheel of the waggon, and raise your eye up towards the top of the sky; do you not see a very bright



star, that seems to be almost, but not quite, in a line with the two others?

TOMMY.

Yes, sir,—I see it plain.

MR. BARLOW.

That is called the pole-star; it never moves from its place, and by looking full at it, you may always find the north.

TOMMY.

Then, if I turn my face towards that star, I always look to the north.

MR. BARLOW.

You are right.

TOMMY.

Then I shall turn my back to the south.

MR. BARLOW.

You are right again; and now cannot you find the east and west?

TOMMY.

Is not the east where the sun rises?

MR. BARLOW.

Yes; but there is no sun to direct you now.



TOMMY.

Then, sir, I cannot find it out.

MR. BARLOW.

Do not you know, Harry?

HARRY.

I believe, sir, that, if you turn your face to the north, the east will be on the right hand, and the west on the left.

MR. BARLOW.

Perfectly right.

TOMMY.

That is very clever indeed; so then, by knowing the pole-star, I can always find north, east, west, and south. But you said that the pole-star never moves; do the other stars, then, move out of their places?

MR. BARLOW.

That is a question you may learn to answer yourself, by observing the present appearance of the heavens; and then examining whether the stars change their places at any future time.

TOMMY.

But, sir, I have thought that it would



be a good contrivance, in order to remember their situations, if I were to draw them upon a bit of paper.

MR. BARLOW.

But how would you do that?

TOMMY.

I would make a mark upon the paper for every star in Charles's wain, and I would place the marks just as I see the stars placed in the sky, and I would entreat you to write the names for me, and this I would do till I was acquainted with all the stars in the heavens.

MR. BARLOW.

That would be an excellent way; but you see a paper is flat: is that the form of the sky?

TOMMY.

No, the sky seems to rise from the earth on every side like the dome of a great church.

MR. BARLOW.

Then if you were to have some round body, I should think it would correspond to the different parts of the sky, and you



might place your stars with more exactness.

TOMMY.

That is true indeed, sir; I wish I had just such a globe.

MR. BARLOW.

Well, just such a globe I will endeavour to procure you.

TOMMY.

Sir, I am much obliged to you, indeed. But what use is it of to know the stars?

MR. BARLOW.

Were there no other use, I should think there would be a very great pleasure in observing such a number of glorious, glittering bodies as are now above us. We sometimes run to see a procession of coaches, or a few people in fine clothes strutting about: we admire a large room that is painted, and ornamented, and gilded; but what is there in all these things to be compared with the sight of these luminous bodies that adorn every part of the sky.



TOMMY.

That's true, indeed. My lord Wimple's great room, that I have heard all the people admire so much, is no more to be compared to it than the shabbiest thing in the world.

MR. BARLOW.

That is indeed true; but there are some, and those very important, uses to be derived from an acquaintance with the stars. Harry, do you tell master Merton the story of your being lost upon the great moor.

HARRY.

You must know, master Tommy, that I have an uncle lives about three miles off, across the great moor, that we have sometimes walked upon. Now my father, as I am in general pretty well acquainted with the roads, very often sends me with messages to my uncle. One evening I came there so late, that it was scarcely possible to get home again before it was quite dark: it was at that time in the month of October. My uncle wish-



ed me very much to stay at his house all night, but that was not proper for me to do, because my father had ordered me to come back. So I set out as soon as I possibly could: but just as I had reached the heath, the evening grew extremely dark.

TOMMY.

And was not you frightened to find yourself all alone upon such a dismal place?

HARRY.

No; I knew the worst that could happen would be that I should stay there all night; and, as soon as ever the morning shone, I should have found my way home. But, however, by the time I had reached the middle of the heath, there came on such a violent tempest of wind, blowing full in my face, accompanied with such a shower, that I found it impossible to continue my way. So I quit-  
ted the track, which is never very easy to find, and ran aside to an holly bush, that was growing at some distance, in order to seek a little shelter. Here I lay,



very conveniently, till the storm was almost over; then I rose and attempted to continue my way, but unfortunately I missed the track and lost myself.

TOMMY.

That was a very dismal thing indeed.

HARRY.

I wandered about a great while, but still to no purpose: I had not a single mark to direct me, because the common is so extensive, and so bare either of trees or houses, that one may walk for miles and see nothing but heath and furzes. Sometimes I tore my legs in scrambling through great thickets of furze; now and then I plumped into a hole full of water, and should have been drowned if I had not learned to swim: so that at last I was going to give it up in despair, when looking on one side, I saw a light at a little distance, which seemed to be a candle and lantern that somebody was carrying across the moor.

TOMMY.

Did not that give you very great comfort?



You shall hear, answered Harry smiling. At first I was doubtful whether I should go up to it: but I considered that it was not worth any body's pains to hurt a poor boy like me, and that no person who was out on any ill design, would probably choose to carry a light. So I determined boldly to go up to it and inquire the way.

TOMMY.

And did the person with the candle and lantern direct you?

HARRY.

I began walking up towards it; when immediately the light, which I had first observed on my right hand, moving slowly along by my side, changed its direction, and went directly before me, with about the same degree of swiftness. I thought this very odd, but I still continued the chase, and, just as I thought I had approached very near, I tumbled into another pit, full of water.

TOMMY.

That was unlucky indeed,



HARRY.

Well, I scrambled out, and very luckily on the same side with the light, which I began to follow again, but with as little success as ever. I had now wandered many miles about the common; I knew no more where I was, than if I had been set down upon an unknown country: I had no hopes of finding my way home, unless I could reach this wandering light; and, though I could not conceive that the person who carried it, could know of my being so near, he seemed to act as if he was determined to avoid me. However, I was resolved to make one attempt, and therefore I began to run as fast as I was able, hallooing out at the same time to the person that I thought before me, to entreat him to stop.

TOMMY.

And did he?

HARRY.

Instead of that, the light which had before been moving along a slow and easy pace, now began to dance along be-



fore me, ten times faster than before : so that, instead of overtaking it, I found myself farther and farther behind. Still, however, I ran on, till I unwarily sunk up to the middle in a large bog, out of which I at last scrambled with very great difficulty. Surprized at this, and not conceiving that any human being could pass over such a bog as this, I determined to pursue it no longer. But now I was wet and weary; the clouds had indeed rolled away, and the moon and stars began to shine; I looked around me, and could discern nothing but a wide, barren country, without so much as a tree to shelter me, or any animal in sight. I listened, in hopes of hearing a sheep bell, or the barking of a dog; but nothing met my ear, but the shrill whistling of the wind, which blew so cold and bleak along that open country, that it chilled me to the very heart. In this situation, I stopped awhile to consider what I should do, and raising my eyes by accident to the sky, the first object I beheld, was that very constellation of



Charles's wain, and above it I discerned the pole-star, glimmering, as it were, from the very top of heaven. Instantly a thought came into my mind: I considered, that when I had been walking along the road which led towards my uncle's house, I had often observed the pole-star full before me; therefore it occurred to me, that if I turned my back exactly upon it, and went straight forward in a contrary direction, it must lead me towards my father's house. As soon as I had formed this resolution, I began to execute it. I was persuaded I should now escape, and therefore, forgetting my fatigue, I ran along as brisk as if I had but then set out. Nor was I disappointed; for though I could see no tracks, yet taking the greatest care always to go on in that direction, the moon afforded me light enough to avoid the pits and bogs, which are found in various parts of that wild moor; and when I had travelled as I imagined about three miles, I heard the barking of a dog, which gave me double



vigour; and going a little farther, I came to some enclosures at the skirts of the common, which I knew; so that I then with ease found my way home, after having almost despaired of doing it.

TOMMY.

Indeed, then, the knowledge of the pole-star was of very great use to you. I am determined I will make myself acquainted with all the stars in the heavens. But did you ever find out what that light was, which danced before you in so extraordinary a manner?

HARRY.

When I came home my father told me it was what the common people call Jack of the lantern: and Mr. Barlow has since informed me, that these things are only vapours which rise out of the earth, in moist and fenny places, although they have that bright appearance; and therefore told me, that many people, like me, who have taken them for a lighted candle, have followed them, as I did, into bogs and ditches.



Just as Harry had finished his history, they arrived at Mr. Barlow's, and after sitting some time and talking over the accidents of the day, the little boys retired to bed. Mr. Barlow was sitting alone, and reading in his parlour, when, to his great surprize, Tommy came running into the room, half undrest, and bawling out, Sir, sir, I have found it out—they move! they move!—What moves? said Mr. Barlow. Why Charles's wain moves, answered Tommy. I had a mind to take one peep at the sky before I went to bed, and I see that all the seven stars have moved from their places a great way higher up into the sky. Well, said Mr. Barlow, you are indeed right. You have done a vast deal to day, and to-morrow we will talk over these things again.

When the morrow came, Tommy put Mr. Barlow in mind of the story he had promised him, about the people buried in the snow. Mr. Barlow looked him out the book, but first said, It is necessary



to give you some explanation. The country where this accident happened, is a country full of rocks and mountains, so excessively high that the snow never melts upon their tops. Never, said Tommy, not even in the summer? Not even in the summer. The vallies between these mountains are inhabited by a brave and industrious people; the sides of them too are cultivated; but the tops of the highest mountains are so extremely cold that the ice and snow never melt, but go on continually increasing. During a great part of the winter, the weather is extremely cold, and the inhabitants confine themselves within their houses, which they have the art to render very comfortable. Almost all the roads are then impassable, and snow and ice afford the only prospect. But when the year begins to grow warmer, the snow is frequently thawed upon the sides of the mountains, and undermined by the torrents of water which pour down with irresistible fury. Hence it frequently hap-



pens, that such prodigious masses of snow fall down as are sufficient to bury beasts and houses, and even villages themselves, beneath them. It was in the neighbourhood of these prodigious mountains, which are called the Alps, that on the 19th of March, 1755, a small cluster of houses was entirely overwhelmed by two vast bodies of snow that tumbled down upon them from a greater height. All the inhabitants were then within doors, except one Joseph Rochia and his son, a lad of fifteen, who were on the roof of their house, clearing away the snow which had fallen for three days incessantly. A priest going by to church, advised them to come down, having just before observed a body of snow tumbling from the mountain towards them. The man descended with great precipitation, and fled with his son he knew not whither; but scarce had he gone thirty or forty steps, before his son, who followed him, fell down: on which looking back, he saw his own and his neighbours



houses, in which were twenty-two persons in all, covered with a high mountain of snow. He lifted up his son, and reflecting that his wife, his sisters, two children, and all his effects were thus buried, he fainted away; but soon reviving got safe to a friend's house at some distance.

Five days after, Joseph, being perfectly recovered, got upon the snow, with his son, and two of his wife's brothers, to try if he could find the exact place where his house stood; but after many openings made in the snow, they could not discover it. The month of April proving hot, and the snow beginning to soften, he again used his utmost endeavours to recover his effects, and to bury, as he thought, the remains of his family. He made new openings, and threw in earth to melt the snow, which on the 24th of April was greatly diminished. He broke through ice six English feet thick, with iron bars, thrust down a long pole and touched the



ground; but evening coming on, he desisted.

The next day, the brother of his wife, who had heard of the misfortunes of the family, came to the house where Joseph was; and after resting himself a little, went with him to work upon the snow, where they made another opening, which led them to the house they searched for; but finding no dead bodies in its ruins, they sought for the stable, which was about two hundred and forty English feet distant, which having found, they heard a cry of, Help, my dear brother! Being greatly surprized as well as encouraged by these words, they laboured with all diligence till they had made a large opening, through which the brother immediately went down, where the sister, with an agonizing and feeble voice, told him, I have always trusted in God and you, that you would not forsake me. The other brother and the husband then went down, and found, still alive, the wife about forty-five, the sister about thirty-



five, and the daughter about thirteen years old. These they raised on their shoulders to men above, who pulled them up as if from the grave, and carried them to a neighbouring house: they were unable to walk, and so wasted that they appeared like mere skeletons. They were immediately put to bed, and gruel of rye-flour and a little butter was given to recover them. Some days after, the magistrate of the place came to visit them, and found the wife still unable to rise from bed, or use her feet, from the intense cold she had endured, and the uneasy posture she had been in. The sister, whose legs had been bathed with hot wine, could walk with some difficulty, and the daughter needed no farther remedies.

On the magistrate's interrogating the women, they told him that on the morning of the 19th of March, they were in the stable, with a boy of six years old and a girl of about thirteen; in the same stable, were six goats, one of which having



brought forth two dead kids the night before, they went to carry her a small vessel of rye-flour gruel; there were also an ass and five or six fowls. They were sheltering themselves in a warm corner of the stable till the church-bell should ring, intending to attend the service. The wife related, that wanting to go out of the stable to kindle a fire in the house of her husband, who was clearing away the snow from the top of it, she perceived a mass of snow breaking down towards the east, upon which she went back into the stable, shut the door, and told her sister of it. In less than three minutes they heard the roof breaking over their heads, and also part of the ceiling. The sister advised to get into the rack and manger, which they did. The ass was tied to the manger, but got loose by kicking and struggling, and threw down the little vessel, which they found, and afterwards used to hold the melted snow which served them for drink.



Very fortunately the manger was under the main prop of the stable, and so resisted the weight of the snow. Their first care was to know what they had to eat. The sister said she had fifteen chestnuts in her pockets; the children said they had breakfasted, and should want no more that day. They remembered there were 36 or 40 cakes in a place near the stable, and endeavoured to get at them, but were not able for the snow.

They called often for help, but were heard by none. The sister gave the chestnuts to the wife, and ate two herself, and they drank some snow-water. The ass was restless, and the goats kept bleating for some days; after which they heard no more of them. Two of the goats, however, being left alive, and near the manger, they felt them, and found that one of them was big, and would kid, as they recollected, about the middle of April; the other gave milk, wherewith they preserved their lives. During all



this time they saw not one ray of light, yet for about twenty days they had some notice of night and day from the crowing of the fowls, till they died.

The second day, being very hungry, they ate all the chesnuts and drank what milk the goat yielded, being very near two pounds a day at first, but it soon decreased. The third day they attempted again, but in vain, to get at the cakes; so resolved to take all possible care to feed the goats; for just above the manger was a hay-loft, where through a hole the sister pulled down hay into the rack, and gave it to the goats as long as she could reach it; and then, when it was beyond her reach, the goats climbed upon her shoulders, and reached it themselves.

On the sixth day the boy sickened, and six days after desired his mother, who all this time had held him in her lap, to lay him at his length in a manger. She did so, and taking him by the hand, felt it was very cold; she then put her



hand to his mouth, and finding that cold likewise, she gave him a little milk; the boy then cried, Oh! my father is in the snow! Oh father! father! and then expired.

In the mean while the goat's milk diminished daily, and the fowls soon after dying, they could no longer distinguish night from day; but according to their reckoning, the time was near when the other goat would kid; this she accordingly did soon, and the young one dying, they had all the milk for their own subsistence; so they found that the middle of April was come. Whenever they called this goat, it would come and lick their faces and hands, and gave them every day two pounds of milk, on which account they still bear the poor creature great affection. This was the account which these poor people gave to the magistrate of their preservation.

Dear heart! said Tommy, when Mr. Barlow had finished this account, what a number of accidents people are subject



to in this world! It is very true, answered Mr. Barlow; but as that is the case, it is necessary to improve ourselves in every manner, that we may be able to struggle against them.

TOMMY.

Indeed, sir, I begin to believe it is; for when I was less than I am now, I remember I was always fretful and hurting myself, though I had two or three people constantly to take care of me. At present, I seem as if I was quite another thing; I do not mind falling down and hurting myself, or cold, or weariness, or scarcely any thing which happens.

MR. BARLOW.

And which do you prefer, to be as you are now, or as you were before?

TOMMY.

As I am now a great deal, sir; for then I always had something or another the matter with me. Sometimes I had a little cold, and then I was obliged to stay in for several days; sometimes a little head-ache, and then I was forced to take physic. Sometimes the weather was too



hot, then I must stay within; and the same if it was too cold. I used to be tired to death if I did but walk a mile; and I was always eating cake and sweet-meats till I made myself sick. At present I think I am ten times stronger and healthier than ever I was in my life. But what a terrible country that must be where people are subject to be buried in that manner in the snow! I wonder any body will live there.

MR. BARLOW.

The people that inhabit that country, are of a different opinion, and prefer it to all the countries in the world. They are great travellers, and many of them follow different professions in all the different countries of Europe; but it is the only wish of almost all to return, before their death, to the mountains where they were born and have passed their youth.

TOMMY.

I do not easily understand that. I have seen a great many ladies and little



misses at our house, and whenever they were talking about the places where they should like to live, I have always heard them say they hated the country of all things, though they were born and bred there. I have heard one say, that the country is odious, filthy, shocking, and abominable; another, that it is impossible to live any where but in London; and I remember once seeing a strange lady, that wrote down her observations in a book, that said the country was all full of barbarians, and that no person of elegance, (yes, that was her word) could bear it for a week.

MR. BARLOW.

And yet there are thousands who bear to live in it all their lives, and have no desire to change. Should you, Harry, like to leave the country, and go to live in some town?

HARRY.

Indeed, sir, I should not; for then I must leave every thing I love in the world. I must leave my father and mo-



ther, who have been so kind to me; and and you too, sir, who have taken such pains to improve me, and make me good. I am convinced that I never shall find such friends again as long as I live; and what should any body wish to live for, who has no friends? Besides, there is not a field upon my father's farm that I do not prefer to every town I ever saw in my life.

TOMMY.

And have you ever been in any large town?

HARRY.

Once I was in Exeter, but I did not much like it: the houses seemed to me to stand so thick and close, that I think our hog-sties would be almost as agreeable places to live in; and then there are little narrow alleys where the poor live; and the houses are so high, that neither light nor air can ever get to them; and they most of them appeared so dirty and unhealthy, that it made my heart ache to look at them.—And then I walked along



the streets and peeped into the shops, and what do you think I saw?

TOMMY.

What?

HARRY.

Why, I saw great hulking fellows, as big as our plough-men and carters, with their heads all frizzled and curled like one of our sheep's tails, that did nothing but finger ribands and caps for the women. This diverted me so, that I could not help laughing ready to split my sides. And then the gentlewoman at whose house I was, took me to a place, where there was a large room full of candles, and a great number of fine gentlemen and ladies all dressed out and showy, that were dancing about as if they were mad. But at the door of this house there were twenty or thirty ragged, half-starved women and children, that stood shivering in the rain, and begged for a bit of bread; but nobody gave it to them or took any notice of them. So then I could not help thinking that it



would be a great deal better, if all the fine people would give some of their money to the poor, that they might have some clothes and victuals in their turn.

TOMMY.

That is indeed true. Had I been there, I should have relieved the poor people; for you know I am very good-natured and generous; but it is necessary for gentlemen to be fine and to dress well.

HARRY.

It may be so, but I never saw any great good come of it, for my part. As I was walking along the streets one day, and staring about, I met two very fine and dressy young gentlemen, that looked something as you did, master Tommy, when you first came here; so I turned off from the foot-way to let them pass; for my father always taught me to show every civility to people in a higher station: but that was not enough it seems; for just as they passed by me, they gave me such a violent push, that down I



came into the channel, and dirtied myself all over from head to foot.

TOMMY.

And did they not beg your pardon for the accident?

HARRY.

Accident! It was no accident at all, for they burst out into a fit of laughter, and called me little clod-pole. Upon which I told them if I was a clod-pole, they had no business to insult me; and then they came back, and one of them gave me a kick, and the other a slap on the face; but I told them that was too much for me to bear, so I struck them again; and we three began fighting.

TOMMY.

What, both at once? That was a cowardly trick.

HARRY.

I did not much mind that, but there came up a fine, smart fellow, in white stockings and powdered hair, that it seems was their servant; and he was going to fall upon me too, but a man took



my part, and said I should have fair play; so I fought them both till they did not choose to have any more; for, though they were so quarrelsome, they could not fight worth a farthing; so I let them go, and advised them not meddle any more with poor boys that did nothing to offend them.

TOMMY.

And did you hear no more of these young gentlemen?

HARRY.

No, for I went home the next day, and never was I better pleased in my life. When I came to the top of the great hill, from which you have a prospect of our house, I really thought I should have cried with joy. The fields looked all so pleasant, and the cattle that were feeding in them so happy; and then every step I took, I met with somebody or other I knew, or some little boy that I used to play with. Here is little Harry come back, said one; How do ye do, how do ye do? cried a



second; and then a third shook hands with me; and the very cattle, when I went about to see them, seemed all glad that I was come home again.

MR. BARLOW.

You see by this, that it is very possible for people to like the country and be happy in it. But as to the fine young ladies you talk of, the truth is, that they neither love, nor would be long contented in any place. Their whole happiness consists in idleness and finery. They have neither learned to employ themselves in any thing useful, nor to improve their minds. As to every kind of natural exercise, they are brought up with too much delicacy to be able to bear it; and from the improper indulgences they meet with, they learn to tremble at every trifling change of the seasons. With such dispositions, it is no wonder they dislike the country, where they find neither employment nor amusement. They wish to go to London, because there they meet with infinite numbers, as idle and



frivolous as themselves; and these people mutually assist each other to talk about trifles and to waste their time.

TOMMY.

That is true, sir, really: for when we have a great deal of company, I have often observed that they never talked about any thing but eating or dressing, or men and women that are paid to make faces at the play-house, or a great room, called Ranelagh, where every body goes to meet his friends.

MR. BARLOW.

I believe Harry will never go there to meet his friends.

HARRY.

Indeed, sir, I do not know what Ranelagh is; but all the friends I have are at home; and when I sit by the fire-side on a winter's night, and read to my father, and mother, and sisters, as I sometimes do, or when I talk with you and master Tommy upon improving subjects, I never desire any other friends or conversation. But pray, sir, what is Ranelagh?



MR. BARLOW.

Ranelagh is a very large, round room, to which, at particular times of the year, great numbers of persons go in their carriages, to walk about for several hours.

HARRY.

And does nobody go there that has not several friends? because master Tommy said, that people went to Ranelagh to meet their friends.

Mr. Barlow smiled at this question, and answered: The room is generally so crowded, that people have little opportunity for any kind of conversation: they walk round and round in a circle, one after the other, just like horses in a mill. When persons meet that know each other, they perhaps smile and bow, but are shoved forward without having any opportunity to stop. As to friends, few people go to look for them there; and if they were to meet them, few would take the trouble of speaking to them, unless they were dressed in a fashionable manner, and seemed to be of consequence.



HARRY.

That is very extraordinary indeed. Why, sir, what can a man's dress have to do with friendship? Should I love you a bit better, if you were to wear the finest clothes in the world; or should I like my father the better, if he were to put on a laced coat like Squire Chase? On the contrary, whenever I see people dressed very fine, I cannot help thinking of the story you once read me of Agesilaus king of Sparta.

TOMMY.

What is that story? Do pray let me hear it.

MR. BARLOW.

To-morrow you shall hear it: at present we have read and conversed enough; it is better that you should go out and amuse yourself.

The little boys then went out, and returned to a diversion they had been amusing themselves with for several days, the making a prodigious snow-ball. They had begun by making a small



globe of snow with their hands, which they turned over and over, till, by continually collecting fresh matter, it grew so large that they were unable to roll it any farther. Here Tommy observed that their labours must end, for it was impossible to turn it any longer. No, said Harry, I know a remedy for that: so he ran, and fetched a couple of thick sticks, about five feet long, and giving one of them to Tommy, he took the other himself. He then desired him to put the end of his stick under the mass, while he did the same on his side, and then lifting at the other end, they rolled the heap forward with the greatest ease. Tommy was extremely surprised at this, and said: How can this be? We are not a bit stronger than we were before, and yet now we are able to roll this snow-ball along with ease, which we could not even stir before. That is very true, answered Harry, but it is owing to these sticks. This is the way that the labourers move the largest trees, which, without this con-



trivance, they would not be able to stir. I am very much surprised at this, said Tommy; I never should have imagined that the sticks would have given us more strength than we had before. Just as he had said this, by a violent effort, both their sticks broke short in the middle. This is no great loss, observed Tommy, for the ends will do just as well as the whole sticks. They then tried to shove the ball again with the truncheons which remained in their hands, but to the new surprise of Tommy, they found they were unable to stir it. That is very curious indeed, said Tommy; I find that only long sticks are of any use. That, said Harry, I could have told you before; but I had a mind you should find it out yourself. The longer the stick is, provided it is sufficiently strong, and you can manage it, the more easily will you succeed. This is really very curious, replied Tommy; but I see some of Mr. Barlow's labourers at work a little way off; let us go to them, and desire them to cut us two



longer sticks, that we may try their effects. They then went up to the men who were at work ; but here a new subject of admiration presented itself to Tommy's mind. There was a root of a prodigious oak tree, so large and heavy, that half a dozen horses would scarcely have been able to draw it along: besides, it was so tough and knotty, that the sharpest axe could hardly make any impression upon it. This a couple of old men were attempting to cleave in pieces, in order to make billets for Mr. Barlow's fire. Tommy, who thought their strength totally disproportionate to such an undertaking, could not help pitying them, and observing, that certainly Mr. Barlow did not know what they were about, or he would have prevented such poor, weak old men from fatiguing themselves about what they never could perform. Do you think so? replied Harry; what would you then say, if you were to see me, little as I am, perform this wonderful task, with the assistance of one of these good



people? So he took up a wooden mallet, an instrument which, although much larger, resembles an hammer, and began beating the root, which he did for some time without making the least impression. Tommy, who imagined that for this time his friend Harry was caught, began to smile, and told him that he would break an hundred mallets to pieces before he made the least impression upon the wood. Say you so? answered Harry smiling; then I believe I must try another method: so he stooped down, and picked up a small piece of tough iron, about six inches long, which Tommy had not observed before as it lay upon the ground. This iron was broad at the top, but gradually sloped all the way down, till it came to a perfect edge at bottom. Harry took this up, and with a few blows drove it a little way into the body of the root. The old man and he then struck alternately with their mallets upon the head of the iron, till the root began to gape and crack on every side, and the iron was to-



tally buried in the wood. There, says Harry, this first wedge has done its business very well; two or three more will finish it. He then took up another larger wedge, and inserting the bottom of it between the wood and the top of the former one, which was now completely buried in the root, began to beat upon it as he had done before. The root now cracked and split on every side of the wedges, till a prodigious cleft appeared quite down to the bottom. Thus did Harry proceed, still continuing his blows, and inserting new and larger wedges, as fast as he had driven the former down, till he had completely effected what he had undertaken, and entirely separated the monstrous mass of wood into two unequal parts. Harry then said, Here is a very large log, but I think you and I can carry it in to mend the fire, and I will show you something else that will surprise you. So he took a pole of about ten feet long, and hung the log upon it by a piece of cord which he found there; then he



asked Tommy which end of the pole he chose to carry. Tommy, who thought it would be most convenient to have the weight near him, chose that end of the pole near which the weight was suspended, and put it upon his shoulder; while Harry took the other end. But when Tommy attempted to move, he found that he could hardly bear the pressure; however, as he saw Harry walk briskly away under his share of the load, he determined not to complain. As they were walking along in this manner, Mr. Barlow met them, and seeing poor Tommy labouring under his burden, asked him who had loaded him in that manner. Tommy said it was Harry. Upon this Mr. Barlow smiled, and said, Well, Tommy, this is the first time I ever saw your friend Harry attempt to impose upon you, but he is making you carry about three times the weight which he supports himself. Harry replied, that Tommy had chosen that himself; and that he should directly have informed him of his mistake,



but that he had been so surprised at seeing the common effects of a lever, that he wished to teach him some other facts about it; then shifting the ends of the pole, so as to support that part which Tommy had done before, he asked him if he found his shoulder any thing easier than before. Indeed I do, replied Tommy, but I cannot conceive how; for we carry the same weight between us which we did before, and just in the same manner. Not quite in the same manner, answered Mr. Barlow; for, if you observe, the log is a great deal farther from your shoulder than from Harry's; by which means he now supports just as much as you did before, and you, on the contrary, as little as he did when I met you. This is very extraordinary indeed, said Tommy: I find there are a great many things which I did not know, nor even my mamma, nor any of the fine ladies that come to our house. Well, replied Mr. Barlow, if you have acquired so much useful knowledge already, what may you expect



to do in a few years more?—He then led Tommy into the house, and showed him a stick of about four feet long, with a scale hung at each end. Now, said he, if you place this stick over the back of a chair, so that it may rest exactly upon the middle, you see the two scales will just balance each other. So if I put into each of them an equal weight, they will still remain suspended. In this method, we weigh every thing which is bought; only for the greater convenience, the beam of the scale, which is the same thing as this stick, is generally hung up to something else by its middle. But let us now move the stick, and see what will be the consequence. Mr. Barlow then pushed the stick along in such a manner, that when it rested upon the back of the chair, there were three feet of it on one side, and only one on the other. That side which was longest instantly came to the ground as heaviest. You see, said Mr. Barlow, if we would now balance them, we must put a greater weight on



the shortest side; so he kept adding weights, till Tommy found that one pound on the longest side would exactly balance three on the shortest; for, as much as the longer side exceeded the shorter in length, so much did the weight which was hung at that end, require to exceed that on the longest side.

This, said Mr. Barlow, is what they call a lever; and all the sticks that you have been using to-day, are only levers of a different construction. By these short trials, you may conceive the prodigious advantage which they are of to men. For, thus can one man move a weight, which half a dozen would not be able to do with their hands alone. Thus may a little boy, like you, do more than the strongest man could effect, who did not know these secrets. As to that instrument, by which you were so surprised that Harry could cleave so vast a body of wood, it is called a wedge, and is almost equally useful with the lever. The whole force of it consists in its being gradually



narrower and narrower, till at last it ends in a thin edge capable of penetrating the smallest chink. By this we are enabled to overthrow the largest oaks, to cleave their roots almost as hard as iron itself, and even to split the solid rocks. All this, said Tommy, is wonderful indeed; and I need not ask the use of them, because I see it plainly in the experiments I have made to day. One thing more, added Mr. Barlow, as we are upon this subject, I will show you: so he led them into the yard, to the bottom of his granary, where stood a heavy sack of corn. Now, said Mr. Barlow, if you are so stout a fellow as you imagine, take up this sack of corn, and carry it up the ladder into the granary. That, replied Tommy, laughing, is impossible; and I doubt, sir, whether you could do it yourself. Well, said Mr. Barlow, we will at least try what is to be done. He then led them up into the granary, and showing them a middle-sized wheel with an handle fixed upon it, desired the little



boys to turn it round. They began to turn it with some little difficulty, and Tommy could hardly believe his eyes, when presently after he saw the sack of corn, which he had despaired of moving, mounted up into the granary and safely landed upon the floor. You see, said Mr. Barlow, here's another ingenious contrivance, by which the weakest person may perform the work of the strongest. This is called the wheel and axis. You see this wheel, which is not very large, turns round an axle which goes into it, and is much smaller, and at every turn the rope to which the weight is fixed that you want to move, is twisted round the axle. Now, just as much as the breadth of the whole wheel is greater than that of the axle which it turns round, so much greater is the weight, that the person who turns it can move, than he could do without it. Well, said Tommy, I see it is a fine thing indeed to acquire knowledge; for by these means, one not only increases one's understand-



ing, but one's bodily strength. But are there no more, sir, of these ingenious contrivances? for I should like to understand them all. Yes, answered Mr. Barlow, there are more; and all of them you shall be perfectly acquainted with in time; but for this purpose you should be able to write, and comprehend something of arithmetic.

TOMMY.

What is arithmetic, sir?

MR. BARLOW.

That is not so easy to make you understand at once; I will however try to explain it. Do you see the grains of wheat which lie scattered in the window?

TOMMY.

Yes, sir.

MR. BARLOW.

Can you count how many there are?

TOMMY.

There are just five and twenty of them.

MR. BARLOW.

Very well. Here is another parcel: how many grains are there?



TOMMY.

Just fourteen.

MR. BARLOW.

If there are fourteen grains in one heap, and twenty-five in the other, how many grains are there in all; or how many do fourteen and twenty-five make? Tommy was unable to answer, and Mr Barlow proposed the same question to Harry, who answered, that together they made thirty-nine. Again, said Mr. Barlow, I will put the two heaps together, and then how many will there be?

TOMMY.

Thirty-nine.

MR. BARLOW.

Now look, I have just taken away nineteen from the number, how many do you think remain?

TOMMY.

I will count them.

MR. BARLOW.

And cannot you tell without counting? How many are there, Harry?



HARRY.

Twenty, sir.

MR. BARLOW.

All this is properly the art of arithmetic, which is the same as that of counting, only it is done in a much shorter and easier way, without the trouble of having the things always before you. Thus, for instance, if you wanted to know how many barley-corns were in this sack, you would perhaps be a week in counting the whole number.

TOMMY.

Indeed I believe I should.

MR. BARLOW.

If you understood arithmetic you might do it in five minutes.

TOMMY.

That is extraordinary indeed; I can hardly conceive it possible.

MR. BARLOW.

A bushel of corn weighs about fifty pounds weight; this sack contains four bushels, so that there are just two hundred pounds weight in all. Now every



pound contains sixteen ounces; and sixteen times two hundred makes thirty-two hundred ounces. So that you have nothing to do but to count the number of grains in a single ounce, and there will be thirty-two hundred times that number in the sack.

TOMMY.

I declare this is curious indeed, and I should like to learn arithmetic. Will Harry and you teach me, sir?

MR. BARLOW.

You know we are always ready to improve you. But, before we leave this subject, I must tell you a little story. There was a gentleman who was extremely fond of beautiful horses, and did not grudge to give the highest prices for them. One day an horse-courser came to him, and showed him one so handsome, that he thought it superior to all he had ever seen before. He mounted him, and found his paces equally excellent; for, though he was full of spirit, he was gentle and tractable as could be



wished. So many perfections delighted the gentleman, and he eagerly demanded the price. The horse-courser answered that he would bate nothing of two hundred guineas; the gentleman, although he admired the horse, would not consent to give it, and they were just on the point of parting. As the man was turning his back, the gentleman called out to him, and said, Is there no possible way of our agreeing? for I would give you any thing in reason for such a beautiful creature. Why, replied the dealer, who was a shrewd fellow, and perfectly understood calculation, if you do not like to give me two hundred guineas, will you give me a farthing for the first nail the horse has in his shoe, two farthings for the second, four for the third, and so go doubling throughout the whole twenty-four? for there are no more than twenty-four nails in all his shoes. The gentleman gladly accepted the condition, and ordered the horse to be led away to his stables.



TOMMY.

This fellow must have been a very great blockhead, to ask two hundred guineas, and then to take a few farthings for his horse.

MR. BARLOW.

The gentleman was of the same opinion; however, the horse-courser added, I do not mean, sir, to tie you down to this last proposal, which, upon consideration, you may like as little as the first; all that I require is, that if you are dissatisfied with your bargain, you will promise to pay me down the two hundred guineas which I first asked. This the gentleman willingly agreed to, and then called his steward to calculate the sum, for he was too much of a gentleman to be able to do it himself. The steward sat down with his pen and ink, and after some time gravely wished his master joy, and asked him in what part of England the estate was situated that he was going to purchase. Are you mad? replied the gentleman. It is not an estate, but an horse, that I have just bargained



for, and here is the owner of him, to whom I am going to pay the money. If there is any madness, sir, replied the steward, it certainly is not on my side; the sum you have ordered me to calculate, comes to just seventeen thousand, four hundred, and seventy-six pounds, besides some shillings and pence; and surely no man in his senses would give this price for an horse. The gentleman was more surprised than he had ever been before, to hear the assertion of his steward; but, when upon examination he found it no more than the truth, he was very glad to compound for his foolish agreement, by giving the horse-courser the two hundred guineas and dismissing him.

TOMMY.

This is quite incredible, that a farthing just doubled a few times, should amount to such a prodigious sum: however, I am determined to learn arithmetic, that I may not be imposed upon in this manner; for I think a gentleman must look very silly in such a situation.



Thus had Tommy a new employment and diversion for the winter nights, the learning arithmetic. Almost every night did Mr. Barlow, and Harry, and he amuse themselves with little questions that related to numbers: by which means Tommy became in a short time so expert, that he could add, subtract, multiply, or divide, almost any given sum, with little trouble and great exactness. But he did not for this forget the employment of observing the heavens. Every night when the stars appeared bright, and the sky unclouded, Harry and he observed the various figures and positions of the constellations. Mr. Barlow gave him a little paper globe, as he had promised, and Tommy immediately marked out upon the top, his first and favourite constellation of Charles's wain. A little while after that, he observed on the other side of the pole-star, another beautiful assemblage of stars, which was always opposite to Charles's wain: this, Mr. Barlow told him, was called Cassiopeia's chair; and this, in a



short time, was added to the collection. One night, as Tommy was looking up to the sky, in the southern part of the heavens, he observed so remarkable a constellation that he could not help particularly remarking it: four large and shining stars composed the ends of the figure, which was almost square, and full in the middle appeared three more placed in a slanting line and very near each other. This, Tommy pointed out to Mr. Barlow, and begged to know the name. Mr. Barlow answered, that the constellation was named Orion, and that the three bright stars in the middle were called his belt. Tommy was so delighted with the grandeur and beauty of this glorious constellation, that he could not help observing it, by intervals, all the evening; and he was surprised to see that it seemed to pass on, in a right line drawn from east to west, and that all the stars he had become acquainted with moved every night in the same direction.

But he did not forget to remind Harry,



one morning, of the history he had promised to tell him of Agesilaus. Harry told it in the following manner:

The Spartans, as I have before told you, master Tommy, were a brave and hardy people, that despised every thing that tended to make them delicate and luxurious. All their time was spent in such exercises as made them strong and active, able to bear fatigue, and to despise wounds and danger: for they were situated in the midst of several other nations, that frequently had quarrels with each other, and with them; and therefore it was necessary that they should learn to defend themselves. Therefore, all the children were brought up alike, and the sons of their kings themselves were as little indulged as any body else.

TOMMY.

Stop, stop!—I don't exactly understand that. I thought a king was a person that dressed finer, and had less to do than any body else in the world. I have often heard my mamma and the ladies say, that I



looked like a prince when I had fine clothes on: and therefore I thought that kings and princes never did any thing but walk about with crowns upon their heads, and eat sweetmeats, all day long.

HARRY.

I do not know how that may be, but in Sparta the great business of the kings, for they had two, was to command them when they went out to war, or when they were attacked at home; and that, you know, they could not do without being brave and hardy themselves. Now it happened that the Spartans had some dear friends and allies that lived at a distance from them, across the sea, who were attacked by a great and numerous nation, called the Persians. So, when the Spartans knew the danger of their friends, they sent over to their assistance Agesilaus, one of their kings, together with a few thousand of his countrymen; and these, they judged, would be a match for all the forces that could be brought against them by the Persians, though ever so numerous. When



the general of the Persians saw the small number of his enemies, he imagined it would be an easy matter to take them prisoners, or to destroy them. Besides, as he was immensely rich, and possessed a number of palaces furnished with every thing that was fine and costly, and had a great quantity of gold, and silver, and jewels, and slaves, he could not conceive it possible that any body could resist him. He therefore raised a large army, several times greater than that of the Spartans, and attacked Agesilaus, who was not in the least afraid of him: for the Spartans, joining their shields together, and marching slowly along in even ranks, fell with so much fury upon the Persians, that in an instant they put them to flight.— Here Tommy interrupted the story, to inquire what a shield was. Formerly, answered Mr. Barlow, before men were acquainted with the pernicious effects of gunpowder, they were accustomed to combat close together, with swords or long spears; and for this reason, they covered



themselves in a variety of ways, to defend their bodies from the weapons of their enemies. The shield was worn upon their left arm, and composed of boards fixed together, and strengthened with the hides of animals and plates of iron, sufficiently long and broad to cover almost the whole body of a man. When they went out to battle, they placed themselves in even rows or ranks, with their shields extended before them, to secure them from the arrows and weapons of their enemies. Upon their heads they wore an helmet, which was a cap of iron or steel, ornamented with the waving feathers of birds or the tails of horses. In this manner, with an even pace, marching all at once, and extending their spears before them, they went forward to meet their enemies.—I declare, said Tommy, such a sight must be prodigiously fine; and when I have accidentally met with soldiers myself, I thought they made such a figure, walking erect with their arms all glittering in the sun, that I have sometimes thought I would



be a soldier myself, whenever I grew big enough. And have you considered, answered Mr. Barlow, what is the business and generally the fate of a soldier? No, said Tommy; I know that he must fight sometimes: but what I thought so pleasant was, to march up and down in a fine red coat, with colours flying and music playing, while all the ladies are looking on, and smiling, and bowing; for I have heard a great many of them say, they loved a soldier above all things. Well, said Mr. Barlow, I will presently endeavour to give you juster ideas of what composes the life of a soldier; let Harry now go on with his story.

When Pharnabazus, for that was the name of the Persian general, observed that his troops were never able to stand against the Spartans, he sent to Agesilaus, and requested that they might have a meeting, in order to treat about terms of peace. This the Spartan consented to, and appointed the time and place where he would wait for Pharnabazus. When



the day came, Agesilaus arrived first at the place of meeting, with the Spartans; but not seeing Pharnabazus, sat down upon the grass with his soldiers; and, as it was the hour of the army's making their repast, they pulled out their provisions, which consisted of some coarse bread and onions, and began eating very heartily. In the middle of them sat king Agesilaus himself, in no wise distinguished from the rest, either by his clothing or his fare: nor was there in the whole army an individual, that more exposed himself to every species of hardship, or that discovered less nicety than the king himself; by which means he was beloved and revered by all the soldiers, who were ashamed of appearing less brave or patient than their general. It was not long that the Spartans had thus reposed before the first servants of Pharnabazus arrived; who brought with them rich and costly carpets, which they spread upon the ground for their master to recline upon. Presently arrived another troop, who began to erect



a spacious tent with silken hangings, to screen him and his train from the heat of the sun. After this, came a company of cooks and confectioners, with a great number of loaded horses, who carried upon their backs all the materials of an elegant entertainment. Last of all appeared Pharnabazus himself, glittering with gold and jewels, and adorned with a long purple robe, after the fashion of the East; he wore bracelets upon his arms, and was mounted upon a beautiful horse, that was as gaudily attired as himself. As he approached nearer, and beheld the simple manners of the Spartan king and his soldiers, he could not help scoffing at their poverty, and making comparisons between their mean appearance and his own magnificence. All that were with him seemed to be infinitely diverted with the wit and acute remarks of their general, except a single person, who had served in the Grecian armies, and therefore was better acquainted with the manners and discipline of these people. This man was



highly valued by Pharnabazus, for his understanding and honesty, and, therefore, when he observed that he said nothing, he insisted upon his declaring his sentiments as the rest had done. Since then, replied he, you command me to speak my opinion, O Pharnabazus, I must confess that the very circumstance, which is the cause of so much mirth to the gentlemen that accompany you, is the reason of my fears. On our side, indeed, I see gold, and jewels, and purple in abundance; but when I look for men, I can find nothing but barbers, cooks, confectioners, fiddlers, dancers, and every thing that is most unmanly and unfit for war: on the Grecian side, I discern none of these costly trifles, but I see iron that forms their weapons, and composes impenetrable arms. I see men that have been brought up to despise every hardship, and to face every danger; that are accustomed to observe their ranks, to obey their leader, to take every advantage of their enemy, and to fall dead in their places rather than to turn their



backs. Were the contest about who should dress a dinner or curl hair with the greatest nicety, I should not doubt that the Persians would gain the advantage: but, when it is necessary to contend in battle, where the prize is won by hardiness and valour, I cannot help dreading men that are enured to wounds, and labours, and suffering; nor can I ever think that the Persian gold will be able to resist the Grecian iron. Pharnabazus was so struck with the truth and justness of these remarks, that, from that very hour, he determined to contend no more with such invincible troops; but bent all his cares towards making peace with the Spartans, by which means he preserved himself and country from destruction.

You see by this story, said Mr. Barlow, that fine clothes are not always of the consequence which you imagine, since they are not able to give their wearers either more strength or courage than they had before, or to preserve them from the attacks of those whose appearance is more



homely.—But since you are so little acquainted with the business of a soldier, I must show you a little more clearly in what it consists. Instead, therefore, of all this pageantry, which seems so strongly to have acted upon your mind, I must inform you that there is no human being exposed to suffer a greater degree of misery and hardship. He is often obliged to march whole days in the most violent heat, or cold, or rain, and frequently without victuals to eat or clothes to cover him. When he stops at night, the most that he can expect is a miserable canvass tent to shelter him, that is penetrated in every part by the wet, and a little straw to keep his body from the damp, unwholesome earth. Frequently he cannot meet with even this, and is obliged to lie uncovered upon the ground; by which means he contracts a thousand diseases, which are more fatal than the cannon and weapons of the enemy. Every hour he is exposed to engage in combats at the hazard of losing his limbs, of being



crippled or mortally wounded. If he gains the victory, he generally has only to begin again and fight anew, till the war is over; if he is beaten, he probably loses his life upon the spot, or is taken prisoner by the enemy: in which case he may languish several months in a dreary prison, in want of all the necessaries of life.

Alas! said Harry, what a dreadful picture do you draw of the fate of those brave men who suffer so much to defend their country; surely, those who employ them should take care of them when they are sick, or wounded, or incapable of providing for themselves.

So indeed, answered Mr. Barlow, they ought to do. But rash and foolish men engage in wars, without either justice or reason; and when they are over, they think no more of the unhappy people who have served them at so much loss to themselves.

HARRY.

Why, sir, I have often thought, that as all wars consist in shedding blood and



doing mischief to our fellow-creatures, they seldom can be just.

MR. BARLOW.

You are indeed right there.--Of all the blood that has been shed since the beginning of the world to the present day, but very little indeed has been owing to any cause that had either justice or common sense.

HARRY.

I then have thought, though I pity poor soldiers extremely, and always give them something, if I have any money in my pocket, that they draw these mischiefs upon themselves, because they endeavour to kill and destroy other people; and therefore, if they suffer the same evils in return, they can hardly complain.

MR. BARLOW.

They cannot complain of the evils to which they voluntarily expose themselves; but they may justly complain of the ingratitude of the people for whom they fight, and who take no care of them afterwards.



HARRY.

Indeed, sir, I think so. But I cannot conceive why people must hire others to fight for them. If it is necessary to fight, why do they not fight for themselves?—I should be ashamed to go to another boy and say to him, Pray go and venture your life or limbs for me, that I may stay at home and do nothing.

TOMMY.

What, if the French were to come here, as they said they were about to do, would you go out to fight them yourself?

HARRY.

I have heard my father say, that it was every man's duty to fight for his country, if it were attacked; and if my father went out to fight, I would go out with him. I would not willingly hurt any body; but if they attempt to hurt me or my countrymen, we should do right to defend ourselves. Should we not, sir?

MR. BARLOW.

This is certainly a case, where men have a right to defend themselves. No man is bound to yield his life or property



to another that has no right to take it. Among those Grecians whom you were talking of, every man was a soldier, and always ready to defend his country whenever it was attacked.

HARRY.

Pray, dear sir, read to Master Tommy the story of Leonidas, which gave me so much pleasure; I am sure he will like to hear it.

Mr. Barlow accordingly read

*The History of Leonidas, King of Sparta.*

THE king of Persia commanded a great extent of territory, which was inhabited by many millions of people, and not only abounded in all the necessaries of life, but produced immense quantities of gold and silver, and every other costly thing. Yet all this did not satisfy the haughty mind of Xerxes, who at that time possessed the empire of this country. He considered that the Grecians, his neighbours, were free, and refused to obey his imperious orders; which he foolishly imagined



all mankind should respect. He therefore determined to make an expedition with a mighty army into Greece, and to conquer the country. For this reason he raised such a prodigious army that it is almost impossible to describe it. The numbers of men that composed it seemed sufficient to conquer the whole world, and all the forces the Grecians were able to raise would scarcely amount to an hundredth part. Nevertheless, the Grecians held public councils to consult about their common safety; and they nobly determined that as they had hitherto lived free, so they would either maintain their liberty, or bravely die in its defence. In the mean time Xerxes was continually marching forward, and at length entered the territory of Greece. The Grecians had not yet been able to assemble their troops or make their preparations, and therefore they were struck with consternation at the approach of such an army as attended Xerxes. Leonidas was at that time king of Sparta, and, when he consi-



dered the state of affairs, he saw one method alone by which the ruin of his country and all Greece could be prevented. In order to enter the more cultivated parts of this country, it was necessary for the Persian army to march through a very rough and mountainous district, called Thermopylæ. There was only one narrow road through all these mountains, which it was possible for a very small number of men to defend for some time against the most numerous army. Leonidas perceived, that if a small number of resolute men would undertake to defend this passage, it would retard the march of the whole Persian army, and give the Grecians time to collect their troops. But who would undertake so desperate an enterprise, where there was scarcely any possibility of escaping alive? For this reason, Leonidas determined to undertake the expedition himself, with such of the Spartans as would voluntarily attend him, and to sacrifice his own life for the preservation of his country. With this de-



sign, he assembled the chiefs persons of Sparta, and laid before them the necessity of defending the pass of Thermopylæ. They were equally convinced of its importance, but knew not where to find a man of such determined valour as to undertake it. Then, said Leonidas, since there is no more worthy man ready to perform this service, I myself will undertake it, with those who will voluntarily accompany me. They were struck with admiration at his proposal, and praised the greatness of his mind, but set before him the certain destruction which must attend him. All this, said Leonidas, I have already considered; but I am determined to go, with the appearance indeed of defending the pass of Thermopylæ, but in reality to die for the liberty of Greece. Saying this, he instantly went out of the assembly, and prepared for the expedition, taking with him about three hundred Spartans. Before he went, he embraced his wife, who hung about him in tears, as well acquainted with the pur-



pose of his march; but he endeavoured to comfort her, and told her that a short life was well sacrificed to the interests of his country, and that Spartan women should be more careful about the glory than the safety of their husbands. He then kissed his infant children, and charging his wife to educate them in the same principles he had lived in, went out of his house to put himself at the head of those brave men who were to accompany him. As they marched through the city all the inhabitants attended them with praises and acclamations. The young women sang songs of triumph, and scattered flowers before them; the youths were jealous of their glory, and lamented that such a noble doom had not rather fallen upon themselves; while all their friends and relations seemed rather to exult in the immortal honour they were going to acquire, than to be dejected with the apprehensions of their loss. As they marched through Greece, they were joined by various bodies of their allies; so that their



number amounted to about six thousand when they took possession of the straits of Thermopylæ.

In a short time Xerxes approached, with his innumerable army, composed of various nations, and armed in a thousand different manners. When he had seen the small number of his enemies, he could not believe that they really meant to oppose his passage; but when he was told that this was surely their design, he sent out a small detachment of his troops, and ordered them to take those Grecians alive, and bring them bound before him. The Persian troops set out, and attacked the Grecians with considerable fury; but, in an instant, they were routed, the greater part slain, and the rest obliged to fly. Xerxes was enraged at this misfortune, and ordered the combat to be renewed with greater forces. The attack was renewed, but always with the same success, although he sent the bravest troops in his whole army. Thus was this immense army stopped in its career, and the pride



of their monarch humbled, by so inconsiderable a body of Grecians, that they were not at first thought worthy of a serious attack. At length, what Xerxes with all his troops was incapable of effecting, was performed by the treachery of some of the Grecians who inhabited that country. For a great reward they undertook to lead a chosen body of the Persians across the mountains by a secret path, with which they alone were acquainted. Accordingly, in the night the Persians set out, passed over the mountains in safety, and encamped on the other side. As soon as day arose, Leonidas perceived that he had been betrayed, and that he was surrounded by the enemy: nevertheless, with the same undaunted courage he took all necessary measures, and prepared for the fate which he had long resolved to meet. After praising and thanking the allies, for the bravery with which they had behaved, he sent them all away to their respective countries. Many of the Spartans too, he would have dismissed



under various pretences; but they, who were all determined rather to perish with their king, than to return, refused to go. When he saw their resolution, he consented that they should stay with him, and share in his fate. All day, therefore, he remained quiet in his camp; but when evening approached, he ordered his troops to take some refreshment, and smiling, told them to dine like men who were to sup in another world. They then completely armed themselves, and waited for the middle of the night, which Leonidas judged most proper for the design he meditated. He saw that the Persians would never imagine it possible, that such an insignificant body of men should think of attacking their numerous forces. He was therefore determined, in the silence of the night, to break into their camp, and endeavour, amid the terror and confusion which would ensue, to surprise Xerxes himself. About midnight, therefore, this determined body of Grecians marched out with Leonidas at their head.



They soon broke into the Persian camp, and put all to flight that dared to oppose them. It is impossible to describe the terror and confusion which ensued among so many thousands, thus unexpectedly surprised. Still the Grecians marched on in close, impenetrable order, overturning the tents, destroying all that dared to resist, and driving that vast and mighty army like frightened sheep before them. At length they came even to the imperial tent of Xerxes, and had he not quitted it at the first alarm, he would there have ended at once his life and expedition. The Grecians in an instant put all the guards to flight, and, rushing upon the imperial pavilion, violently overturned it, and trampled under their feet all the costly furniture and vessels of gold, which were used by the monarchs of Persia. But now the morning began to appear; and the Persians, who had discovered the small number of their assailants, surrounded them on every side, and, without daring to come to a close engagement,



poured in their darts and missive weapons. The Grecians were wearied even with the toils of conquest, and their body was already considerably diminished. Nevertheless, Leonidas, who was yet alive, led on the intrepid few that yet remained to a fresh attack. Again he rushed upon the Persians, and pierced their thickest battalions as often as he could reach them. But valour itself was vain against such inequality of numbers; at every charge the Grecian ranks grew thinner and thinner, till at length they were all destroyed, without a single man having quitted his post, or turned his back upon the enemy.

Really, said Tommy, when the history was finished, Leonidas was a brave man indeed. But what became of Xerxes and his army after the death of this valiant Spartan? Was he able to overcome the Grecians, or did they repulse him? You are now able to read, replied Mr. Barlow, for yourself, and therefore, by examining the histories of those countries, you may be informed of every thing you desire.



And now the frost had continued for several weeks, and Tommy had taken advantage of the evenings, which generally proved clear and star-light, to improve his knowledge of the heavens. He had already ornamented his paper globe with several of the most remarkable constellations. Around the pole-star he had discovered Perseus and Andromeda, and Cepheus, and Cassiopeia's chair. Between these and the bright Orion, which rose every night and glittered in the south, he discovered seven small stars that were set in a cluster, and called the Pleiades. Then, underneath Orion, he discovered another glittering star, called Sirius, or the Dog-star. All these, he continually observed, journeyed every night from east to west, and then appeared the evening after in their former places. How strange it is, observed Tommy one day to Mr. Barlow, that all these stars should be continually turning about the earth! How do you know, replied Mr. Barlow, that they turn at all?



TOMMY.

Because I see them move every night.

MR. BARLOW.

But, how are you sure that it is the stars which move every night, and not the earth itself?

Tommy considered and said, But then I should see the earth move and the stars stand still.

MR. BARLOW.

What, did you never ride in a coach?

TOMMY.

Yes, sir, very often.

MR. BARLOW.

And did you then see that the coach moved, as you sat still and went along a level road?

TOMMY.

No, sir, I protest I have often thought that the houses, and trees, and all the country glided swiftly along by the windows of the coach.

MR. BARLOW.

And did you never sail in a boat?



TOMMY.

Yes, I have, and I protest, I have observed the same thing; for I remember, I have often thought the shore was running away from the boat, instead of the boat from the shore.

MR. BARLOW.

If that is the case, it is possible, even though the earth should move, instead of the stars, that you might only see what you do at present, and imagine, that the earth you are upon was at rest.

TOMMY.

But is it not more likely, that such little things as the stars and sun should move, than such a large thing as the earth?

MR. BARLOW.

And how do you know that the stars and sun are so small?

TOMMY.

I see them to be so, sir. The stars are so small, that they are hardly to be seen at all: and the sun itself, which is much larger, does not seem bigger than a small round table.



The day after this conversation, as the weather was bright and clear, Mr. Barlow went out to walk with Harry and Tommy. As, by this time, Tommy was enured to fatigue, and able to walk many miles, they continued their excursion over the hills, till at last they came in sight of the sea. As they were diverting themselves with the immense prospect of water that was before them, Mr. Barlow perceived something floating at a distance, so small as to be scarcely discernible by the eye. He pointed it out to Tommy, who with some difficulty was able to distinguish it, and asked him what he thought it was.

Tommy answered, that he imagined it to be some little fishing-boat, but could not well tell on account of the distance.

MR. BARLOW.

If you do not then see a ship, what is it you do see, or what does that object appear to your eyes?

TOMMY.

All that I can see, is no more than a little dusky speck, which seems to grow bigger and bigger.



MR. BARLOW.

And what is the reason it grows bigger and bigger?

TOMMY.

Because it comes nearer and nearer to me.

MR. BARLOW.

What, then, does the same thing sometimes appear small, and sometimes great?

TOMMY.

Yes, sir, it seems small when it is at a great distance; for I have observed even houses and churches, when you are at some miles distant, seem to the eye very small indeed: and now I observe that the vessel is sailing towards us, and it is not, as I imagined, a little fishing-boat, but a ship with a mast, for I begin to distinguish the sails.

Mr. Barlow walked on a little while by the side of the sea, and presently Tommy called out again: I protest, I was mistaken again; for it is not a vessel with one mast, as I thought a little while ago, but a fine large ship with three great masts, and all her sails before the wind.



I believe she must either be a large merchant-man or else a frigate.

MR. BARLOW.

Will you then take notice of what you have now been saying? What was first only a little dusky speck, became a vessel with one mast, and now this vessel with one mast plainly appears a ship of a very large size, with all her masts, and sails, and rigging, complete. Yet all these three appearances are only the same object at different distances from your eye.

TOMMY.

Yes, sir; that is all very true indeed.

MR. BARLOW.

Why, then, if the ship, which is now full in sight, were to tack about again, and sail away from us as fast as she approached just now, what do you think would happen?

TOMMY.

It would grow less and less, every minute, till it appeared a speck again.

MR. BARLOW.

You said, I think, that the sun was a



very small body, not bigger than a round table.

TOMMY.

Yes, sir.

MR. BARLOW.

Supposing then he were to be removed to a much greater distance than he is at now, what would happen? Would he appear the same to your eyes?

Tommy considered for some time, and then said, If the ship grows less and less, till at last it appears a mere speck, by going farther and farther, I should think the sun would do the same.

MR. BARLOW.

There you are perfectly right; therefore, if the sun were to depart farther and farther from us, at last he would appear no bigger than one of those twinkling stars that you see at so great a distance above your head.

TOMMY.

That I perfectly comprehend.

MR. BARLOW.

But if, on the contrary, one of those



twinkling stars were to approach nearer and nearer to where you stand, what do you think would happen? Would it still appear of the same size?

TOMMY.

No, sir. The ship as it came nearer to us appeared every moment larger, and therefore I think the star must do the same.

MR. BARLOW.

Might it not then at last appear as big as the sun now does; just as the sun would dwindle away to the size of a star, were it to be removed to a still greater distance?

TOMMY.

Indeed, I think it might.

MR. BARLOW.

What then do you imagine must happen could the sun approach a great deal nearer to us? Would his size remain the same.

TOMMY.

No, I plainly see that he must appear bigger and bigger the nearer he comes.



MR. BARLOW.

—If that is the case, it is not so very certain that the earth we inhabit is bigger than the sun and stars. They are at a very great distance from us; therefore, if any body could go from the earth towards the sun, how do you think the earth would appear to him as he journeyed on?

TOMMY.

Really, I can hardly tell.

MR. BARLOW.

No! Why, is it not the same thing, whether an object goes from you, or you from the object? Is there any difference between the ship's sailing away from us, and our walking away from the ship?

TOMMY.

No, sir.

MR. BARLOW.

Did you not say, that if the sun could be removed farther from our eyes, it would appear less?

TOMMY.

To be sure it would.



MR. BARLOW.

Why then, if the earth were to sink down from under our feet, lower and lower, what would happen? Would it have the same appearance?

TOMMY.

No, sir; I think it must appear less and less, like the ship when it is sailing away.

MR. BARLOW.

Very right, indeed. But now attend to what I asked you just now: if a person could rise slowly into the air, and mount still higher and higher, towards the sun, what would happen?

TOMMY.

Why, the same as if the earth were to sink from under us: it would appear less and less.

MR. BARLOW.

Might not the earth then at least appear as small as the sun or moon does?

TOMMY.

I can hardly conceive that—And yet, I see it would appear less and less, the farther he went.



MR. BARLOW.

Do you remember what happened to you, when you left the island of Jamaica?

TOMMY.

Yes, I do. One of the blacks held me upon the deck, and then I looked towards the island; and I thought that it began to move away from the ship, though, in reality, it was the ship moved away from the land. And then, as the ship continued sailing along the water, the island appeared less and less. First, I lost sight of the trees and house that stood upon the shore; and then I could only see the highest mountains; and then I could scarcely see the mountains themselves; and, at last, the whole island appeared only like a dark mist above the water; and then the mist itself disappeared, and I could see nothing but a vast extent of water all round and the sky above.

MR. BARLOW.

And must not this be exactly the case, if you could rise up into the air, higher and higher, and look down upon the earth?



TOMMY.

Indeed it must.

MR. BARLOW.

Now then you will be able to answer the question I asked you a little while ago: Could a person travel straight forward from the earth to the sun, how would they both appear to him as he went forward?

TOMMY.

The earth would appear less and less as he went from it, and the sun bigger and bigger.

MR. BARLOW.

Why, then, perhaps it would happen at last, that the sun appeared bigger than the earth.

TOMMY.

Indeed it might.

MR. BARLOW.

Then you see that you must no longer talk of the earth's being large, and the sun small, since that may only happen, because you are near the one, and at a great distance from the other. At least,



you must now be convinced, that both the sun and stars must be immensely bigger than you would at first sight guess them to be.

As they were returning home, they happened to pass through a small town in their way, and saw a crowd of people going into an house, which gave Mr. Barlow the curiosity to inquire the reason. They were told, that there was a wonderful person there, who performed a variety of strange and diverting experiments. Upon Tommy's expressing a great desire to see these curious exhibitions, Mr. Barlow took them both in, and they all seated themselves among the audience. Presently the performer began his exhibitions, which very much diverted Tommy, and surprised the spectators. At length, after a variety of curious tricks upon cards, the conjurer desired them to observe a large basin of water, with the figure of a little swan floating upon the surface. Gentlemen, said the man, I have reserved this curious experiment for the



last, because it is the most wonderful of all that I have to show, or that, perhaps, was ever exhibited to the present hour. You see that swan; it is no more than a little image without either sense or life. If you have any doubt upon the subject, take it up in your hands and examine it. Accordingly, several of the spectators took it up in their hands, and, after having examined it, set it down again upon the water. Now, continued he, this swan which to you appears totally without sense or motion, is of so extraordinary a nature, that he knows me, his master, and will follow in any direction that I command. Saying this, he took out a little piece of bread, and whistling to his bird, ordered him to come to the side of the basin and be fed. Immediately, to the great surprise of all the company, the swan turned about and swam to the side of the basin. The man whistled again, and presently the swan turned himself round, and pursued the hand of his master to the other side of the basin. The



spectators could hardly believe their eyes, and some of them got little pieces of bread, and held them out, imagining that he would do the same to them. But it was in vain they whistled and presented their bread; the bird remained unmoved upon the water, and obeyed no orders but those of his master. When this exhibition had been repeated over and over again, to the extreme delight and astonishment of all present, the company rose and dispersed, and Mr. Barlow and the little boys pursued their way home.

But Tommy's mind was so engaged with what he had seen, that for several days he could think and talk of nothing else. He would give all that he had in the world, to find out this curious trick, and to be possessed of such a swan. At length, as he was one day talking to Harry upon the subject, Harry told him with a smile, that he believed he had found out the method of doing it; and that if he did not mistake, he would the next day show him a swan that would



come to be fed as well as the conjurer's. Accordingly, Harry moulded a bit of wax into the shape of a swan, and placed it upon a basin of water. He then presented to it a piece of bread, and, to the inexpressible delight of Tommy, the swan pursued the bread just as he had seen before. After he had several times diverted himself with this experiment, he wanted to be informed of the composition of this wonderful swan. Harry, therefore, showed him, within the body of the bird, a large needle, which lay across it from one end to the other. In the bread with which the swan was fed, he also showed him concealed a small bar of iron. Tommy could not comprehend all this, although he saw it before his eyes. But Mr. Barlow, who was present, taking up the bar of iron, and putting down several needles upon the table, Tommy was infinitely surprised to see the needles all jump up, one after another, at the approach of the bar, and shoot towards it as if they had been possessed of life and



sense. They then hung all about the bar so firmly, that, though it was lifted into the air, they all remained suspended, nor ever quitted their hold. Mr. Barlow then placed a key upon the table, and putting the iron near it, the key attached itself as firmly to the bar as the needles had done before. All this appeared so surprising to Tommy, that he begged an explanation of it from Mr. Barlow. That gentleman told him, that there was a stone often found in iron mines that was called the loadstone. This stone is naturally possessed of the surprising power of drawing to itself all pieces of iron that are not too large, nor placed at too great a distance. But what is equally extraordinary is, that iron itself, after having been rubbed upon the loadstone, acquires the same virtue as the stone itself, of attracting other iron. For this purpose, they take small bars of iron and rub them carefully upon the loadstone, and when they have acquired this very extraordinary power, they call them magnets. When Harry had seen



the exhibition of the swan, upon revolving it over in his mind, he began to suspect that it was performed entirely by the power of magnetism. Upon his talking to me about the affair, I confirmed him in his opinion, and furnished him with a small magnet to put into the bread, and a large needle to conceal in the body of the bird. So this is the explanation of the feat, which so much puzzled you a few days past. Mr. Barlow had scarcely done speaking, when Tommy observed another curious property of the swan, which he had not found out before. This bird, when left to itself, constantly rested in one particular direction; and that direction was full north and south. Tommy inquired the reason of this, and Mr. Barlow gave him this additional explanation. The persons that first discovered the wonderful powers of the loadstone in communicating its virtues to iron, diverted themselves, as we do now, in touching needles and small pieces of iron, which they made to float upon water, and at-



tracted them about with other pieces of iron. But it was not long before they found out, as you do now, another surprising property of this wonderful stone. They observed, that when a needle had once been touched by the load-stone, if it was left to float upon the water without restraint, it would invariably turn itself towards the north. In a short time, they improved the discovery farther, and contrived to suspend the middle of the needle upon a point, so loosely that it could move about in every direction. This they covered with a glass case, and by this means they always had it in their power to find out all the quarters of the heavens and earth.

TOMMY.

Was this discovery of any great use?

MR. BARLOW.

Before this time, they had no other method of finding their way along the sea, but by observing the stars. They knew by experience, in what parts of the sky certain stars appeared at every season of



the year, and this enabled them to discover east, west, north, and south. But when they set out from their own country by sea, they knew in which direction the place was situated, which they were going to. If it lay to the east, they had only to keep the head of the ship turned full to that quarter of the heavens, and they would arrive at the place they were going to; and this they were enabled to do by observing the stars. But frequently the weather was thick, and the stars no longer appeared; and then they were left to wander about the pathless ocean without the smallest track to guide them in their course.

TOMMY.

Poor people! they must be in a dreadful situation indeed, tost about on such an immense place as the sea in the middle of a dark night, and not able even to guess at their situation.

MR. BARLOW.

For this reason they seldom dared to venture out of sight of shore, for fear of



losing their way: by which means, all their voyages were long and tedious; for they were obliged to make them several times as long as they would have done, could they have taken the straight and nearest way. But soon after the discovery of this admirable property of the loadstone, they found that the needle which had been thus prepared, was capable of showing them the different points of the heavens even in the darkest night. This enabled them to sail with greater security, and to venture boldly upon the immense ocean, which they had always feared before.

TOMMY.

How extraordinary, that a little stone should enable people to cross the sea and to find their way from one country to the other! But I wonder why they take all these pains.

MR. BARLOW.

That you need not wonder at, when you consider that one country frequently produces what another does not; and



therefore, by exchanging their different commodities, both may live more conveniently than they did before.

HARRY.

But does not almost every country produce all that is necessary to support the inhabitants of it? and therefore they might live, I should think, even though they received nothing from any other country.

MR. BARLOW.

So might your father live perhaps upon the productions of his own farm; but he sometimes sells his cattle to purchase clothes; sometimes his corn to purchase cattle. Then he frequently exchanges with his neighbours one kind of grain for another; and thus their mutual convenience is better promoted than if each were to confine himself to the produce of his own land. At the same time it is true, that every country which is inhabited by men, contains within itself all that is necessary for their subsistence; and what they bring from other countries, is frequently more hurtful than salutary to them.



HARRY.

I have heard you say that even in Greenland, the coldest and most uncomfortable country in the world, the inhabitants procure themselves necessities, and live contented.

TOMMY.

What, is there a part of the world still colder than Lapland?

MR. BARLOW.

Greenland is still farther north, and therefore colder and more barren. The ground is there covered with eternal snows, which never melt even in the summer. There are scarcely any animals to be found excepting bears, that live by preying upon fish. There are no trees grow upon any part of the country, so that the inhabitants have nothing to build their houses with, excepting the planks and trees which the sea washes away from other countries, and leaves upon their coast. With these they erect large cabins, where several families live together. The sides of these huts are composed of earth and stones, and the top secured with turf;



in a short time the whole is so cemented with frost, that it is impenetrable to the weather during the whole winter. Along the sides of the building are made several partitions, in each of which a Greenlander lives with his family. Each of these families have a small lamp continually burning before them, by means of which they cook their food and light themselves, and, what is equally necessary in so cold a country, keep up an agreeable warmth throughout their apartment. They have a few deer which sometimes visit them in the summer, and which the Greenlanders kill whenever they can catch them; but they are almost entirely destitute of all the vegetables which serve as nourishment to man: so that they are obliged to be continually upon the sea, in order to catch fish for their maintenance.

TOMMY.

What a dreadful life must that be in a country which is so cold!

MR. BARLOW.

In consequence of that extreme cold,



those northern seas are full of such immense quantities of ice, that they are sometimes almost covered with them. Huge pieces come floating down, which are not only as big as the largest houses, but even resemble small mountains. These are sometimes dashed against each other by the winds, with such immense force, that they would crush the strongest ship to pieces, and with a noise that exceeds the report of a cannon. Upon these pieces of ice are frequently seen white bears of an enormous size; which have either fallen asleep upon them, and so been carried away, or have straggled over those icy hills in search of fish.

TOMMY.

And is it possible that the inhabitants of such a country can find enough in it for all their necessities?

MR. BARLOW.

The necessities of life are very few, and are therefore to be found even in the most rugged climates, if men are not wanting to themselves, or deficient in industry. In plentiful countries like this,



and most of the more temperate climates, great numbers are maintained in idleness, and imagine that they are only born to live upon the labour of others. But in such a country as Greenland is described to be, it requires continual exertion to procure the simplest support of human life; and therefore no one can live at all, who will not employ himself in the same manner as his neighbours.

TOMMY.

You said that these people had neither flesh nor corn; do they then clothe themselves with the skins of fish as well as live upon them?

MR. BARLOW.

There is in those seas a peculiar species of animal called a seal. He is nine or ten feet long, and has two small feet before, on which he is able to walk a little upon the shore; for he frequently comes out of the sea, and sleeps, or amuses himself upon the land, or ice. His body is very large, and full of oil, and behind he has two legs which resemble fins, with



which he swims in the water. This animal is the constant prey of the Greenlander, and furnishes him with all he wants. The flesh he eats, the fat serves him to feed his lamp, which is almost as necessary as food itself in that cold climate. With the skin he composes clothes that are impenetrable to the water, or lines the inside of his hut to keep out the weather. As this animal is so necessary to the existence of a Greenlander, it is his greatest glory to chase and take him. For this purpose, he places himself in a small narrow boat, the top of which is covered over with the skins of seals, and closes round the middle of the fisher so tight as entirely to exclude the water. He has a long oar, or paddle, broad at both ends, which he dips first on one side, then on the other, and rows along with incredible swiftness, over the roughest seas. He carries with him an harpoon, which is a kind of lance, or javelin, tied to a long thong, at the end of which is fixed a bladder, or some other light thing



that sinks with difficulty. When the fisherman is thus prepared, he skims lightly along the waters, till he perceives at a distance one of these animals floating upon the surface. The Greenlander then approaches him as softly as he is able, and, if possible, contrives that the animal shall have the wind and sun in his eyes. When he is sufficiently near, he throws his harpoon, and generally wounds the creature; in which case, he instantly hurries away, and carries with him the thong and bladder. But it is not long before he is compelled to rise again to the surface of the water to breathe; and then the Greenlander, who has been pursuing him all the time, attacks him anew, and dispatches him with a shorter lance, which he has brought with him for that purpose. He then ties his prey to his boat, and tows it after him to his family, who receive it with joy, and dress it for his supper. Although these poor people live a life of such continual fatigue, and are obliged to earn their food with so much



hardship, they are generous and hospitable in the management of it; for not a person present but is invited to partake of the feast: and a Greenlander would think himself dishonoured for life, that should be thought capable of wishing to keep it all to himself.

TOMMY.

I think it seems as if the less people had, the more generous they are of it.

MR. BARLOW.

That is not unfrequently the case, and should be a lesson to many of our rich at home, who imagine that they have nothing to do with their fortune but to throw it away upon their pleasures; while there are so many thousands in want of the common necessities of life.

TOMMY.

But pray, sir, have you no more particulars to tell me about these Greenlanders? For I think it is the most curious account I ever heard in my life.

MR. BARLOW.

There is another very curious particu-



lar indeed to be mentioned of these countries: in these seas is found the largest animal in the world; an immense fish which is called the whale.

TOMMY.

Oh dear! I have heard of that extraordinary animal. And pray, sir, do the Greenlanders ever catch them?

MR. BARLOW.

The whale is of such a prodigious size, that he sometimes reaches seventy or eighty, or even more than an hundred feet in length. He is from ten to above twenty feet in height, and every way large in proportion. When he swims along the seas, he appears rather like a large vessel floating upon the waters, than a fish. He has two holes in his head, through which he blows out water to a great height in the air, immense fins, and a tail with which he almost raises a tempest when he lashes the sea with it. Would you not believe that such an animal was the most dreadful of the whole brute creation?



TOMMY.

Indeed, sir, I should; I should think that such a fish would upset whole ships, and devour the sailors.

MR. BARLOW.

Far from it—it is one of the most innocent, in respect to man, that the ocean produces; nor does he ever do him the least hurt, unless by accidentally overturning vessels with his enormous bulk. The food he lives upon is chiefly small fish, and particularly herrings. These fish are bred in such prodigious shoals, amid the ice of those northern climates, that the sea is absolutely covered with them for miles together. Then it is that the hungry whale pursues them, and thins their numbers, by swallowing thousands of them in their course.

HARRY.

What numbers indeed must such a prodigious fish devour of those small animals!

MR. BARLOW.

The whale in his turn falls a prey to



the cruelty and avarice of man. Some indeed are caught by the Greenlanders, who have a sufficient excuse for persecuting him with continual attacks, in their total want of vegetables and every species of food which the earth affords. But the Europeans, who are too nice and squeamish to eat his flesh, send out great numbers of ships, every year, to destroy the poor whale, merely for the sake of the oil which his body contains, and the elastic bones which are known by the name of whale-bone, and applied to several purposes. When those that go upon this dangerous expedition discern a whale floating at a distance, they instantly send out a large boat to pursue him. Some of the men row along as gently as possible, while the person that is appointed to attack the fish stands upon the fore-part of the boat, holding in his hand a sharp harpoon, with which he is prepared to wound his prey. This is fastened to a long cord which lies ready coiled up in the boat, so that they may let it out in



an instant, when the fish is struck; for such is his prodigious force, that should the least impediment occur to stop the rope in its passage, he would instantly draw the boat after him down to the bottom of the sea. In order to prevent these dangerous accidents, a man stands constantly ready to divide the rope with an hatchet, in case it should happen to tangle; and another is continually pouring water over it, for fear the swiftness of the motion should make it take fire. The poor whale that is thus wounded darts away with an inconceivable rapidity, and generally plunges to the bottom of the sea. They have a prodigious quantity of cord ready to let out, and when their store is exhausted, there are generally other boats ready to supply more. Thus is the poor animal overpowered and killed, in spite of his immense bulk and irresistible strength; for, gradually wearied with his own efforts and the loss of blood, he soon relaxes in his speed, and rises again to the top of the water. Then it is that



the fishers, who have pursued him all the time with the hopes of such an opportunity, approach him anew, and attack him with fresh harpoons; till in the end his strength is entirely exhausted, the waves themselves are tinged with a bloody colour from his innumerable wounds, and he writhes himself about in strong convulsions and unutterable pain. Then the conflict is soon at an end; in a short time he breathes his last, and turning upon his back, floats like some large vessel upon the surface of the sea. The fishers then approach, and cut off the fins and other valuable parts, which they stow on board their ships; the fat, or blubber, as it is often called, is received into large hogsheds, and when boiled to purify it, composes the common oil which is applied to so many useful purposes. The remains of this vast body are left a prey to other fish and to the Greenlanders, who carefully collect every fragment which they can find, and apply it to their own use. Sometimes they go to pursue the whale



themselves; but when they do, it is in large numbers, and they attack him nearly in the same manner with the Europeans; only as they are not so well supplied with cord, they fix the skins of seals, which they have inflated with air, to the end of the thongs which are tied to their harpoons; and this serves both to weary out the fish, who drags them with him under the water, and to discover him the instant he approaches to the surface.

HARRY.

I cannot help pitying the poor whale that is thus persecuted for the sake of his spoils. Why cannot man let this poor beast live unmolested in the midst of the snows and ice in which he was born?

MR. BARLOW.

You ought to know enough of the world, to be sensible, that the desire of gain will tempt men upon every expedition. However, in this case you must consider, that the whale himself is continually supported by murdering thousands of herrings and other small fish;



so that, were they possessed of reason, they would welcome the Europeans who came to destroy their enemies, as friends and benefactors.

TOMMY.

But pray, sir, how do the little boys amuse themselves in such a dismal country? do their fathers take them out a fishing with them?

MR. BARLOW.

When the men come home all covered with wet and icicles, and sit down comfortably in their huts to feast upon their prey, their common conversation is about the dangers and accidents they have met with in their expedition. A Greenlander relates, how he bounded over the waves to surprise a monstrous seal; how he pierced the animal with his harpoon, who had liked to have dragged the boat with him under the water; how he attacked him again in closer combat; how the beast, enraged with his wounds, rushed upon him in order to destroy him with his teeth; and how in the end, by cou-



rage and perseverance, he triumphed over his adversary, and brought him safe to land. All this he relates with the vehemence and interest which people naturally feel for things which concern them nearly; he stands in the midst of his countrymen, and describes every minute circumstance of his adventures. The little children gather round, and greedily catch the relation: they feel themselves interested in every circumstance; they hear, and wish to share in the toils and glory of their fathers. When they are a little bigger, they exercise themselves in small skiffs, with which they learn to overcome the wave. Nothing can be more dangerous, or require greater dexterity than the management of a Greenland's boat. The least thing oversets it, and then the man, who cannot disengage himself from the boat, which is fastened to his middle, sinks down below the waves, and is inevitably drowned if he cannot regain his balance. The only hope of doing this is placed in the proper



application of his oar; and therefore the dexterous management of this implement forms the early study of the young Greenlanders. In their sportive parties they row about in a thousand different manners; they dive under their boats, and then set them to rights with their paddle; they learn to glide over the roughest billows, and face the greatest dangers with intrepidity: till in the end they acquire sufficient strength and address to fish themselves, and to be admitted into the class of men.

HARRY.

Pray, sir, is this the country where men travel about upon sledges that are drawn by dogs?

TOMMY.

Upon sledges drawn by dogs! That must be droll indeed. I had no idea that dogs could ever draw carriages.

MR. BARLOW.

The country you are speaking of is called Kamtschatka; it is indeed a cold and dreary country, but very distant from



Greenland. The inhabitants there train up large dogs, which they harness to a sledge, upon which the master sits, and so performs his journey along the snow and ice. All the summer the dogs are turned loose to shift for themselves, and prey upon the remains of fish, which they find upon the shore or the banks of rivers; for fish is the common food of all the inhabitants. In the winter the Kamtschatkans assemble their dogs, and use them for the purposes I have mentioned. They have no reins to govern their dogs, or stop them in their course; but the driver sits upon his sledge, and keeps himself as steady as he is able, holding in his hand a short stick, which he throws at the dogs, if they displease him, and catches again with great dexterity as he passes. This way of travelling is not without danger; for the temper of the dogs is such, that when they descend hills and slippery places, and pass through woods where the driver is exposed to wound himself with the branches and



stumps, they always quicken their pace. The same is observed in case their master should fall off, which they instantly discover by the sudden lightness of the carriage; for then they set off at such a rate that it is difficult to overtake them. The only remedy which the Kamtschatkan finds, is to throw himself at his length upon the ground, and lay hold on the empty sledge, suffering himself to be thus dragged along the earth, till the dogs through weariness abate their speed. Frequently in their journies, these travellers are surprised by unexpected storms of wind and snow, which render it impracticable to proceed farther. How ill would an European fare to be thus abandoned, at the distance perhaps of an hundred miles, or more, from any habitable place; exposed without shelter in the midst of extensive plains, and unable to procure either food or fire! But the hardy native of these cold climates, enured from his infancy to support difficulties, and almost superior to the elements, seeks the shel-



ter of the first forest he can find; then wrapping himself round in his warm fur garment, he sits with his legs under him, and thus bundled up suffers himself to be covered round with the snow, except a small hole which he leaves for the convenience of breathing. In this manner he lies with his dogs around him, who assist in keeping him warm, sometimes several days, till the storm is past, the roads are passable, and he is able to pursue his journey again.

TOMMY.

I could not have conceived it possible, that men should be able to struggle with so many hardships. But do not the poor people that inhabit these cold climates, quit them, whenever they can find an opportunity, and come to settle in those that are warmer?

MR. BARLOW.

Not in the least. When they hear that there are no seals to be caught in other countries, they say that they must be wretched indeed, and much inferior



to their own. Besides, they have in general so great a contempt for all the Europeans, that they have no inclination to visit the countries which they inhabit.

TOMMY.

How can that be? How can a parcel of wretched, ignorant savages, despise men that are so much superior to themselves?

MR. BARLOW.

This is not what they are quite so well convinced of. The Greenlanders, for instance, see that the Europeans that visit them, are much inferior to themselves in the art of managing a boat or catching seals; in short, in every thing which they find most useful to support life. For this reason they consider them all with very great contempt, and look upon them as little better than barbarians.

TOMMY.

That is very impertinent indeed, and I should like to convince them of their folly.

MR. BARLOW.

Why, do not you look upon yourself



as much superior to your black servants, and have I not often heard you express great contempt for them?

TOMMY.

I do not despise them now so much as I used to do. Besides, sir, I only think myself something better because I have been brought up like a gentleman.

MR. BARLOW.

A gentleman! I have never exactly understood what a gentleman is, according to your notions.

TOMMY.

Why, sir, when a person is not brought up to work, and has several people to wait upon him, like my father and mother, then he is a gentleman.

MR. BARLOW.

And then he has right to despise others, has he?

TOMMY.

I do not say that, sir, neither. But he is, however, superior to them.

MR. BARLOW.

Superior in what? In the art of culti-



vating the ground to raise food, and making clothes or houses?

TOMMY.

No, sir, not that; for gentlemen never plough the ground or build houses.

MR. BARLOW.

Is he then superior in knowledge? Were you, who have been brought up a gentleman, superior to all the rest of the world when you came here?

TOMMY.

To be sure, sir, when I came here, I did not know as much as I do now.

MR. BARLOW.

If then you, when you knew nothing and could do nothing, thought yourself superior to the rest of the world, why should you wonder that men, who really excel others in those things which they see absolutely necessary, should have the same good opinion of themselves? Were you to be in Greenland, for instance, how would you prove your own superiority and importance?



TOMMY.

I would tell them that I had always been well brought up at home.

MR. BARLOW.

That they would not believe; they would say, that they saw you were totally unable to do any thing useful; to guide a boat; to swim the seas; to procure yourself the least sustenance; so that you would perish with hunger, if they did not charitably afford you now and then a bit of whale or seal. And as to your being a gentleman, they would not understand the word; nor would they comprehend, why one man who is naturally as good as his fellow creature, should submit to the caprice of another and obey him.

Indeed, answered Tommy, I begin to think that I am not so much better than others, as I used to do.

MR. BARLOW.

The more you encourage that thought, the more likely you are to acquire real



superiority and excellence; for great and generous minds are less exposed to that ridiculous vanity than weak and childish ones.

A few evenings after this conversation, when the night was remarkably clear, Mr. Barlow called his two pupils into the garden, where there was a long hollow tube suspended upon a frame. Mr. Barlow then placed Tommy upon a chair, and bade him look through it; which he had scarcely done, when he cried out, What an extraordinary sight is this! What is the matter? said Mr. Barlow. I see, replied Tommy, what I should take for the moon, were it not a great many times bigger; and so near to me that I can almost touch it. What you see, answered Mr. Barlow smiling, is the moon itself. This glass has indeed the power of making it appear to your eye, as it would do, could you approach a great deal nearer: but still it is nothing but the moon; and from this single experiment you may judge of the different size



which the sun and all the other heavenly bodies would appear to have, if you could advance a great deal nearer to them. Tommy was delighted with this new spectacle: the moon, he said, viewed in this manner, was the most glorious sight he had ever seen in his life. And I protest, added he, it seems to be shaded in such a manner, that it almost resembles land and water. What you say, answered Mr. Barlow, is by no means unreasonable: the moon is a very large body, and may be, for aught we know, inhabited like the earth. Tommy was more and more astonished at the introduction of all these new ideas; but what he was particularly inquisitive about was, to know the reason of this extraordinary change in the appearance of objects, only by looking through an hollow tube with a bit of glass fixed into it. All this, replied Mr. Barlow, I will, if you desire it, one day explain to you; but it is rather too long and difficult to undertake it at the present moment: when you are a little far-



ther advanced in some of the things which you are now studying, you will comprehend me better. However, before we retire to-night, I will show you something more, which will perhaps equally surprise you. They then returned to the house, and Mr. Barlow, who had prepared every thing for his intended exhibition, led Tommy into a room, where he observed nothing but a lantern upon the floor, and a white sheet hung up against the wall. Tommy laughed, and said he did not see any thing very curious in all that. Well, said Mr. Barlow, perhaps I may surprise you yet, before, I have done; let us at least light up the lantern, that you may see a little clearer. Mr. Barlow then lighted a lamp, which was within the lantern, and extinguished all the other candles; and Tommy was instantly struck with astonishment, to see a gigantic figure of a man leading along a large bear, appear upon the wall and glide slowly along the sheet. As he was admiring this wonderful sight, a large



monkey, dressed up in the habit of a man, appeared, and followed the bear; after him came an old woman trundling a barrow of fruit; and then two boys, who however were as big as men, that seemed to be fighting as they passed. Tommy could hardly find words to express his pleasure and admiration; and he entreated Mr. Barlow, in the most earnest manner, to explain to him the reason of all these wonderful sights. At present, said Mr. Barlow, you are not sufficiently advanced to comprehend the explanation. However, thus much I will inform you, that both the wonderful tube which showed you the moon so much larger than you ever saw it before, and this curious exhibition of to-night, and a variety of others, which I will hereafter show you, if you desire it, depend entirely upon such a little bit of glass as this. Mr. Barlow then put into his hand a small, round piece of glass, which resembled the figure of a globe on both sides: it is by looking through such pieces of glass as this, said



he, and by arranging them in a particular manner, that we are enabled to perform all these wonders. Well, said Tommy, I never could have believed, that simply looking through a bit of glass could have made such a difference in the appearance of things. And yet, said Mr. Barlow, looking at a thing through water alone, is capable of producing the greatest change, as I will immediately prove to you. Mr. Barlow then took a small earthen basin, and putting an half crown at the bottom, desired Tommy gradually to go back, still looking at the basin, till he could distinguish the piece of money no longer. Tommy accordingly retired, and presently cried out, that he had totally lost sight of the money; then, said Mr. Barlow, I will enable you to see it, merely by putting water into it. So he gradually poured water into the basin, till, to the new astonishment of Tommy, he found that he could plainly see the half-crown, which was before invisible. Tommy was vastly delighted with all these wonderful expe-



riments, and declared, that from this time forward he would never rest till he had made himself acquainted with every thing curious in every branch of knowledge. I remember reading a story, added Mr. Barlow, where a telescope, for that is the name of the glass which brings distant objects so much nearer to the eye, was used to a very excellent purpose indeed. Pray how was that? said Tommy. In some part of Africa, said Mr. Barlow, there was a prince who was attacked by one of his most powerful neighbours, and almost driven out of his dominions. He had done every thing he could to defend himself with the greatest bravery; but was overpowered by the numbers of his enemy, and defeated in several battles. At length he was reduced to a very small number of brave men, who still accompanied him, and had taken possession of a steep and difficult hill, which he determined to defend to the last extremity; while the enemy was in possession of all the country round. While he lay with



his little army in this disagreeable situation, he was visited by an European, whom he had formerly received and treated with the greatest kindness. To this man the unfortunate prince made his complaints, telling him, that he was exposed every instant to be attacked by his stronger foe; and though he had taken his resolution, he expected nothing but to be cut off with all his army. The European happened to have with him one of these curious glasses, which had not been long invented in Europe, and was totally unknown in that part of the globe; and he told the prince, his friend, that he would soon inform him of what his enemy was doing; and then he might take his own measures with the greater confidence. So he produced his glass, and after having adjusted it, turned it towards the enemy's camp, which he considered some time with great attention; and then told his friend, that he might at least be easy for the present; for the enemy's general was at that instant thinking only of a



great feast, which he was giving to the officers of his army. How is it possible, replied the prince, that you can pretend to discover so accurately what is done in yonder camp? My eyes, I think, are at least as good as yours, and yet the distance is so great, that I can discover nothing distinctly. The European then desired his friend to look through the telescope; which he had no sooner done, than he rose in great trepidation, and was going to mount his horse; for the spectacle was so new to him, that he imagined the enemy were close to him, and that nothing remained but to stand upon his defence. The European could not help smiling at this mistake, and after he had with some difficulty removed his panic, by explaining the wonderful powers of the glass, he prevailed upon him to be quiet. But the unexpected terror which his telescope had excited, inspired him with a sudden thought, which he determined to improve to the advantage of the besieged prince. Acquainting him



therefore with his intention, he desired him to draw out all his men in their military array, and to let them descend the mountain slowly, clashing their arms and waving their swords as they marched. He then mounted an horse and rode to the enemy's camp, where he no sooner arrived, than he desired to be instantly introduced to the general. He found him sitting in his tent, carousing in the midst of his officers, and thinking of nothing less than an engagement. When he approached, he thus accosted him: I am come, great warrior, as a friend, to acquaint you with a circumstance that is absolutely necessary to the safety of yourself and army. What is that? said the general, with some surprise. At this instant replied the European, while you are indulging yourself in festivity, the enemy, who has lately been reinforced with a large body of his most valiant troops, is advancing to attack you; and even now has almost penetrated to your camp. I have here, added he, a wonderful glass,



the composition of which is only known in Europe; and, if you will condescend to look through it for a moment, it will convince you that all I say is truth. Saying this, he directed his eye to the telescope, which the general had no sooner looked into, than he was struck with consternation and affright. He saw the prince, whom he had long considered as lying at his mercy, advancing with his army in excellent order, and, as he imagined, close to his camp. He could even discern the menacing air of the soldiers, and the brandishing of their swords as they moved. His officers, who thronged round him to know the cause of his sudden fright, had no sooner peeped into the wonderful glass, than they were all affected in the same manner. Their heads had been already disturbed by their intemperance; and therefore, without waiting to consult, they rushed in a panic out of their tents, mounted their swiftest horses, and fled away, without staying to see the consequences. The rest of the army, who had



seen the consternation of their leaders, and had heard that the enemy was advancing to destroy them, were struck with an equal panic, and instantly followed the example: so that the whole plain was covered with men and horses, that made all possible haste towards their own country, without thinking of resistance. Thus was an immense army dispersed in an instant, and the besieged prince delivered from his danger, by the address and superior knowledge of a single man.

Thus you see, added Mr. Barlow, of how much use a superiority of knowledge is frequently capable of making individuals. But a still more famous instance is that of Archimedes, one of the most celebrated mathematicians of his time. He, when the city of Syracuse was besieged by the Romans, defended it for a long time, by the surprising machines he invented, in such a manner that they began to despair of taking it. Do, pray, said Tommy, tell me that story. No, an-



swered Mr. Barlow, it is now time to retire; and you may at any time read all the particulars of this extraordinary siege in Plutarch's Life of Marcellus.

And now the time approached, when Mr. Barlow was accustomed to invite the greater part of the poor of his parish to an annual dinner. He had a large hall, which was almost filled with men, women, and children: a cheerful fire blazed in the chimney, and a prodigious table was placed in the middle for the company to dine upon. Mr. Barlow himself received his guests, and conversed with them about the state of their families and their affairs. Those that were industrious, and brought their children up to labour, instructing them in the knowledge of their duty, and preserving them from bad impressions, were sure to meet with his encouragement and commendations. Those that had been ill, he assisted with such little necessities, as tended to alleviate their pains, and diffuse a gleam of cheerfulness over their sufferings. How hard,



he would say, is the lot of the poor, when they are afflicted with sickness! How intolerable do we find the least bodily disorder, even though we possess every convenience which can mitigate its violence! Not all the dainties which can be collected from all the elements, the warmth of downy beds and silken couches, the attendance of obsequious dependants, are capable of making us bear with common patience the commonest disease. How pitiable then must be the state of a fellow-creature, who is at once tortured by bodily suffering, and destitute of every circumstance which can alleviate it! who sees around him a family that are not only incapable of assisting their parent, but destined to want the common necessities of life, the moment he intermits his daily labours! How indispensable then is the obligation, which should continually impel the rich to exert themselves in assisting their fellow-creatures, and rendering that condition of life which we all avoid, less dreadful to those who must support it always!



Acting from such principles as these, Mr. Barlow was the common friend of all the species. Whatever his fortune would allow him to perform, he never refused to all who stood in need of his assistance. But there is yet a duty, which he thought of more importance than the mere distribution of property to the needy—the encouragement of industry and virtue among the poor, and giving them juster notions of morals and religion. If we have a dog, he would say, we refuse neither pains nor expense to train him up to hunting; if we have an horse, we send him to an experienced rider to be bitted; but our own species seems to be the only animal which is entirely exempted from our care. When he rode about the country, he used to consider with admiration, the splendid stables which the great construct for the reception of their horses, their ice-houses, temples, hermitages, grottoes, and all the apparatus of modern vanity. All this, he would say, is an unequivocal proof that the gentleman loves himself, and grudges no expense that



can gratify his vanity; but I would now wish to see what he has done for his fellow-creatures, what are the proofs that he has given of public spirit or humanity; the wrongs which he has redressed, the miseries he has alleviated, the abuses which he has endeavoured to remove.

When he was told of the stubbornness and ingratitude of the poor, he used to say, that he believed it without difficulty; for they were men in common with their superiors, and therefore must share in some of their vices: but if the interests of humanity were half as dear to us as the smallest article that pleases our palate or flatters our vanity, we should not so easily abandon them in disgust. Mr. Barlow happened once to be in company with a lady, with whom he was upon a footing of intimacy, that was talking in this manner. Nobody, she said, had greater feeling than herself, or was more desirous of assisting her fellow-creatures. When she first came into the country, she had endeavoured to relieve all the misery she



heard of; she had given victuals to one, physic to a second, and clothes to a third; but she had met with so much ill-behaviour and ingratitude in return, that she had long been obliged to resign all her charitable intentions, and abandon the poor to their fate. All the company assented to a doctrine that was so very conformable to their own practice and inclinations, and agreed that nothing could be more injudicious than any attempts to be charitable. Some little time after this conversation cards were produced, and the lady who had been so eloquent against the poor, sat down to whist, at which she played for several hours with equal ignorance and ill-fortune. When the party was over she was complaining to Mr. Barlow of her losses, and added, that she scarcely ever in her life had sitten down to cards with better success. I wonder, madam, replied Mr. Barlow, you do not then give them up entirely. Alas! answered the lady, I have often made this resolution; but I have never had the



courage to keep it. Indeed, madam, said Mr. Barlow, it is impossible you can be deficient in courage; and therefore you wrong your own character. You do me too much honour, said the lady, by your good opinion; but whoever has given you this information is deceived. I had it only from yourself, madam.—From me, sir? When did I ever give you such a character of myself?—Just now, madam, when you declared that upon the bad success of half a dozen experiments, you had resolved never more to be charitable, and had kept the resolution ever since. I can hardly conceive that your love of cards is so much greater than that of your duty and religion; and therefore, my dear madam, I must repeat it, that you certainly undervalue your own fortitude.

Such were the opinions of Mr. Barlow in respect to the poor; and therefore, instead of widening the distance which fortune has placed between one part of mankind and another, he was continually intent upon bringing the two classes



nearer together. Poverty has in itself so many hardships and disagreeable circumstances, that we need not increase their number by unnecessary pride and insolence. The distinctions of rank may indeed be necessary to the government of a populous country; but it is for the good of the whole, not of individuals, that they can have any just claim to be admitted; and therefore a good man will insist upon them no more than is absolutely necessary for that purpose. On the contrary, whatever may be his rank or importance, he will plainly prove, by the courtesy and benevolence of his manners, that he laments the necessity of his own elevation, and, instead of wishing to mount still higher, would willingly descend nearer to an equality with his fellow-creatures.

Tommy was very much diverted with the ceremonies of this festal day. He had lost a great part of his West-Indian pride during his residence with Mr. Barlow, and had contracted many acquaintances among the families of the poor.



After the example of Mr. Barlow, he condescended to go about from one to the other, and make inquiries about their families; nor was he a little gratified with the extreme respect with which he found himself treated, both upon the account of Mr. Barlow and the reputation of his own liberality. Thus did the morning pass away in the most agreeable and auspicious manner; but after dinner an unexpected incident arrived, which clouded all the merriment of the unfortunate Tommy Merton.

Mr. Barlow happened to have a large Newfoundland dog, equally famous for his good-nature and his love of the water. With this dog Tommy had long been forming an acquaintance; and he used to divert himself with throwing sticks into the water, which Cæsar would instantly bring out in his mouth, however great might be the distance. Tommy had been fired with the description of the Kamtschatkan dogs, and their method of drawing sledges, and meditated an enterprise



of this nature upon Cæsar. This very day, finding himself unusually at leisure, he chose for the execution of his project. He therefore furnished himself with some rope and a kitchen chair, which he destined for his vehicle instead of a sledge. He then inveigled Cæsar into a large yard behind the house, and extended the chair flat upon the ground, fastened him to it with great care and ingenuity. Cæsar, who did not understand the new purpose to which he was going to be applied, suffered himself to be harnessed without opposition; and Tommy mounted triumphantly his seat, with a whip in his hand, and began his operations. A crowd of little boys, the sons of the labourers within, now gathered round the young gentleman, and by their admiration very much increased his ardour to distinguish himself. Tommy began to use the common expressions which he had heard coachmen practise to their horses, and smacked his whip with all the confidence of an experienced charioteer. Cæsar



meanwhile, who did not comprehend this language, began to be a little impatient, and expressed his uneasiness by making several bounds, and rearing up like a restive horse. This added very much to the diversion of the spectators, and Tommy who considered his honour as materially concerned in achieving the adventure, began to grow a little more warm; and proceeded from one experiment to another, at length applied a pretty severe lash to the hinder part of his steed. This Cæsar resented so much, that he instantly set off at three quarters speed, and dragged the chair, with the driver upon it, at a prodigious rate. Tommy now looked round with an infinite air of triumph, and kept his seat with surprising address and firmness. Unfortunately, there happened to be at no great distance a large horse-pond, which went shelving down to the depth of three or four feet. Hither, by a kind of natural instinct, the affrighted Cæsar ran, when he found he could not disengage himself from his tormentor;



while Tommy, who now began to repent of his success, endeavoured to pacify and restrain him. But all his expostulations were vain; for Cæsar precipitately rushed into the pond, and in an instant plunged into the middle, with his charioteer behind him. The crowd of spectators had now a fresh subject of diversion; and all their respect for master Tommy could not hinder them from bursting into shouts of derision. The unfortunate hero was equally discomposed at the unmannerly exultation of his attendants, and at his own ticklish situation. But he did not long wait for the catastrophe of his adventure; for after a little floundering about in the pond, Cæsar by a vigorous exertion overturned the chair, and Tommy came roughly into the water. To add to his misfortune, the pond was at that time neither ice nor water: for a sudden thaw had commenced the day before, accompanied with a copious fall of snow. Tommy, therefore, as soon as he had recovered his footing, floundered on



through mud and water, and pieces of floating ice, like some amphibious animal, to the shore. Sometimes his feet slipped, and down he tumbled; then he struggled up again, shaking the water from his hair and clothes; now his feet stuck fast in the mud, and now by a desperate effort he disengaged them with the loss of both his shoes; thus labouring on with infinite pain and difficulty, he reached the land. The whole troop of spectators were now incapable of stifling their laughter, which broke forth in such redoubled peals, that the unfortunate hero was irritated to an extreme of rage; so that forgetting his own sufferings and necessities, as soon as he had struggled to the shore, he fell upon them in a fury, and dealt his blows so liberally on every side, that he put the whole company to flight. Tommy was now in the situation of a warrior that pursues a routed army. Dismay and terror scattered all his little associates an hundred different ways; while passion and revenge animated him to the pursuit, and



made him forgetful of the wetness of his clothes and the uncomfortableness of his situation. Whatever unfortunate boy came within his reach, was sure to be unmercifully cuffed and pommelled; for in the fury with which he felt himself inspired, he did not wait to consider the exact rules of justice. While Tommy was thus revenging the affronts he imagined he had received, and chasing the vanquished about the court, the unusual noise and uproar which ensued, reached the ears of Mr. Barlow, and brought him to the door. He could hardly help laughing at the rueful figure of his friend, with the water dropping from every part of his body in copious streams, and at the rage which seemed to animate him in spite of his disaster. It was with some difficulty that Tommy could compose himself enough to give Mr. Barlow an account of his misfortunes; which when he had heard, he immediately led him into the house, and advised him to undress and go to bed. He then brought



him some warm, diluting liquors, by which means he avoided all the bad effects which might otherwise have arisen from so complete a drenching,

The next day, Mr. Barlow laughed at Tommy in his usual good-natured manner, and asked him if he intended to ride out in the Kamtschatkan manner; adding, however, that he should be afraid to attend him, as he had the habit of beating his companions. Tommy was a little confounded at this insinuation, but replied, that he should not have been so provoked, if they had not laughed at his misfortunes; and he thought it very hard to be wetted and ridiculed both. But, replied Mr. Barlow, did their noise or laughter do you any great damage, that you endeavoured to return it so roughly? Tommy answered, that he must own it did not do him any hurt, or give him any pain. Why then, said Mr. Barlow, I do not see the justice of your returning it in that manner. But, said Tommy, it is so provoking to be laughed at! There



are two ways of remedying that, replied Mr. Barlow; either by not doing such things as will expose you to ridicule, or by learning to bear it with a little more patience. But, said Tommy, I do not think that any body can bear it with patience. All the world, said Mr. Barlow, are not quite so passionate as you are. It is not long ago, that you were speaking of the poor Greenlanders with great contempt, and fancying them much inferior to yourself; yet those poor barbarians, as you called them, that live upon fish and are not brought up like gentlemen's sons, are capable of giving you a lesson, that would be of the greatest service if you would observe it. What is that, sir? inquired Tommy. They are brought up to so much moderation and self-command, said Mr. Barlow, that they never give way to those sudden impulses of passion that are common among the Europeans; and when they observe their violent gestures, their angry words, their countenances inflamed with wrath, they feel for



them the greatest contempt, and say, they must have been very badly educated. As to themselves, if any person thinks himself ill-used by another, without putting himself into any passion upon the occasion, he defies his foe to meet him at a particular time before all their mutual acquaintance.

TOMMY.

But then I suppose they fight, and that is being as passionate as I was.

MR. BARLOW.

I am sorry that you, who pretend to have been so well brought up, should have recourse to the example of the Greenlanders in order to justify your own conduct; but in this case you are mistaken, for the barbarians are a great deal wiser than young gentlemen. The person who thinks himself injured, does indeed challenge his antagonist; but it is to a very different sort of combat from what you imagine. Both parties appear at the appointed time, and each is surrounded with a company of his particular friends.



The place where they assemble is generally the middle of one of their large huts, that all the persons of their society may be impartial spectators of their contest. When they are thus convened, the champion, who by agreement is to begin, steps forward into the middle of the circle, and entertains them with a song, or speech which he has before meditated. In this performance, he generally contrives to throw all the ridicule he is able upon his antagonist; and his satire is applauded by his own party, and excites universal merriment among the audience. When he has sung or declaimed himself out of breath, it is the turn of his rival to begin; who goes on in the same manner, answering all the satire that has been thrown upon him, and endeavouring to win the laughs over to his own side. In this manner do the combatants go on, alternately reciting their compositions against each other, till the memory or invention of one of them fails, and he is obliged to yield the victory to his rival. After this



public specimen of their ingenuity, the two champions generally forget all their animosities, and are cordially reconciled. This, added Mr. Barlow, appears to me to be a much better method of answering ridicule than by giving way to passion and resentment, and beating those that displease us: and one of these honest Greenlanders would be as much ashamed of such a sudden transport of anger, as a Kamtschatkan traveller would be, of managing his dogs as ill as you did yesterday.

And now the time arrived, when Tommy was by appointment to go home and spend some time with his parents. Mr. Barlow had been long afraid of this visit, as he knew he would meet a great deal of company there, who would give him impressions of a very different nature from what he had with so much assiduity been labouring to excite. However, the visit was unavoidable, and Mr. Merton sent so pressing an invitation for Harry to accompany his friend, after having



obtained the consent of his father, that Mr. Barlow, with much regret, took leave of both his pupils. Harry, from the experience he had formerly acquired of polite life, had no great inclination for the expedition; however, his temper was too easy and obliging to raise any objections, and the real affection he now entertained for master Merton, rendered him less averse than he would otherwise have been. When they arrived at Mr. Merton's, they were introduced into a crowded drawing-room, full of the most elegant company which that part of the country afforded; among whom were several young gentlemen and ladies of different ages, who had been purposely invited to spend their holidays with master Merton. As soon as master Merton entered, every tongue was let loose in his praise; he was grown, he was improved, he was such a charming boy; his eyes, his hair, his teeth, his every feature was the admiration of all the ladies. Thrice did he make the circle, in order to receive the congratulations of



the company, and to be introduced to the young ladies. As to Harry, he had the good fortune to be taken notice of by nobody except Mr. Merton, who received him with great cordiality. A lady however, that sat by Mrs. Merton, asked her in a whisper, which was loud enough to be heard all over the room, whether that was the little plough-boy which she had heard Mr. Barlow was attempting to breed up like a gentleman. Mrs. Merton answered it was. I protest, said the lady, I should have thought so by his plebeian look and vulgar air. But I wonder, my dear madam, that you will suffer your son, that, without flattery, is one of the most accomplished children I ever saw in my life, with quite the air of fashion, to keep such company. Are you not afraid that master Merton should insensibly contract bad habits and a grovelling way of thinking? For my own part, as I think a good education is a thing of the utmost consequence in life, I have spared no pains to give my dear Matilda every



possible advantage. Indeed, replied Mrs. Merton, one may see the excellence of her education in every thing that miss Matilda does. She plays most divinely upon the harpsichord, talks French even better than she does English, and draws in the style of a master. Indeed, I think that last figure of the naked gladiator the finest thing I ever saw in my life.

While this conversation was going on in one part of the room, a young lady observing that nobody seemed to take the least notice of Harry, advanced towards him with the greatest affability, and began to enter into conversation with him. This young lady's name was Simmons: her father and mother had been two of the most respectable people in the country, according to the old style of English gentry; but having died while she was young, the care of her had devolved upon an uncle, who was a man of sense and benevolence, but a very great humourist. This gentleman had such peculiar ideas of female character, that



he waged war with most of the polite and modern accomplishments. As one of the first blessings of life, according to his notions, was health, he endeavoured to prevent that sickly delicacy, which is considered as so great an ornament in fashionable life, by a more robust and hardy education. His niece was accustomed, from her earliest years, to plunge into the cold bath at every season of the year, to rise by candle-light in winter, to ride a dozen miles upon a trotting horse, or to walk as many, even with the hazard of being splashed or soiling her clothes. By this mode of education miss Sukey, for so she had the misfortune to be named, acquired an excellent character, accompanied however with some dispositions, which disqualified her almost as much as Harry for fashionable life. She was acquainted with all the best authors in our own language, nor was she ignorant of those in French; although she could not speak a word of the language. Her uncle, who was a man of sense and knowledge,



had besides instructed her in several parts of knowledge, which rarely fall to the lot of ladies; such as the established laws of nature and a small degree of geometry. She was, besides, brought up to every species of household employment, which is now exploded by ladies in every rank and station, as mean and vulgar; and taught to believe, that domestic economy is a point of the utmost consequence to every woman that intends to be a wife or mother. As to music, though miss Simmons had a very agreeable voice, and could sing several simple songs in a very pleasing manner, she was entirely ignorant of it; her uncle used to say, that human life is not long enough to throw away so much time upon the science of making a noise. Nor would he permit her to learn French, although he understood it himself; women, he thought, are not birds of passage, that are to be eternally changing their place of abode. I have never seen any good, would he say, from the importation of foreign manners; every



virtue may be learned and practised at home; and it is only because we do not choose to have either virtue or religion among us, that so many adventurers are yearly sent out to smuggle foreign graces. As to various languages, I do not see the necessity of them for a woman. My niece is to marry an Englishman, and to live in England. To what purpose then should I labour to take off the difficulty of conversing with foreigners, and to promote her intercourse with barbers, valets, dancing-masters, and adventurers of every description, that are continually doing us the honour to come amongst us? As to the French nation, I know and esteem it on many accounts; but I am very doubtful whether the English will ever gain much by adopting either their manners or their government; and when respectable foreigners choose to visit us, I see no reason why they should not take the trouble of learning the language of the country.

Such had been the education of miss



Simmons, who was the only one of all the genteel company at Mr. Merton's that thought Harry deserving the least attention. This young lady, who possessed an uncommon degree of natural benevolence of character, came up to him, and addressed him in such a manner as set him perfectly at his ease. Harry was destitute of the artificial graces of society; but he possessed that natural politeness and good-nature, without which all artificial graces are the most disgusting things in the world. Harry had an understanding naturally strong; and Mr. Barlow, while he had with the greatest care preserved him from all false impressions, had taken great pleasure in cultivating the faculties of his mind. Harry indeed never said any of those brilliant things which render a boy the darling of the ladies; he had not that vivacity, or rather impertinence, which frequently passes for wit with superficial people: but he paid the greatest attention to what was said to him, and made the most judicious obser-



vations upon subjects he understood. For this reason, miss Simmons, although much older and more improved, received great satisfaction from conversing with him, and thought little Harry infinitely more agreeable and judicious than any of the smart young gentlemen she had hitherto seen at Mr. Merton's.

But now the company was summoned to the important business of dinner. Harry could not help sighing, when he reflected upon what he had to undergo; however, he determined to bear it with all imaginable fortitude for the sake of his friend Tommy. The dinner indeed was, if possible, more dreadful than any thing he had before undergone; so many fine gentlemen and fine ladies; so many powdered servants to stand behind their chairs; such an apparatus of dishes that Harry had never tasted before, and that almost made him sick when he did taste; so many removes; such pomp and solemnity about what seemed the easiest thing in the world; that Harry could not



help envying the condition of his father's labourers, who, when they are hungry, can sit at their ease under an hedge, and make a dinner, without plates, tablecloths, or compliments. In the meantime, his friend Tommy was received amid the circle of the ladies, and attended to as a prodigy of wit and ingenuity. Harry could not help being surprised at this; his affection for his friend was totally unmixed with the meanness of jealousy, and he received the sincerest pleasure from every improvement which Tommy had made; however, he had never discovered in him any of those surprising talents, and when he could catch any thing that Tommy said, it appeared to him rather inferior to his usual method of conversation: however, as so many fine ladies were of a different opinion, he took it for granted that he must be mistaken. But if Harry's opinion of his friend's abilities was not much improved by this exhibition, it was not so with Tommy. The repeated assurances which he received



that he was indeed a little prodigy, began to convince him that he really was so. When he considered the company he came from, he found that infinite injustice had been done to his merit; for at Mr. Barlow's he was frequently contradicted, and obliged to give a reason for what he said; but here, in order to be admired, he had nothing to do but talk; whether he had any meaning or not, his auditors always found either wit, or sense, or a most entertaining sprightliness in all he said. Nor was Mrs. Merton herself deficient in bestowing marks of admiration upon her son. To see him before improve in health, in understanding, in virtue, had given her a pleasurable sensation, for she was by no means destitute of good dispositions; but to see him shine with such transcendent brightness, before such excellent judges and in so polite a company, inspired her with raptures she had never felt before. Indeed, in consequence of this success, the young gentleman's volubility improved so much, that,



before the dinner was over, he seemed disposed to engross the whole conversation to himself; and Mr. Merton, who did not quite relish the sallies of his son so much as his wife, was once or twice obliged to interpose and check him in his career. This Mrs. Merton thought very hard, and all the ladies, after they had retired into the drawing-room, agreed, that his father would certainly spoil his temper by such improper contradiction. As to little Harry, he had not the good fortune to please the greater number of the ladies; they observed that he was awkward and ungenteel, and had an heavy clownish look; he was also silent and reserved, and had not said a single agreeable thing: if Mr. Barlow chose to keep a school for carters and threshers, nobody would hinder him; but it was not proper to introduce such vulgar people to the sons of persons of fashion. It was therefore agreed, that Mr. Barlow ought either to send little Harry home to his friends, or to be no more honoured with



the company of master Merton. Indeed, one of the ladies hinted that Mr. Barlow himself was but an odd kind of man, that never went to assemblies, and played upon no kind of instrument. Why, answered Mrs. Merton, to tell the truth, I was not over-fond of the scheme: Mr. Barlow, to be sure, though a very good, is a very odd kind of man; however, as he is so disinterested, and would never receive the least present from us, I doubt whether we could with propriety insist upon his turning little Sandford out of the house. If that is the case, madam, answered Mrs. Compton, for that was the name of the lady, I think it would be infinitely better to remove master Merton, and place him in some polite seminary; where he might acquire a knowledge of the world, and make genteel connexions. This will be always the greatest advantage to a young gentleman, and will prove of the most essential service to him in life. For though a person has all the merit in the world, without such acquaintance it



never will push him forward, or enable him to make a figure. This is the plan which I have always pursued with Augustus and Matilda; I think I may say, not entirely without success; for they have both the good fortune to have formed the most brilliant acquaintances. As to Augustus, he is so intimate with young lord Squander, who you know is possessed of the greatest parliamentary interest, that I think his fortune is as good as made. Miss Simmons, who was present at this refined and wise conversation, could not help looking with so much significance at this mention of lord Squander, that Mrs. Compton coloured a little, and asked with some warmth, whether she knew any thing of that young nobleman. Why, madam, answered the young lady, what I know is very little; but if you desire me to inform you, it is my duty to speak the truth. Oh! to be sure, miss, replied Mrs. Compton, a little angrily; we all know that your judgment and knowledge of the world are superior



to what any body else can boast; and therefore, I shall be infinitely obliged to you for any information you may be pleased to give. Indeed, madam, answered the young lady, I have very little of either to boast, nor am I personally acquainted with the nobleman you are talking of; but I have a cousin, a very good boy, that is at the same public school with his lordship, who has given me such a character of him as does not much prepossess me in his favour.—And what may this wise cousin of yours have said of his lordship?—Only, madam, that he is one of the worst boys in the whole school: that he has neither genius, nor application for any thing that becomes his rank and situation: that he has no taste for any thing but gaming, horse-racing, and the most contemptible amusements: that though his allowance is so large, he is eternally running in debt with every body that will trust him; and that he has broken his word so often, that nobody has the least confidence in what he



says. Added to this, I have heard that he is so haughty, tyrannical, and overbearing, that nobody can long preserve his friendship, without the meanest flattery and subservience to all his vicious inclinations. And to finish all, that he is of so ungrateful a temper, that he was never known to do an act of kindness to any one, or to care about any thing but himself.—Here miss Matilda could not help interposing with warmth: she said, that his lordship had nothing in his character or manners that did not perfectly become a nobleman of the most elevated soul. Little, grovelling minds, indeed, which are always envious of their superiors, might give a disagreeable turn to the generous openness of this young nobleman's temper. That as to gaming and running in debt, they were so essential to a man of fashion, that nobody who was not born in the city, and oppressed by city prejudices, would think of making the least objection to them. She then made a panegyric upon his lordship's per-



son, his elegant taste in dress, his new phaeton, his entertaining conversation, his extraordinary performance upon the violin; and concluded that, with such abilities and accomplishments, she did not doubt of one day seeing him at the head of the nation. Miss Simmons had no desire of pushing the conversation any farther, and the rest of the company coming in to tea, the disquisition about lord Squander finished. After tea, several of the young ladies were desired to amuse the company with music and singing: among the rest, miss Simmons sang a little Scotch song, called Lochaber, in so artless, but sweet and pathetic a manner, that little Harry listened almost with tears in his eyes, though several of the other young ladies, by their significant looks and gestures, treated it with ineffable contempt. After this miss Matilda, who was allowed to be a perfect mistress of music, played and sang several celebrated Italian airs. But as they were in a language totally unintelligible to him,



Harry received very little pleasure, though all the rest of the company were in raptures. She then proceeded to play several pieces of music, which were allowed by all connoisseurs to require infinite skill to execute. The audience seemed all delighted, and either felt, or pretended to feel, inexpressible pleasure; even Tommy himself, though he did not know one note from another, had caught so much of the general enthusiasm, that he applauded as loud as the rest of the company: but Harry, whose temper was not quite so pliable, could not conceal the intolerable weariness that overpowered his senses during this long exhibition. He gaped, he yawned, he stretched, he even pinched himself, in order to keep his attention alive, but all in vain; the more miss Matilda exercised her skill in playing pieces of the most difficult execution, the more did Harry's propensity to drowsiness increase. At length, the lateness of the hour, which much exceeded Harry's time of going to bed, con-



spiring with the opiate charms of music, he could resist no longer, but insensibly fell back upon his chair, fast asleep. This unfortunate accident was soon remarked by the rest of the company, and confirmed them very much in the opinion they had conceived of Harry's vulgarity; while he, in the mean time, enjoyed the most placid slumber, which was not dissipated till miss Matilda had desisted from playing.

Thus was the first day past at Mr. Merton's, very little to the satisfaction of Harry; the next, and the next after, was only a repetition of the same scene. The little gentry, whose tastes and manners were totally different from his, had now imbibed a perfect contempt for Harry, and it was with great difficulty that they would condescend to treat him even with common civility. In this laudable behaviour they were very much confirmed by master Compton and master Mash. Master Compton was reckoned a very genteel boy, though all his gen-



tility consisted in a pair of buckles so big that they almost crippled him, in a slender, emaciated figure, and a look of consummate impudence. He had almost finished his education at a public school, where he had learned every vice and folly which is commonly taught at such places, without the least improvement either of his character or his understanding. Master Mash was the son of a neighbouring gentleman who had considerably impaired his fortune by an inordinate love of horse-racing. Having been from his infancy accustomed to no other conversation than about winning and losing money, he had acquired the idea that to bet successfully was the summit of all human ambition. He had been almost brought up in the stable, and therefore had imbibed the greatest interest about horses; not from any real affection for that noble animal, but merely because he considered them as engines for the winning of money. He too was now improving his talents by a public education, and longed impatiently



for the time when he should be set free from all restraint, and allowed to display the superiority of his genius at Ascot and Newmarket. These two young gentlemen had conceived the most violent dislike to Harry, and lost no occasion of saying or doing every thing they had in their power to mortify him. To Tommy they were in the contrary extreme, and omitted no opportunity of rendering themselves agreeable. Nor was it long before their forward, vivacious manners, accompanied with a knowledge of many of those gay scenes which acted forcibly upon Tommy's imagination, began to render their conversation highly agreeable. They talked to him about public diversions, about celebrated actresses, about parties of pleasure and parties of mischief. Tommy began to feel himself introduced to a new train of ideas and a wider range of conduct; he began to long for the time when he should share in the glories of robbing orchards, or insulting passengers, with impunity; but when he heard that little boys, scarcely



bigger than himself, had often joined in the glorious project of forming open rebellions against their masters, or of disturbing a whole audience at a playhouse, he panted for the time when he might have a chance of sharing in the fame of such achievements. By degrees he lost all regard for Mr. Barlow, and all affection for his friend Harry: at first, indeed, he was shocked at hearing Mr. Barlow mentioned with disrespect; but, becoming by degrees more callous to every good impression, he at last took infinite pleasure in seeing master Mash, who, though destitute of either wit or genius, had a great taste for mimicry, take off the parson in the middle of his sermon. Harry perceived and lamented this change in the manners of his friend; he sometimes took the liberty of remonstrating with him upon the subject, but was only answered with a contemptuous sneer; and master Mash, who happened once to be present, told him that he was a monstrous bore.

It happened that while Harry was at



Mr. Merton's, there was a troop of strolling players at a neighbouring town. In order to divert the young gentry, Mr. Merton contrived that they should make a party to see a play. They went accordingly, and Harry with the rest. Tommy, who now no longer condescended to take any notice of his friend, was seated between his two inseparable companions. These young gentlemen first began to give specimens of their politeness by throwing nuts and orange-peel upon the stage; and Tommy, who was resolved to profit by such excellent example, threw nuts and orange-peel with infinite satisfaction. As soon as the curtain drew up, and the actors appeared, all the rest of the audience observed a decent silence; but Mash and Compton, who were now determined to prove the superiority of their manners, began to talk so loud, and make so much noise, that it was impossible for any one near them to hear a word of the play. This also seemed amazingly fine to Tommy; and he too talked and



laughed as loud as the rest. The subject of their conversation was the audience and the performers; neither of which these polite young gentlemen found bearable. The company was chiefly composed of the tradesmen of the town, and the inhabitants of the neighbouring country: this was a sufficient reason for these refined young gentlemen to speak of them with the most insufferable contempt. Every circumstance of their dress and appearance was criticised with such a minuteness of attention, that Harry, who sat near, and very much against his inclination was witness to all that passed, began to imagine that his companions, instead of being brought up like the sons of gentlemen, had only studied under barbers and tailors; such amazing knowledge did they display in the history of buckles, buttons, and dressing of hair. As to the poor performers, they found them totally undeserving mercy; they were so shockingly awkward, so ill drest, so low-lived, and such detestable creatures, that it was



impossible to bear them with any patience. Master Mash, who prided himself upon being a young gentleman of great spirit, was of opinion that they should kick up a riot and demolish all the scenery; Tommy, indeed, did not very well understand what the expression meant, but he was so intimately persuaded of the merit and genius of his companions, that he agreed that it would be the properest thing in the world; and the proposal was accordingly made to the rest of the young gentlemen. But Harry, who had been silent all the time, could not help remonstrating at what appeared to him the greatest cruelty and injustice. These poor people, said he, are doing all they can to entertain us; is it not very unkind to treat them in return with scorn and contempt? If they could act better, even as well as those fine people you talk of in London, would they not willingly do it; and therefore why should we be angry at them for what they cannot help? And as to cutting the scenes to pieces, or doing the



house any damage, have we any more right to attempt it, than they would have to come into your father's dining-room and break the dishes to pieces, because they did not like the dinner?—While we are here let us behave with good manners; and if we do not like their acting, it is our own faults if ever we come to see them again. This method of reasoning was not much relished by those to whom it was addressed, and it is uncertain how far they might have proceeded, had not a decent, plain-looking man, who had been long disturbed with the noise of these young gentry, at length taken the liberty of expostulating with them upon the subject. This freedom, or impertinence, as it was termed by master Mash, was answered by him with so much rudeness, that the man, who was a neighbouring farmer, was obliged to reply in an higher strain. Thus did the altercation increase every minute, till master Mash, who thought it an unpardonable affront that any one in an inferior station should



presume to think or feel for himself, so far lost all command of his temper as to call the man a blackguard, and strike him upon the face. But the farmer, who possessed great strength and equal resolution, very deliberately laid hold of the young gentleman who had offered him the insult, and, without the smallest exertion, laid him sprawling upon the ground, at his full length under the benches, and setting his feet upon his body, told him that since he did not know how to sit quiet at a play, he would have the honour of teaching him to lie; and that if he offered to stir, he would trample him to pieces, a threat which it was very evident he could find no difficulty in executing. This unexpected incident struck an universal damp over the spirits of the little gentry; and even master Mash himself so far forgot his dignity, as to supplicate in a very submissive manner for a release: in this he was joined by all his companions, and Harry among the rest. Well, said the farmer, I should never have



thought that a parcel of young gentlemen, as you call yourselves, would come into public to behave with so much rudeness; I am sure that there is ne'er a plough-boy at my house, but what would have shown more sense and manners: but since you are sorry for what has happened, I am very willing to make an end of the affair; more especially for the sake of this little master here, who has behaved with so much propriety, that I am sure he is a better gentleman than any of you, though he is not dressed so much like a monkey or a barber. With these words he suffered the crest-fallen Mash to rise, who crept from his place of confinement, with looks infinitely more expressive of mildness than he had brought with him: nor was the lesson lost upon the rest, for they behaved with the greatest decency during all the rest of the exhibition. However, master Mash's courage began to rise as he went home, and found himself farther from his formidable farmer; for he assured his companions, that if it had not



been so vulgar a fellow, he would certainly call him out and pistol him.

The next day at dinner, Mr. Merton and the ladies, who had not accompanied the young gentlemen to the play, nor had yet heard of the misfortune which had ensued, were very inquisitive about the preceding night's entertainment. The young people agreed that the performers were detestable, but that the play was a charming piece, full of wit and sentiment, and extremely improving: this play was called *The Marriage of Figaro*, and master Compton had informed them, that it was amazingly admired by all the people of fashion in London. But Mr. Merton, who had observed that Harry was totally silent, at length insisted upon knowing his opinion upon the subject. Why, sir, answered Harry, I am very little judge of these matters, for I never saw a play before in my life, and therefore I cannot tell whether it was acted well or ill; but as to the play itself, it seemed to me to be full of nothing but cheating and dis-



simulation, and the people that come in and out, do nothing but impose upon each other, and lie, and trick, and deceive. Were you or any gentleman to have such a parcel of servants, you would think them fit for nothing in the world; and therefore I could not help wondering, while the play was acting, that people would throw away so much of their time upon sights that can do them no good; and send their children and their relations to learn fraud and insincerity. Mr. Merton smiled at the honest bluntness of Harry; but several of the ladies, who had just been expressing an extravagant admiration of this piece, seemed to be not a little mortified; however, as they could not contradict the charges which Harry had brought against it, they thought it more prudent to be silent.

In the evening, it was proposed that all the little gentry should divert themselves with cards; and they accordingly sat down to a game which is called com-



merce. But Harry, who was totally ignorant of this accomplishment, desired to be excused; however, his friend Miss Simmons offered to teach him the game, which she assured him was so easy, that in three minutes he would be able to play as well as the rest. Harry, however, still continued to refuse, and at length confessed to miss Simmons, that he had expended all his money the day before, and therefore was unable to furnish the stake which the rest deposited. Don't let that disturb you, said she, I will put down for you with a great deal of pleasure. Madam, answered Harry, I am very much obliged to you, I am sure; but Mr. Barlow has always forbidden me either to receive or borrow money of any body, for fear, in the one case, I should become mercenary, or in the other, dishonest; and therefore, though there is nobody here, whom I esteem more than yourself, I am obliged to refuse your offer. Well, replied miss Simmons, that need not disturb you, for you shall play upon my account; and that



you may do without any violation of your principles. Thus was Harry, though with some reluctance, induced to sit down to cards with the rest. The game, indeed, he found no difficulty in learning, but he could not help remarking with wonder, the extreme solicitude which appeared in the face of all the players at every change of fortune. Even the young ladies, all but miss Simmons, seemed to be equally sensible of the passion of gaining money with the rest; and some of them behaved with a degree of asperity which quite astonished him. After several changes of fortune, it happened that miss Simmons and Harry were the only remaining players; all the rest, by the laws of the game, had forfeited all pretensions to the stake, the property of which was clearly vested in these two, and one more deal was wanting to decide it. But Harry with great politeness rose from table, and told miss Simmons, that as he had only played upon her account, he was now no longer wanted, and that



the whole undoubtedly belonged to her. Miss Simmons refused to take it, and when she found that Harry was not to be induced to play any more, she at last proposed to him to divide what was left. This also Harry declined, alleging that he had not the least title to any part. But miss Simmons, who began to be uneasy at the observation which this extraordinary contest produced, told Harry that he would very much oblige her by taking his share of the money, and laying it out in any manner for her that he judged best. Upon this condition, answered Harry, I will take it; and I think I know a method of laying it out, which you will not entirely disapprove.

The next day, as soon as breakfast was over, Harry disappeared; nor was he come back when the company were assembled to dinner. At length he came in, with a glow of health and exercise upon his face, and that disorder of dress which is produced by a long expedition. The young ladies eyed him with great con-



tempt, which seemed a little to disconcert him; but Mr. Merton speaking to him with great good-humour, and making room for him to sit down, Harry soon recovered from his confusion. In the evening, after a long conversation among the young people about public diversions, and plays, and dancers, and actors, they happened to mention the name of a celebrated performer, who at this time engaged the whole attention of the town. Master Compton, after expatiating with great enthusiasm upon the subject, added, that nothing was so fashionable as to make great presents to this person, in order to show the taste and elegance of the giver. He then proposed, that as so many young gentlemen and ladies were here assembled, they should set an example which would do them infinite honour, and probably be followed throughout the kingdom, of making a little collection among themselves to buy a piece of plate, or a gold snuff-box, or some other trifle, to be pre-



sented in their name. He added, that though he could ill spare the money, having just laid out six guineas upon a new pair of buckles, he would contribute a guinea to so excellent a purpose, and that master Mash and Merton would do the same. This proposal was universally approved of by all the company; and all, but Harry, promised to contribute in proportion to their finances. This master Mash observing, said, Well farmer, and what will you subscribe? Harry answered, that upon this occasion he must beg to be excused, for he had nothing to give. Here is a pretty fellow! answered Mash; last night we saw him pouch thirty shillings of our money, which he cheated us out of at commerce, and now the little stingy wretch will not contribute half a crown, where we are giving away whole guineas. Upon this, miss Matilda said, in an ironical manner, that master Harry had always an excellent reason to give for his conduct; and she did not doubt but he could prove to all



their satisfaction, that it was more liberal to keep his money in his pocket than to give it away. Harry, who was a little nettled at these reflections, answered, that though he was not bound to give any reason, he thought he had a very good one to give; and that was, that he saw no generosity in thus bestowing money. According to your own account, added he, the person you have been talking of, gains more than fifty poor families have in the country to maintain themselves; and therefore, if I had any money to give away, I should certainly give it to those that want it most. With these words, Harry went out of the room, and the rest of the gentry, after abusing him very liberally, sat down to cards. But Miss Simmons, who imagined that there was more in Harry's conduct than he had explained, excused herself from cards, and took an opportunity of talking to him upon the subject. After speaking to him with great good-nature, she asked him, whether it might not



have been better to have contributed something along with the rest, than to have offended them by so free an exposition of his sentiments; even though he did not entirely approve of the scheme. Indeed, madam, said Harry, this is what I would gladly have done, but it was totally out of my power. How can that be, Harry? did you not win the other night near thirty shillings? That, madam, all belonged to you? and I have already disposed of it in your name, in a manner that I hope you will not disapprove. How is that? answered the young lady with some surprise. Madam, said Harry, there was a young woman that lived with my father as a servant, and always behaved with the greatest honesty and carefulness. This young woman had an aged father and mother, who for a great while were able to maintain themselves by their own labour; but at last the poor old man became too weak to do a day's work, and his wife was afflicted with a disease they call the palsy. Now when



this good young woman saw that her parents were in such great distress, she left her place and went to live with them, on purpose to take care of them; and she works very hard, whenever she can get work, and fares very hard, in order to maintain her parents; and though we assist them all we can, I know that sometimes they can hardly get food and clothes. Therefore, madam, as you were so kind to say, that I should dispose of this money for you, I ran over this morning to these poor people, and gave them all the money in your name: and I hope you will not be displeased at the use I have put it to. Indeed, answered the young lady, I am much obliged to you for the good opinion you have of me; and the application of it does me a great deal of honour: I am only sorry you did not give it in your own name. That, replied Harry, I had not any right to do; it would have been attributing to myself what did not be-



long to me, and equally inconsistent with truth and honesty. In this manner did the time pass away at Mr. Merton's, while Harry received very little satisfaction from his visit, except in conversing with miss Simmons. The affability and good sense of this young lady had entirely gained his confidence. While all the other young ladies were continually intent upon displaying their talents and importance, she alone was simple and unaffected. But what disgusted Harry more than ever was, that his refined companions seemed to consider themselves, and a few of their acquaintance, as the only beings of any consequence in the world. The most trifling inconvenience, the being a little too hot, a little too cold, the walking a few hundred yards, the waiting a few minutes for their dinner, the having a trifling cold, or a little headache, were misfortunes so feelingly lamented, that he would have imagined they were the most tender of the human



species, had he not observed that they considered the sufferings of all below them with a profound indifference. If the misfortunes of the poor were mentioned, he heard of nothing but the insolence and ingratitude of that class of people, which seemed to be a sufficient excuse for the want of common humanity. Surely, said Harry to himself, there cannot be so much difference between one human being and another; or if there is, I should think that part of them the most valuable, which cultivates the ground and provides necessaries for all the rest: not those, who understand nothing but dress, walking with their toes out, staring modest people out of countenance, and jabbering a few words of a foreign language.

But now the attention of all the younger part of the company was fixed upon making preparations for a ball; which Mrs. Merton had determined to give in honour of master Tommy's return. The whole house was now full of milliners,



mantua-makers, and dancing masters. All the young ladies were employed in giving directions about their clothes, or in practising the steps of different dances. Harry now, for the first time, began to comprehend the infinite importance of dress. Even the elderly ladies seemed to be as much interested about the affair as their daughters; and instead of the lessons of conduct and wisdom which he expected to hear, nothing seemed to employ their attention a moment, but French trimmings, gauzes, and Italian flowers. Miss Simmons alone appeared to consider the approaching solemnity with perfect indifference. Harry had never heard a single word drop from her that expressed either interest or impatience; but he had for some days observed her employed in her room, with more than common assiduity. At length, upon the very day that was destined for this important exhibition, she came to him with a benevolent smile, and spoke to him thus: I was so much pleased with



the account you gave me the other day, of that poor young woman's duty and affection towards her parents, that I have for some time employed myself in preparing for them a little present, which I shall be obliged to you, master Harry, to convey to them. I have unfortunately never learned either to embroider, or to paint artificial flowers; but my good uncle has taught me the best employment I can make of my hands is to assist those that cannot assist themselves. Saying this she put into his hands a parcel that contained some linen and other necessities for the poor old people; and bade him tell them not to forget to call upon her uncle, when she was returned home; as he was always happy to assist the deserving and industrious poor. Harry received her present with gratitude, and almost with tears of joy; and looking up in her face, imagined that he saw the features of one of those angels which he had read of in the scriptures: so much does real, disinterested benevolence improve



the expression of the human countenance.

But all the rest of the young gentry were employed in cares of a very different nature, the dressing their hair and adorning their persons. Tommy himself had now completely resumed his natural character, and thrown aside all that he had learned during his residence with Mr. Barlow. He had contracted an infinite fondness for all those scenes of dissipation which his new friends daily described to him, and began to be convinced, that one of the most important things in life is a fashionable dress. In this most rational sentiment he had been confirmed by almost all the young ladies, with whom he had conversed since his return home. The distinction of character, relative to virtue and understanding, which had been with so much pains inculcated upon his mind, seemed here to be entirely unheeded. No one took the trouble of examining the real principles or motives from which any human being



acted; while the most minute attention was continually given to what regarded merely the outside. He observed, that the omission of every duty towards our fellow-creatures was not only excused, but even to a certain degree admired, provided it was joined with a certain fashionable appearance; while the most perfect probity, or integrity, was mentioned with coldness or disgust, and frequently with open ridicule, if unconnected with a brilliant appearance. As to all the common virtues of life, such as industry, economy, a punctuality in discharging our obligations or keeping our words, these were qualities which were treated as fit for nothing but the vulgar. Mr. Barlow, he found, had been utterly mistaken in all the principles which he had ever inculcated. The human species, said Mr. Barlow, can only be supplied with food and necessaries, by a constant assiduity in cultivating the earth and providing for their mutual wants. It is by labour that every thing is produced;



without labour, these fertile fields which are now adorned with all the luxuriance of plenty, would be converted into barren heaths or impenetrable thickets; these meadows, the support of a thousand herds of cattle, be covered with stagnated waters, that would not only render them uninhabitable by beasts, but corrupt the air with pestilential vapours. Even these innumerable flocks of sheep, that feed along the hills, would disappear along with that cultivation, which can alone support them, and secure their existence. For this reason, would Mr. Barlow say, labour is the first and most indispensable duty of the human species, from which no one can have a right entirely to withdraw himself. But, however true might be these principles, they were so totally inconsistent with the conduct and opinions of his new friends, that it was not possible for Tommy long to remember their force. He had been near a month with a few young gentlemen and ladies of his own rank, and, instead



of their being brought up to produce any thing useful, he found that the great object of all their knowledge and education was only to waste, to consume, to destroy, to dissipate what was produced by others. He even found that this inability to assist either themselves or others, seemed to be a merit upon which every one valued himself extremely; so that an individual that could not exist without having two attendants to wait upon him, was superior to him that had only one; but was obliged in turn to yield to another that required four. And, indeed, this new system seemed much more easy than the old; for instead of giving himself any trouble about his manners or understanding, he might with safety indulge all his caprices; give way to all his passions; be humoursome, haughty, unjust, and selfish to the extreme; he might be ungrateful to his friends, disobedient to his parents, a glutton, an ignorant blockhead; in short, every thing which to plain sense appears



most frivolous or contemptible, without incurring the least imputation, provided his hair hung fashionably about his ears, his buckles were sufficiently large, and his politeness unimpeached to the ladies.

Once, indeed, Harry had thrown him into a disagreeable train of thinking, by asking him with great simplicity, what sort of a figure these young gentlemen would have made in the army of Leonidas, or these young ladies upon a desert island, where they would be obliged to shift for themselves. But Tommy had lately learned that nothing spoils the face more than intense reflection; and therefore, as he could not easily resolve the question, he wisely determined to forget it.

And now the important evening approached; the largest room in the house was lighted up for the dancers, and all the little company assembled. Tommy was that day dressed in an unusual style of elegance; and had submitted without murmuring to be under the hands of an



hair-dresser for two hours. But what gave him the greatest satisfaction of all, was an immense pair of new buckles, which Mrs. Merton had sent for on purpose to grace the person of her son. Several minuets were danced, to the great admiration of the company; and among the rest Tommy, who had been practising ever since he had been at home, had the honour of exhibiting with miss Matilda. He indeed began with a certain degree of diffidence, but was soon inspired with a proper degree of confidence by the applauses which resounded on every side. What an elegant little creature! cried one lady. What a shape is there! said a second. I protest he puts me in mind of Vestris himself. Indeed, said a third, Mrs. Merton is a most happy mother to be possessed of such a son, who wants nothing but an introduction to the world, to be one of the most elegant creatures in England, and the most accomplished. As soon as Tommy had finished his dance, he led his partner to her seat, with a



grace that surprised all the company anew; and then with the sweetest condescension imaginable, he went from one lady to another, to receive the praises which they liberally poured out; as if it was the greatest action in the world to draw one foot behind another, and to walk on tiptoe. Harry, in the mean time, had shrouded himself in the most obscure part of the room, and was silently gazing upon the scene that passed. He knew that his company would give no pleasure among the elegant figures that engrossed the foremost seats, and felt not the least inclination for such an honour. In this situation he was observed by master Compton; who, at the same instant, formed a scheme of mortifying miss Simmons, whom he did not like, and of exposing Harry to the general ridicule. He therefore proposed it to Mash, who had partly officiated as master of the ceremonies, who agreed to assist him, with all the readiness of officious malice. Master Mash, therefore, went



up to Miss Simmons, and with all the solemnity of respect invited her out to dance: which she, although indifferent about the matter, accepted without hesitation. In the mean time, master Compton went up to Harry with the same hypocritical civility, and in miss Simmons's name invited him to dance a minuet. It was in vain that Harry assured him he knew nothing about the matter; his perfidious friend told him, that it was an indispensable duty for him to stand up; that miss Simmons would never forgive him if he should refuse; that it would be sufficient if he could just describe the figure, without embarrassing himself about the steps. In the mean time, he pointed out miss Simmons, who was advancing towards the upper end of the room, and taking advantage of his confusion and embarrassment, led him forward, and placed him by the young lady's side. Harry was not yet acquainted with the sublime science of imposing upon unwary simplicity, and therefore never



doubted that the message had come from his friend; and as nothing could be more repugnant to his character than the want of compliance, he thought it necessary at least to go and expostulate with her upon the subject. This was his intention when he suffered himself to be led up the room; but his tormentors did not give him time, for they placed him by the side of the young lady, and instantly called to the music to begin. Miss Simmons, in her turn, was equally surprised at the partner that was provided for her; she had never imagined minuet-dancing to be one of Harry's accomplishments; and therefore instantly suspected that it was a concerted scheme to mortify her. However in this she was determined they should be disappointed, as she was destitute of all pride, and had the sincerest regard for Harry. As soon, therefore, as the music struck up, the young lady began her reverence; which Harry, who found he was now completely caught, and had no time for explanation,



imitated as well as he was able, but in such a manner as set the whole room in a titter. Harry, however, arming himself with all the fortitude he possessed, performed his part as well as could be expected from a person that had never learned a single step of dancing. By keeping his eye fixed upon his partner, he made a shift at least to preserve something of the figure, although he was terribly deficient in the steps and graces of the dance. But his partner, who was scarcely less embarrassed than himself, and wished to shorten the exhibition, after crossing once, presented him with her hand. Harry had unfortunately not remarked the nature of this manœuvre with perfect accuracy; and therefore imagining that one hand was just as good as the other, he offered the young lady his left, instead of his right hand. At this incident, an universal peal of merriment, which they no longer laboured to conceal, burst from almost all the company; and miss Simmons wishing at any rate to



close the scene, presented her partner with both her hands, and abruptly finished the dance. The unfortunate couple then retreated to the lower end of the room, amid the jests and sneers of their companions, particularly Mash and Compton, who assumed unusual importance, upon the credit of such a brilliant invention. When they were seated, miss Simmons could not help asking Harry, with some displeasure, why he had thus exposed himself and her, by attempting what he was totally ignorant of; and added, that though there was no disgrace in not being able to dance, it was very great folly to attempt it without having learned a single step. Indeed, madam, answered Harry, I never should have thought of trying to do what I knew I was totally ignorant of; but master Compton came to me, and told me, that you particularly desired me to dance with you, and led me to the other end of the room; and I only came to speak to you and to inform you that I knew nothing



about the matter, for fear you should think me uncivil; and then the music began to play and you to dance, so that I had no opportunity of speaking; and I thought it better to do the best I could, than to stand still, or leave you there. Miss Simmons instantly recovered her former good humour, and said, Well, Harry, we are not the first, nor shall be the last by hundreds, that have made a ridiculous figure in a ball-room, without so good an excuse. But I am sorry to see so malicious a disposition in these young gentlemen, and that all their knowledge of polite life has not taught them a little better manners. Why, madam, answered Harry, since you are so good as to talk to me upon the subject, I must confess that I have been very much surprised at many things I have seen at Mr. Merton's. All these young gentlemen and ladies are continually talking about genteel life and manners, and yet they are frequently doing things which surprise me. Mr. Barlow has al-



ways told me that politeness consisted in a disposition to oblige every body around us, and to say or do nothing which can give them disagreeable impressions. Yet I continually see these young gentlemen striving to do and say things, for no other reason than to give pain. For not to go any farther than the present instance, what motive can master Compton and Mash have had, but to mortify you by giving you such a partner? You, madam, too, that are so kind and good to every body, that I should think it impossible not to love you. Harry, answered the young lady, what you say about politeness is perfectly just. I have heard my uncle and many sensible people say the same. But in order to acquire this species of it, both goodness of heart and a just way of thinking are required; and therefore many people content themselves with aping what they can pick up in the dress, or gestures, or cant expressions of the higher classes: just like the poor ass that drest in the skin of a lion was taken



for the lion himself, till his unfortunate braying exposed the cheat. Pray, madam, what is that story? said Harry. It is a trifling one that I have read, answered miss Simmons, of somebody, that having procured a lion's skin, fastened it round the body of an ass, and then turned him loose, to the great affright of the neighbourhood. Those who saw him first, imagined that a monstrous lion had invaded the country, and fled with precipitation. Even the very cattle caught the panic, and were scattered by hundreds over the plains. In the mean time, the victorious ass pranced and capered along the fields, and diverted himself with running after the fugitives. But at length, in the gaiety of his heart, he broke out into such a discordant braying, as surprised those that were nearest, and expected to hear a very different noise from under the terrible skin. At length a resolute fellow ventured by degrees nearer to this object of their terror, and discovering the cheat that had been



practised upon them, divested the poor ass of all his borrowed spoils, and drove him away with his cudgel.

This story, continued miss Simmons, is continually coming into my mind, when I see any body imagine himself of great importance, because he has adopted some particular mode of dress, or the grimaces of those that call themselves fashionable people. Nor do I ever see master Mash, or Compton, without thinking of the lion's skin, and expecting every moment to hear them bray. Harry laughed very heartily at this story; but now their attention was called towards the company, who had ranged themselves by pairs for country dancing. Miss Simmons, who was very fond of this exercise, then asked Harry if he had never practised any of these dances. Harry said it had happened to him three or four times at home, and that he believed he should not be puzzled about any of the figures. Well then, said the young lady, to show how how little I regard their intended morti-



fication, I will stand up, and you shall be my partner. So they rose, and placed themselves at the bottom of the whole company, according to the laws of dancing, which appoint that place for those who come last. And now the music began to strike up in a more joyous strain; the little dancers exerted themselves with all their activity, and the exercise diffused a glow of health and cheerfulness over the faces of the most pale and languid. Harry exerted himself here, with much better success than he had lately done in the minuet. He had great command over all his limbs, and was well versed in every play that gives address to the body; so that he found no difficulty in practising all the varied figures of the dances; particularly with the assistance of miss Simmons, who explained to him every thing that appeared embarrassing. But now, by the continuance of the dance, all who were at first at the upper end had descended to the bottom; where, by the laws of the diversion, they



ought to have waited quietly, till their companions, becoming in their turn uppermost, had danced down to their former places. But, when miss Simmons and Harry expected to have had their just share of the exercise, they found that almost all their companions had deserted them, and retired to their places. Harry could not help wondering at this behaviour; but miss Simmons told him with a smile, that it was only of a piece with the rest; and that she had often remarked it at country assemblies, where all the gentry of a county were gathered together. This is frequently the way, added she, that those who think themselves superior to the rest of the world, choose to show their importance. This is a very bad way, indeed, replied Harry: people may choose whether they will dance or practise any particular diversion; but if they do, they ought to submit to the laws of it, without repining: and I have always observed among the little boys that I am acquainted with, that wherever this dis-



position prevails it is the greatest proof of a bad and contemptible temper. I am afraid, replied miss Simmons, that your observations will hold universally true; and that those who expect so much for themselves, without being willing to consider their fellow-creatures in turn, in whatever station they are found, are always the most mean, ignorant, and despicable of the species. I remember, said Harry, reading a story of a great man, called sir Philip Sydney. This gentleman was reckoned not only the bravest, but the politest person in all England. It happened that he was sent over the sea to assist some of our allies against their enemies. After having distinguished himself in such a manner as gained him the love and esteem of all the army, this excellent man one day received a shot, which broke his thigh as he was bravely fighting at the head of his men. Sir Philip Sydney felt that he was mortally wounded, and was obliged to turn his horse's head and retire to his tent, in or-



der to have his wound examined. By the time that he reached the tent, he not only felt great agonies from his wound, but the heat of the weather, and the fever which the pain produced, had excited an intolerable thirst; so that he prayed his attendants to fetch him a little water. With infinite difficulty some water was procured and brought to him; but, just as he was raising the cup to his lips, he chanced to see a poor English soldier, who had been mortally wounded in the same engagement, and lay upon the ground, faint and bleeding, and ready to expire. The poor man was suffering like his general, from the pain of a consuming thirst; and therefore, though respect prevented him from asking for any, he turned his dying eyes upon the water, with an eagerness which sufficiently explained his sufferings. Upon this, the excellent and noble gentleman took the cup, which he had not yet tasted, from his lips, and gave it to his attendants; ordering them to carry it to the wounded soldier, and



only saying, "This poor man wants it still more than I do."

This story, added Harry, was always a particular favourite with Mr. Barlow, and he has often pointed it out to me, as an example not only of the greatest virtue and humanity, but also of that elevated method of thinking which constitutes the true gentleman. For what is it, I have heard him say, that gives a superiority of manners, but the inclination to sacrifice our own pleasures and interest to the well-being of others? An ordinary person might have pitied the poor soldier, or even have assisted him, when he had first taken care of himself: but who, in such a dreadful extremity as the brave Sydney was reduced to, would be capable of even forgetting his own sufferings to relieve another, that had not acquired the generous habit of always slighting his own gratifications for the sake of his fellow-creatures? As Harry was conversing in this manner, the little company had left off dancing, and were refreshing



themselves with a variety of cakes and agreeable liquors, which had been provided for the occasion. Tommy Merton and the other young gentlemen were now distinguishing themselves by their attendance upon the ladies, whom they were supplying with every thing they chose to have; but no one thought it worth his while to wait upon miss Simmons. When Harry observed this, he ran to the table, and upon a large waiter brought her cakes and lemonade, which he presented, if not with a better grace, with a sincerer desire to oblige than any of the rest. But, as he was stooping down to offer her the choice, master Mash unluckily passed that way, and, elated by the success of his late piece of ill-nature, determined to attempt a second still more brutal than the first. For this reason, just as miss Simmons was helping herself to some wine and water, Mash, pretending to stumble, pushed Harry in such a manner, that the greater part of the contents of the glasses was



discharged full into her bosom. The young lady coloured at the insult, and Harry, who instantly perceived that it was done on purpose, being no longer able to contain his indignation, seized a glass that was only half emptied, and discharged the contents full into the face of the aggressor. Mash, who was a boy of violent passions, exasperated at this retaliation, which he so well deserved, instantly caught up a drinking glass, and flung it full at the head of Harry. Happy was it for him, that it only grazed his head without taking the full effect. It however laid bare a considerable gash, and Harry was in an instant covered with his own blood. This sight only provoked him the more, and made him forget both the place and company where he was; so that flying upon Mash with all the fury of just revenge, a dreadful combat ensued, which put the whole room into a consternation. But Mr. Merton soon appeared, and with some difficulty separated the enraged champions. He then inquired into the subject of the contest



which master Mash endeavoured to explain away as an accident. But Harry persisted in his account with so much firmness, in which he was corroborated by the testimony of miss Simmons, that Mr. Merton readily perceived the truth. Mash however apologized for himself in the best manner he was able, by saying that he had only meant to play master Harry an innocent trick, but that he had undesignedly injured miss Simmons. Whatever Mr. Merton felt, he did not say a great deal; he, however, endeavoured to pacify the enraged combatants, and ordered assistance to Harry to bind up the wound, and clean him from the blood which had now disfigured him from head to foot. Mrs. Merton in the mean time, who was sitting at the upper end of the room amidst the other ladies, had seen the fray, and been informed that it was owing to Harry's throwing a glass of lemonade in master Mash's face. This gave Mrs. Compton an opportunity of in-



dulging herself again in long invectives against Harry, his breeding, family and manners. She never, she said, had liked the boy, and now he had justified all her forebodings upon the subject. Such a little vulgar wretch could never have been witness to any thing but scenes of riot and ill-manners; and now he was brawling and fighting in a gentleman's house, just as he would do at one of the public houses to which he was used to go with his father. While she was in the midst of this eloquent harangue, Mr. Merton came up, and gave a more unprejudiced narrative of the affair; he acquitted Harry of all blame, and said, that it was impossible, even for the mildest temper in the world, to act otherwise upon such unmerited provocation. This account seemed wonderfully to turn the scale in Harry's favour; though miss Simmons was no great favourite with the young ladies, yet the spirit and gallantry which he had discovered in her cause began to



act very forcibly upon their minds. One of the young ladies observed, that if master Harry was better drest, he would certainly be a very pretty boy; another said, he had always thought that he had a look above his station; and a third remarked, that considering he had never learned to dance, he had by no means a vulgar look.

This untoward accident having thus been amicably settled, the diversions of the evening went forward. But Harry, who had now lost all taste for genteel company, took the first opportunity of retiring to bed; where he soon fell asleep, and forgot both the mortification and bruises he had received. In the meantime, the little company below found means to entertain themselves till past midnight, and then retired to their chambers.

The next morning they rose later than usual: and, as several of the young gentlemen who had been invited to the preceding evening's diversion, were not to



return till after dinner, they agreed to take a walk into the country. Harry went with them as usual, though master Mash by his misrepresentations had prejudiced Tommy and all the rest against him. But Harry, who was conscious of his own innocence, and began to feel the pride of injured friendship, disdained to give an explanation of his behaviour; since his friend was not sufficiently interested about the matter to demand one. But while they were slowly walking along the common, they discovered at a distance a prodigious crowd of people, that were all moving forward in the same direction. This attracted the curiosity of the little troop; and upon inquiry they found there was going to be a bull-baiting. Instantly an eager desire seized upon all the little gentry to see the diversion. One obstacle alone presented itself, which was, that their parents, and particularly Mrs. Merton, had made them promise that they would avoid every spe-



cies of danger. This objection was however removed by master Billy Lyddal; who observed that there could be no danger in the sight, as the bull was to be tied fast, and could therefore do them no harm. Besides, added he smiling, what occasion have they to know that we have been at all? I hope we are not such simpletons as to accuse ourselves, or such tell-tales as to inform against one another. No! no! no! was the universal exclamation from all but Harry, who had remained profoundly silent upon the occasion. Master Harry has not said a word, said one of the little folks; sure he will not tell of us. Indeed, said Harry, I don't wish to tell of you; but if I am asked where we have been, how can I help telling?—What, answered master Lyddal, can't you say that we have been walking along the road, or across the common, without mentioning any thing farther?—No, said Harry, that would not be speaking truth: besides, bull-baiting



is a very cruel and dangerous diversion, and therefore none of us should go to see it; particularly master Merton, whose mother loves him so much, and is so careful about him. This speech was not received with much approbation by those to whom it was addressed. A pretty fellow, said one, to give himself these airs, and pretend to be wiser than every one else!—What, said master Compton, does this beggar's brat think he is to govern gentlemen's son's, because master Merton is so good as to keep company with him?—If I were master Merton, said a third, I'd soon send the little impertinent jack-anapes home to his own blackguard family.—And master Mash, who was the biggest and strongest boy in the whole company, came up to Harry, and grinning in his face, said, So all the return that you make to master Merton for his goodness to you, is to be a spy and an informer, is it, you little dirty blackguard?—Harry, who had long perceived



and lamented the coolness of master Merton towards him, was now much more grieved to see that his friend was not only silent, but seemed to take an ill-natured pleasure in these insults, than at the insults themselves which were offered to him. However, as soon as the crowd of tormentors which surrounded him, would give him leave to speak, he coolly answered, that he was as little of a spy and informer as any of them; and as to begging, he thanked God, he wanted as little of them, as they did of him: besides, added he, were I even reduced so low as that, I should know better how to employ my time, than to ask charity of any one here.

This sarcastic answer, and the reflections that were made upon it, had such an effect upon the too irritable temper of master Merton, that in an instant, forgetting his former obligations and affection to Harry, he strutted up to him, and clenching his fist, asked him whether



he meant to insult him? Well done, master Merton, echoed through the whole society; thrash him heartily for his impudence. No, master Tommy, answered Harry, it is you and your friends here that insult me. What, answered Tommy, are you a person of such consequence, that you must not be spoken to? You are a prodigious fine gentleman indeed.—I always thought you one till now, answered Harry.—How, you rascal, said Tommy, do you say that I am not a gentleman?—Take that, and immediately struck Harry upon the face with his fist. His fortitude was not proof against this treatment; he turned his face away, and only said in a low tone of voice, Master Tommy, master Tommy, I never should have thought it possible you could have treated me in this unworthy manner: then covering his face with both his hands, he burst into an agony of crying.

But the little troop of gentlemen, who were vastly delighted with the mortifica-



tion which Harry had received, and had formed a very indifferent opinion of his prowess, from the patience which he had hitherto exerted, began to gather round, and repeat their persecutions. Coward, and blackguard, and tell-tale, echoed in a chorus through the circle; and some more forward than the rest, seized hold of him by the hair, in order that he might hold up his head, and show his pretty face. But Harry, who now began to recollect himself, wiped his tears with his hands, and looking up, asked them with a firm tone of voice and a steady countenance, why they meddled with him; then swinging round, he disengaged himself at once, from all who had taken hold of him. The greatest part of the company gave back at this question, and seemed disposed to leave him unmolested; but master Mash, who was the most quarrelsome and impertinent boy present, advanced, and looking at Harry with a contemptuous sneer, said, This is