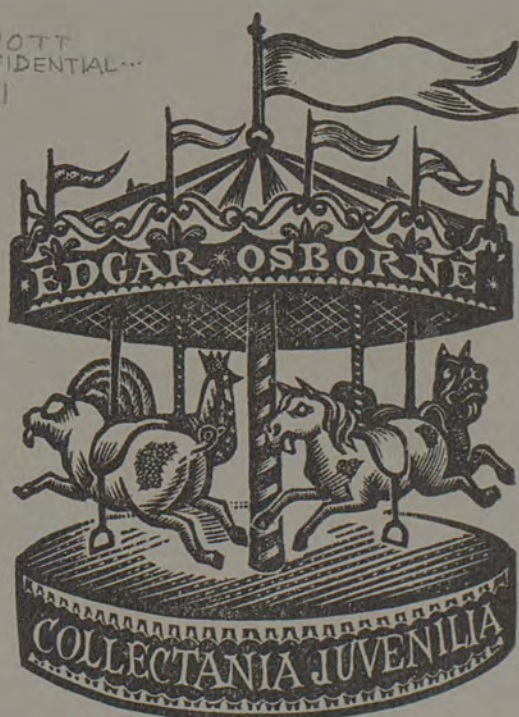


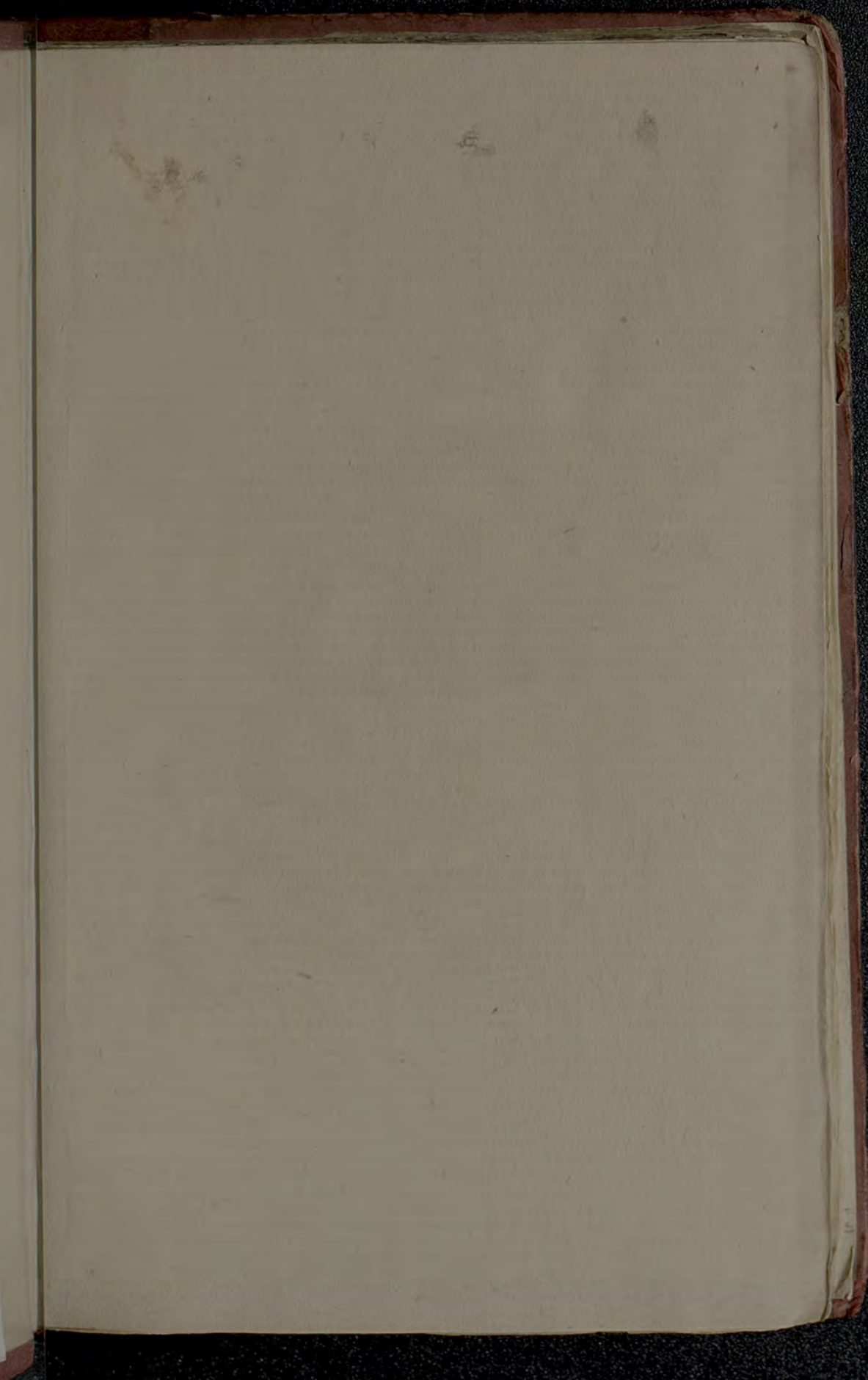
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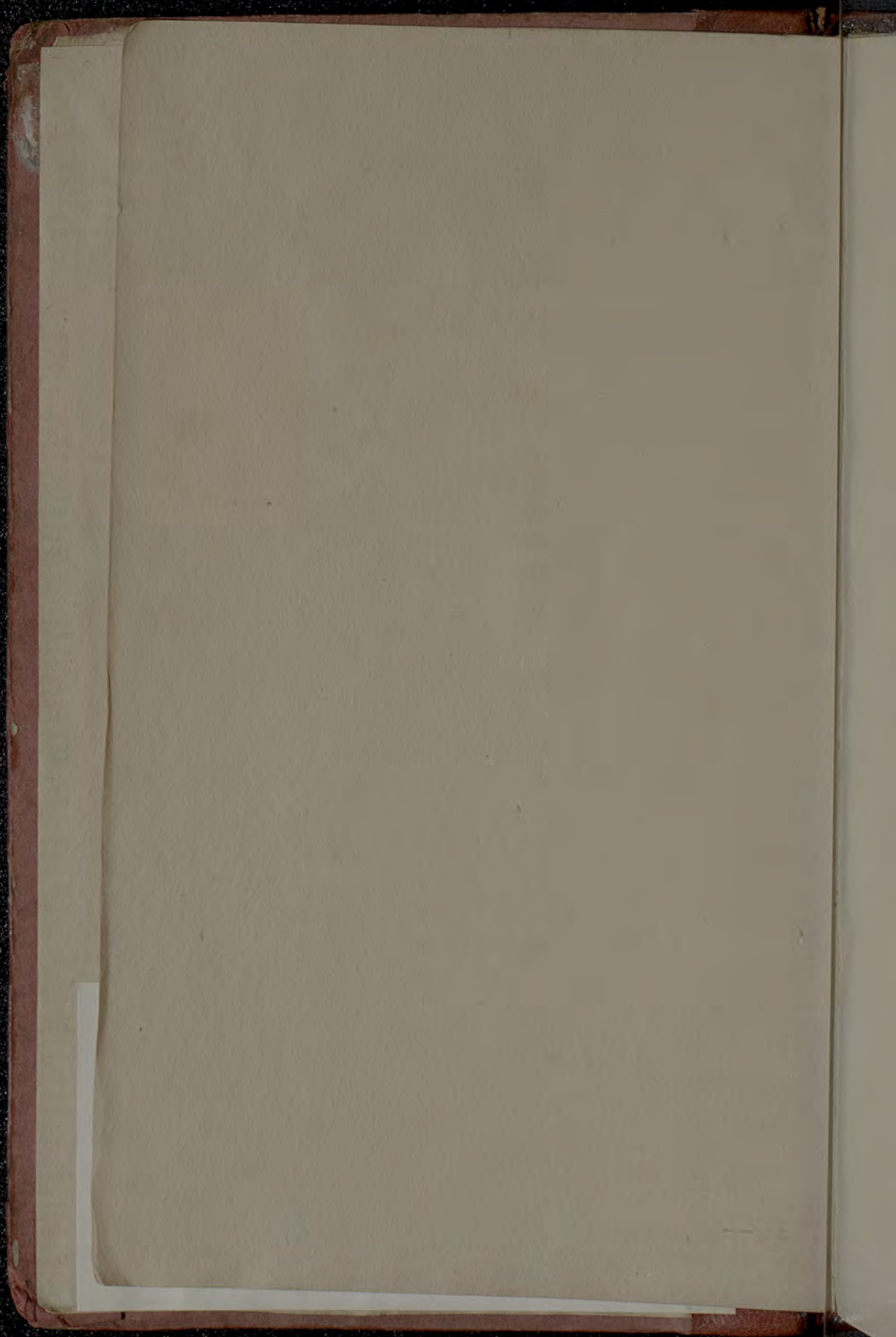


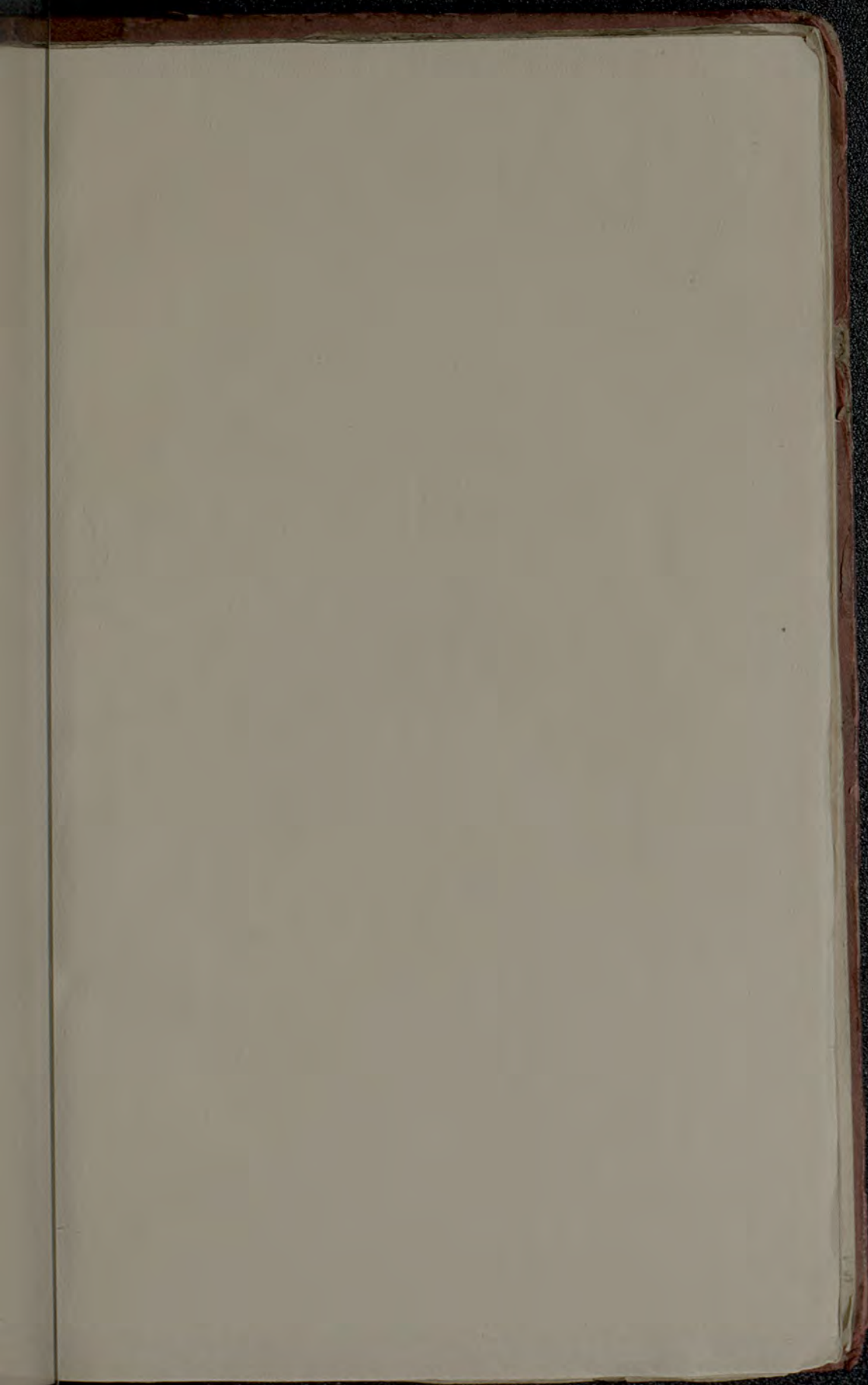
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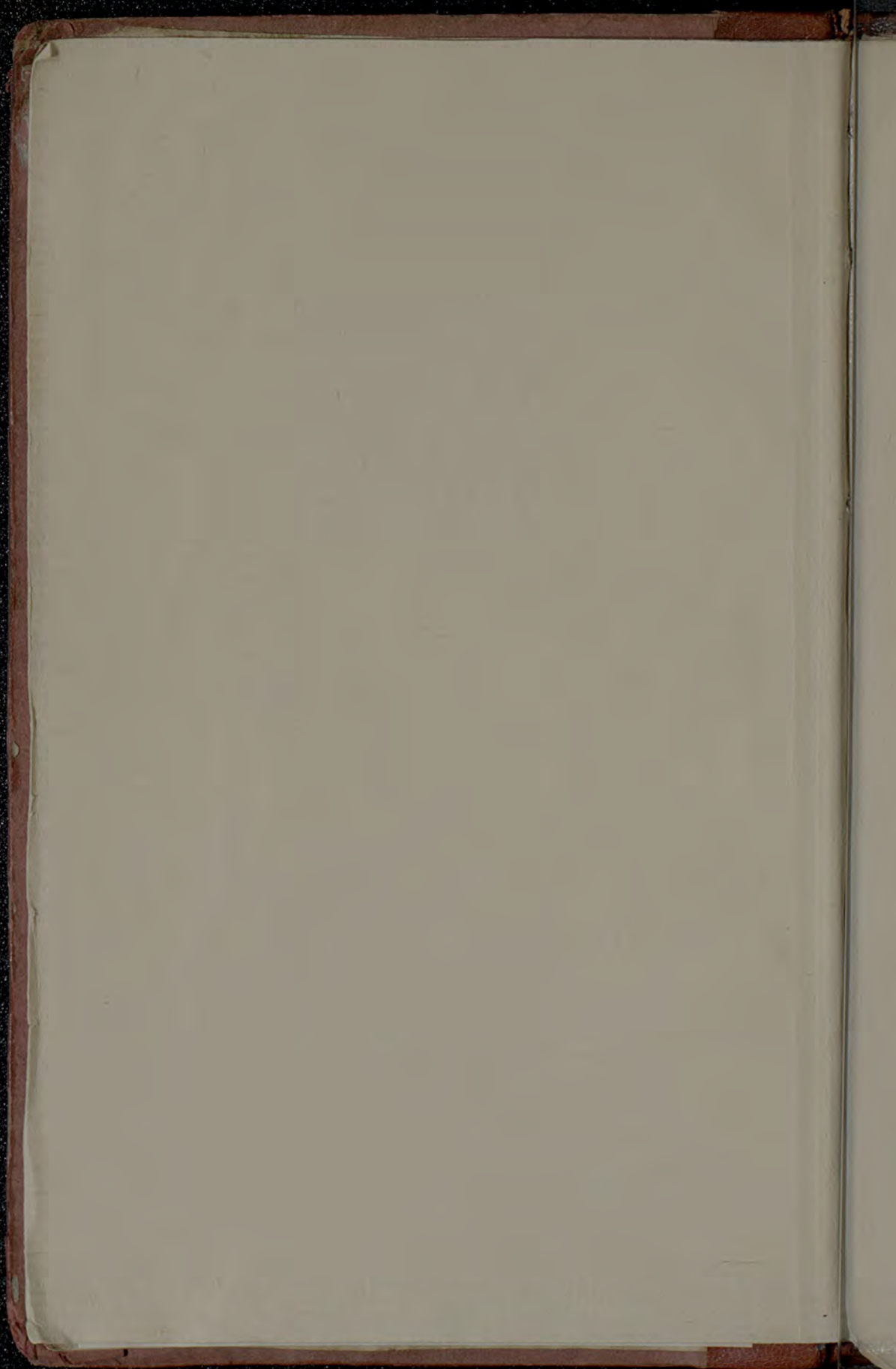
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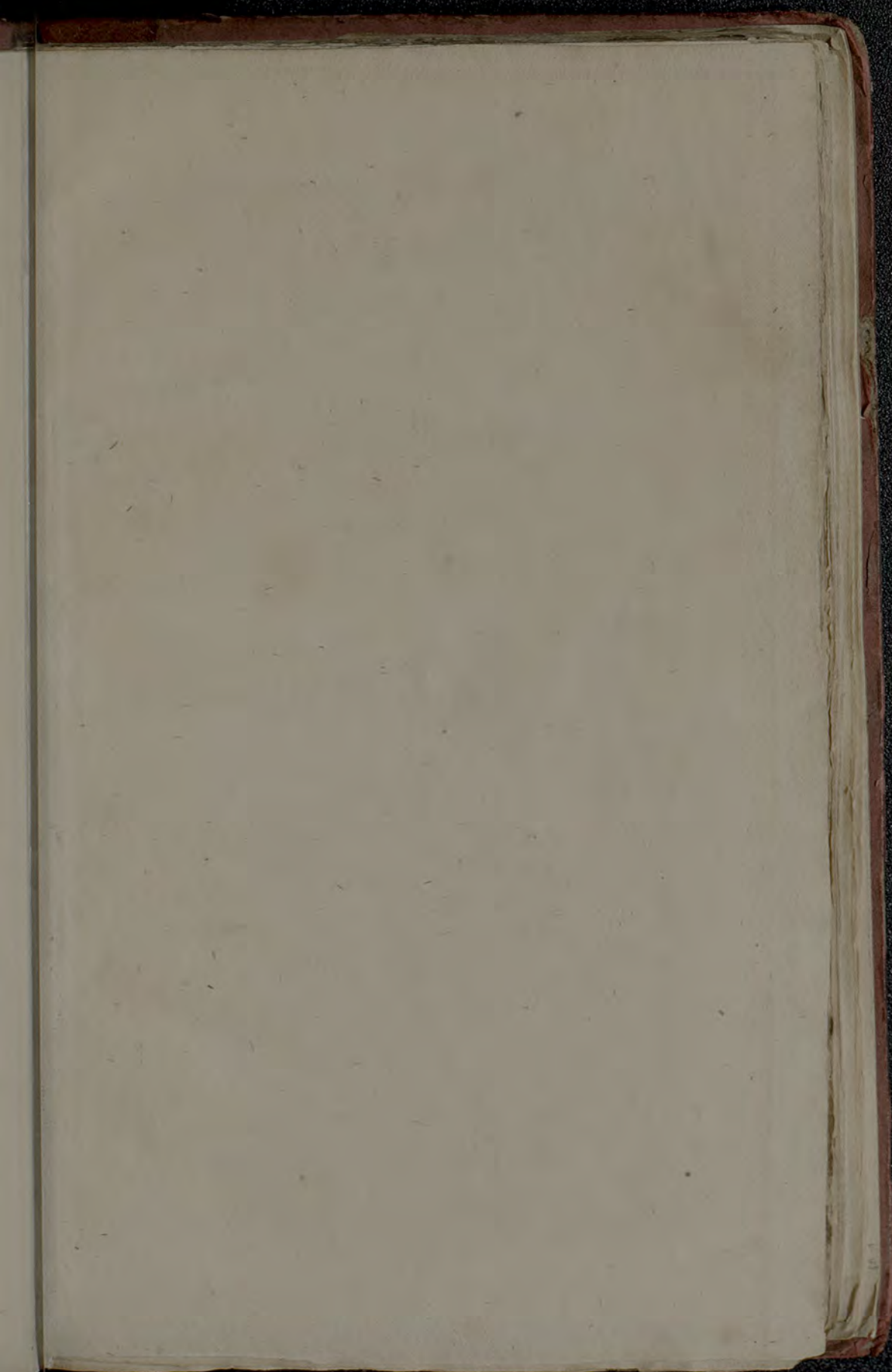
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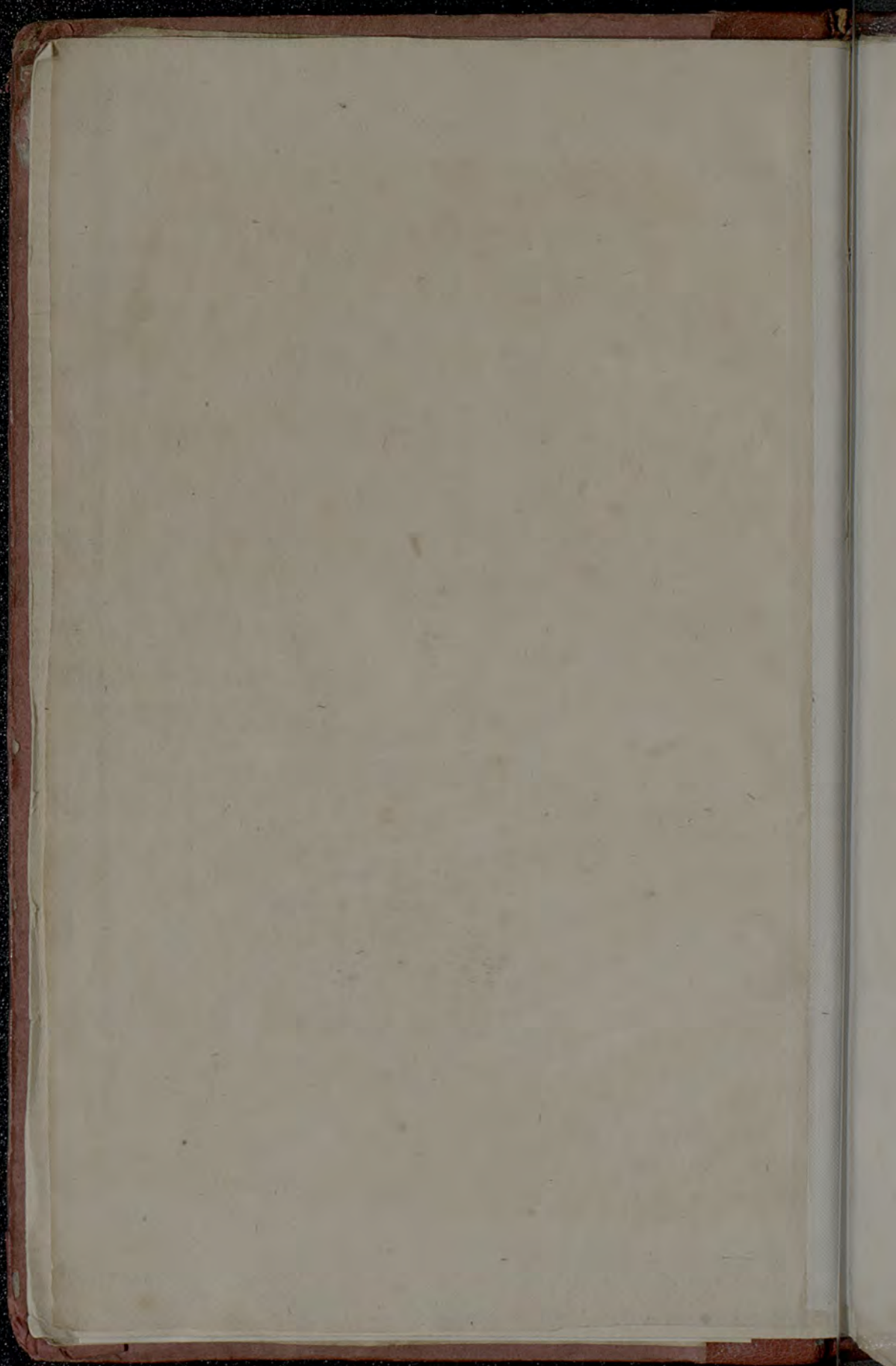


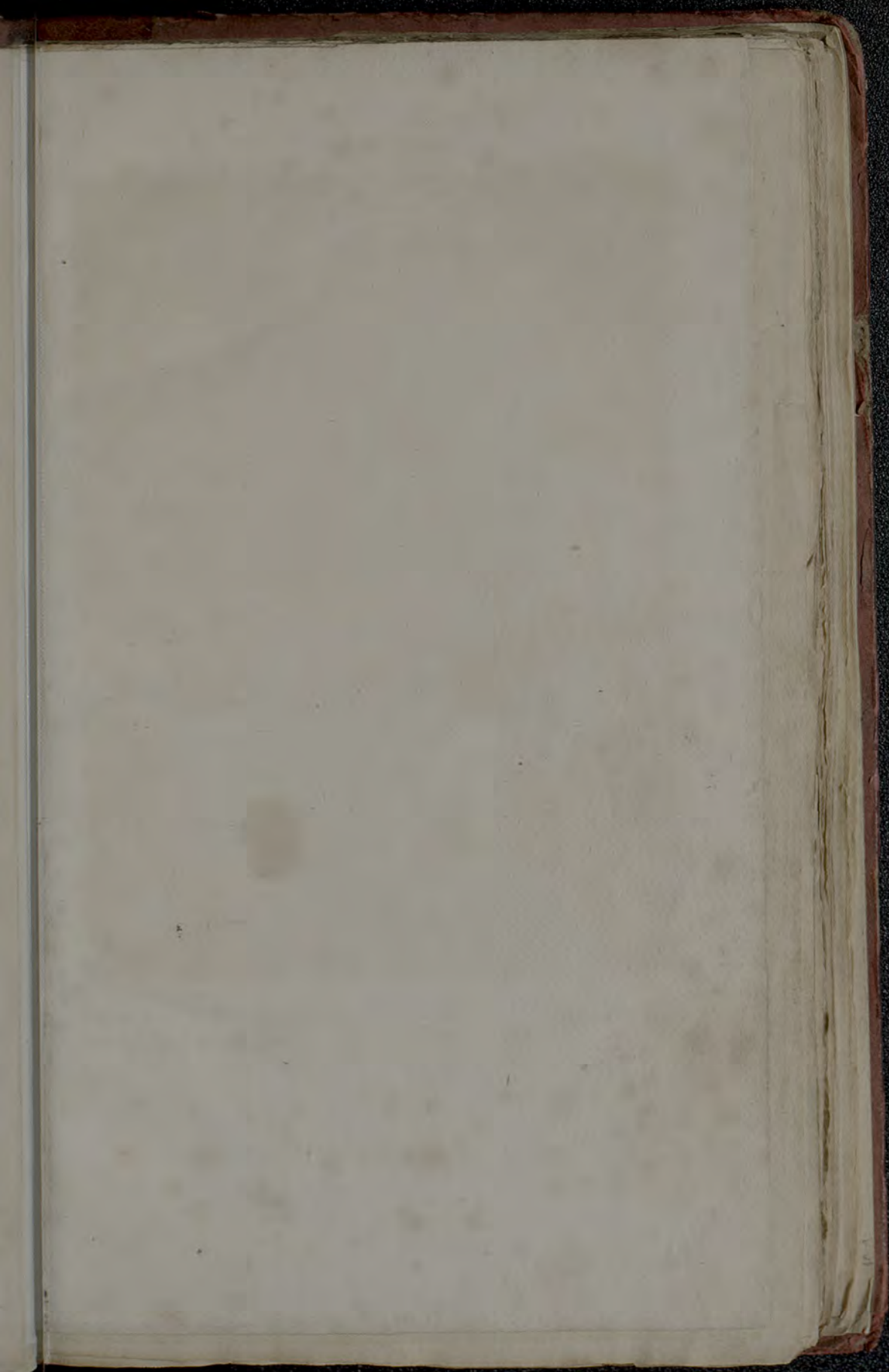












Frontispiece.



The man prudently remained at the horse's head until the frightened boys were out of the gig, when a general pursuit took place.

See page 42.

London, William Darton, 56, Holborn Hill, Nov. 21, 1822.

Confidential Memoirs;

OR,

ADVENTURES

OF

A PARROT, A GREYHOUND, A CAT,

AND

A MONKEY.

BY MARY ELLIOTT,

Late Belson.

London :

WILLIAM DARTON, 58, HOLBORN HILL,

—♦—

1821.

CONFIDENTIAL MEMOIRS,

&c.

FOUR idle inmates of a splendid apartment awakened, one afternoon in the midst of summer, from their usual daily repose, nearly at the same moment: two stretched themselves, yawning and growling, on the hearth-rug; a third gravely shook herself in her fine gilt inclosure; whilst the fourth rubbed his head and briskly looked about as if desirous of discovering what had taken place during his nap.

We presume our young readers already imagine, from this slight sketch, that it is not the human species we are about to describe; but in case they should not readily discern the truth, it may be well if our explanation be more satisfactory.

The two stretchers on the Persian hearth-rug were, an Italian Greyhound and a Tortoise-

shell Cat, both remarkably handsome of their kind, and great favourites with their mistress, from whose mistaken fondness they were thus magnificently lodged, fed on rarities, and treated rather as children than domestic animals. The inhabitant of the gilt cage was a fine Grey Parrot, whose noisy prattle was a constant source of admiration to the visitors of her mistress, and gained her many a nice bit, such as little girls and boys might have deemed an indulgence to be treated with.

The last of the quaternity, was a beautiful Monkey, full of tricks, an ingenious copyist of the actions of the human race, so that, at times, he almost did away the distinction between it and him.

The possessor of these four useless animals was a lady of rank and large fortune; but she was also a woman of weak mind, and pleased with trifling pursuits, otherwise she would not *thus* have maintained her favourites. Kind treatment of animals is but their due; and *they* must have a bad heart who could wantonly illtreat them; but it is no proof of

kindness to pet and fondle a dumb creature, feeding it with victuals that would nourish our own species; indeed such conduct is a crime.

These four pets lived not on very amicable terms with each other: they were all sagacious enough to discern who was most in favour, and to betray their displeasure accordingly; Julio would bark and snap at his rival; Puss would snarl and scratch; Poll would chatter and toss her head; nor was Pug behind-hand in shewing his resentment: many a sly pinch, or scratch on the head, had his three companions sustained, when he found himself out of favour with his mistress; while his natural nimbleness quickly removed him from the danger of reprisal.

On this day, their lady being engaged from home, they were left in charge of a confidential servant; his distribution of their dinner had not entirely satisfied them, and a squabble ensued. Pug was a favourite with James the footman; he was apt to increase his portion of

delicacies, when opportunity offered; and the creature was too conceited and mischievous to receive such favour quietly. On the contrary, he would show off a hundred airs, and taunt the others with his superior merits. Tired of scolding, fighting, and complaining, they, at length, yielded to their accustomed repose, and awoke as has been said, and in much better humour with each other.

“ Really,” said Poll, drawing up her stately head, “ it were a shame to dispute on trifles, when we have so many comforts and indulgences. For my own part, though my temper is a little ruffled now and then, I have no serious cause of complaint; my gilded cage I find a most pleasant and elegant abode; and surely this fine apartment offers the same to you, my companions. Pug, to be sure, can go but the length of his chain; but, to *our* cost, we know that is long enough: his activity and good spirits procure him constant amusement.

“ As to Swandown and Julio, their station gives them a degree of liberty surpassing even

our comforts ; but I presume this room is most agreeable to their habits, for I observe they never quit it for any length of time."

"True," observed Julio, "I believe my fat and sleeky friend will agree with me, that here we enjoy most freedom, though the space be confined. In truth, the servants are not over fond of us ; the trouble we occasion often offends their consequence, and gains us many a sly blow, or push, when we intrude into their vulgar apartments ; therefore, we naturally avoid their presence, except when our kind protectress is near ; then, indeed, no domestic would dare to affront our high mightinesses."

Swandown, as she licked her white paw, acknowledged the truth of Julio's speech ; and added, that, being truly English, she loved her fire-side in winter, and downy rug in summer, drawing all her comforts about her ; so that, unless instinct led her to seek a mouse now and then, she seldom desired to quit the drawing-room, but for the sunny lawn before them.

"Ah," said Pug, shaking his busy head, "I too love the sunny lawn and those beautiful shady walks beyond it; but my mistress seldom quits hold of my golden chain when she does allow me a ramble; while happy Julio frisks and bounds before her without restraint: even you, Mistress Poll, waddle at your ease over the long grass."

"Waddle!" exclaimed the Parrot, scornfully.

"Well, well," returned Pug, "I own it is an ugly word; so I humbly crave pardon."

A stately toss of the head was the answer; but Pug was not easily dashed; he had seen the world, and understood its humours: he scraped and bowed, grinned and jumped before the offended bird, until his peace was made.

Puss observed, there was always much ceremony amongst foreigners; but for her part she was downright English, and did not like fine speeches and compliments.

"Yet," said Pug, "I saw you very polite

and ceremonious with the black kitten, when she brought you a mouse the other day."

"Polite!" returned Puss; "aye, and I hope distant; for I assure you I never make free with the kitchen guests; indeed it was a great liberty in such a chit to intrude herself; but kittens are always troublesome."

"And so are monkeys," observed Pug; "at least, so it is said; but I must own I have seen the human species equally so, children in particular."

"I can subscribe to that truth," said Swandown, "for children have been a serious evil to me many times during my youth; happily my present home owns no such troublesome inmates."

"My mistress is not very fond of children," returned Julio, "otherwise, our indulgences would be far less. Yet I wonder her young nephew has not won her affection; for he is a most amiable boy, and very engaging. I can

judge of his character ; for I lived some months under the same roof with him ; and felt real regret when we separated : yet, candour obliges me to own, my fare was of the common kind ; and I was no pet with any one of the family, although treated kindly by all."

" I remember," said Poll, " it was Master Frederick who brought you here ; and sorry was I to see you, for I was then the only pet, and certainly desired no rival. I heard your shape and coat admired by every body, and had much ado, with all my prattle and singing, to share the notice you attracted. Mistress Swandown was next brought by Lady Meeke's housekeeper, and a handsome, sprightly creature she was. Her soft, white chest and paws gained her the name she bears ; my mistress declared they exceeded her Swansdown tippet, and for a time, her tricks superseded ours in the notice of our mistress. But cats are naturally grave, and when once the frolic of youth is past, settle at once into the sedate fire-side companion. Pug was our last associate ; and I must be plain in observation, he was a

complete pest to us for a long time : but the general notice he engaged by his mimicry, delighted every one else, nay *we* have been diverted from our envy and vexation by his amusing efforts ; and in spite of his teasing, laughed with the rest. I think at this time we are pretty equal in favour with our mistress ; our talents by turn amuse ; we are all well fed and lodged, without any trouble but that of our own making."

"Your confession is very honest," said Pug, "and I as honestly plead guilty to the charges brought against me ; but you must be aware, it is my nature to be trickish and saucy. Monkeys are observant ; they readily ape the manners of mankind ; so that, indeed, our very follies are owing to their example. To this aping quality I may attribute my entrance into this little circle."

"Suppose," cried Julio, "you favour us with a sketch of your life ; I am persuaded it must be exceedingly entertaining ?"

"With all my heart," replied Pug ; "but I imagine we should be mutually entertaining each

other, did we relate the various adventures of our lives, and of course the circumstances which brought us thus to associate. Poll is our senior in years and residence here ; her story, therefore, should take precedence of ours."

Poll assented with becoming dignity ; while Pug in high glee jumped upon the arm of his mistress's chair, close to the cage, rubbing his paws, licking his lips, and betraying every symptom of eager curiosity.

Julio stretched full length in front of the feathered orator's fine abode, pricked up his long ears, and fixed his animated eye on the speaker, fearful of losing a word. Swandown, with closed fore-feet, and chin resting on her downy breast, threw her beautiful tail gracefully round her, while with half-closed eyes and gentle purr, she gravely and quietly awaited the expected narrative.

Poll mounted her top perch, sidling from one end to the other, as if collecting her thoughts ; then coughing twice, and sounding her voice to catch the right tone, she thus began :

"That I am by birth a foreigner I imagine all here must know ; for the climate of this country is too cold to rear the young of my species, though in maturer age we bear your winters tolerably well. For myself, nursed and petted as I am, it would seem almost impossible I should distinguish the change of season ; nevertheless, cold weather affects both my spirits and appetite, and you may observe I do not talk so much in winter as in summer. I perceive Mr. Pug's smile, but I must persist in the truth of the observation."

THE PARROT'S STORY.

"Brazil, in South America, is my native country, a vast distance from this you will say. Julio, as a descendant of a once learned and distinguished people, might be supposed to understand the history of most others ; but I am sorry to say, Italy has long been in a degenerate state, and I fear his information on such subjects would not outrun that of our domestic friend Swandown ; therefore, I trust I shall not be deemed tedious if I mention a few particulars relative to my birth-place."

"Brazil was discovered by the Portuguese in the year 1500, but they did not cultivate it until nearly fifty years after. Alvarez Cabral was the person who made the discovery, and his countrymen proved cruel conquerors. I should shock your gentle feelings if I were to relate half the miseries endured by the Brazilians or natives; yet their rich country has proved a wonderful source of wealth to the ungrateful Portuguese; and the King's eldest son bears the title of Prince of Brazil.

"The great quantity of wood so named in this country, obtained for it the term of Brazil; and well I remember my native woods, where in the hollow of a tree I first drew breath. Some mothers, from natural laziness, do not trouble themselves to make a nest, but seek the hole formed by the Woodpecker; but *my* parent was of industrious habits, and liked a home of her own, where she could hatch and bring up her young agreeably to her wish.

"The largest of my kind are called maccaws; the smallest, parakeets; those of my size, parrots; and such as are entirely white, *lories*.

I will acknowledge, parrots are not the handsomest of the species ; but our facility of speech and natural sagacity, amply recompense for any superiority of external beauty in others. Those of my colour, grey, are usually the best skilled in speech, and therefore prized. We are all courageous, and are ready to assist each other when attacked by other animals ; and as we live together in flocks, we can make a formidable show on such occasions.

“ While very young I had several narrow escapes, some accidental and some from my own folly.

“ The natives of Brazil are not insensible to our entertaining qualities ; but I shudder while I say they have a still greater gratification in our flesh, and consider us as very delicate food. Thus I had nearly been caught by a savage for this purpose, and never shall forget the tremor I felt for many hours after I reached our nest in safety. Another time, having indulged myself too freely with the seed of the cotton tree, (which has the effect of wine upon us parrots,)

I became so intoxicated that, unmindful of danger, I spread my young wings and danced round the stem of the tree until my head grew giddy, and I easily fell into the hands of a laughing boy, who carried me off in spite of my chattering and scolding, when his foot struck against a mound of earth; he fell with violence, and with the shock loosed his hold of me. Fright had sobered me, and I soon winged my way to my mother: her lecture on my conduct made a lasting impression upon my youthful mind.

“Most wild animals require much taming ere they associate with mankind; but we are naturally fond of the human race, soon learn to hold converse and be familiar with them, and, like some of their own species, are resolved to have the last word.

“When about two months old, I was amusing myself with some parakeets of my acquaintance in a large tree of thick foliage, when a fowler who was on the watch, and heard our prattle, determined to secure some of the party: he was but too soon successful for, as he expected, a few

quitted the tree in search of fresh berries, and while on the wing he fired, and shot several. I endeavoured to escape with others who had missed his cruel aim ; but my colour attracted him, being so different from my companions, and a second shot was aimed at me alone : it took effect, though but slightly. I was wounded in the wing, and could only hop from branch to branch. His son, an active boy, then climbed the trunk of the tree on which I rested, terrified and bleeding, and soon caught me. I did not, however, yield without a struggle, and gave him many a sharp bite ; but he was not discouraged ; he laughed at my anger, and bore me off in triumph.

“ Behold me then for the first time deprived of freedom. The hat of my savage master was like those of his countrymen, formed of the branches of trees, and covered with palm leaves. The family was numerous, and unpolished enough ; but to me they were kind, and the mother took some pains to heal the wound under my right wing. In a short time I learned many of their words, to the great delight of

the children. They one day brought a Portuguese sailor to listen to me ; he understood their language sufficiently to be pleased by my aptness, and directly offered to purchase me.

“ The offer was quickly accepted. I was delivered into Sebastian’s care, and immediately taken on board his ship, and it sailed for Lisbon a few days subsequent. I could hardly fancy myself awake when I looked round and beheld my native country receding from my sight. How unlike my own green woods was the stormy ocean that surrounded me ! How different from maccaws, lories, parrots, and parakeets were the rough sons of Neptune, who jabbered on all sides in a language different from my late owner ! But even here I was fortunate ; Sebastian understood me and I him ; for, as I said before, he knew something of my native tongue.

“ During the voyage to Europe I proved no dunce, for by the time we reached Lisbon, I was almost a Portuguese ; and I trust I shall not be accused of vanity when I assert, that we

parrots have much quickness in learning languages. Think in how short a space of time I had acquired two.

“Lisbon you know is the capital of Portugal, and a city well worth the traveller’s notice. But, alas, I was a prisoner, and cannot describe what I was not at liberty to observe; I know it is north of the river Tajo, or Tagus, and built upon seven hills. I am told it is much improved since the terrible earthquake in the year 1755. Indeed, what little I saw of its buildings they are generally handsome, and some magnificent; but there is certainly a great want of cleanliness in the people, and consequently the city.”

“Shocking,” exclaimed Mrs. Puss, “I really could not exist in a dirty house: happily for my feelings, England is the land of comfort and cleanliness.”

“Very true,” returned Poll, “I perfectly agree with you on this point:—but, to my story.

“ Sebastian the sailor had a sister who gained a maintenance by letting her house to invalid foreigners ; for Lisbon has long been resorted to by the consumptive of many countries. To this sister he gave me, and I received from her much kindness ; but my noise and prating proved very annoying to a young English gentleman, who requested I might be removed. This my mistress promised should be done ; but as she did not care to part with her favourite, I was only placed in an obscure apartment, and beaten, or chid, whenever I made a noise loud enough for her lodger to hear.

“ At length, the invalid began to mend ; I was brought back to my old quarters, and having been so long under restraint, was too docile and quiet to disturb the gentleman ; who, upon hearing his servant speak in my praise, expressed a wish to see me. He was a scholar, and spoke the Portuguese language with fluency. I proved a great source of entertainment to him, many a weary hour did I beguile, and in return gleaned a new advantage from his society ; for I now became acquainted with the

English tongue, and with a facility that astonished my tutor.

“Few foreigners attain the English perfectly; but I certainly made great progress, and, as you must all allow, I now speak it with ease and rapidity.

“Six months thus passed away; I was a scholar, a pet, and, I might add, an epicure; for so great was Mr. Howard’s indulgence, that he treated and fed me as though I had been his child, rather than a bird.

“When spring arrived, he was so far recovered, that the physicians permitted his return to the isle of freedom; but so strong was his attachment to me, that he could not bear the idea of leaving me behind; so that after some coaxing, and a handsome present, my mistress agreed to resign me; a decision I was not sorry for, though I am certain my old friend Sebastian must have been mortified, when he heard it; for he much valued me, and begged she would take every care of me, until he returned from his next voyage. But self-love is a most

powerful feeling; and Madame Antonia knew her own interest too well, to suffer such a bargain to escape her.

“Well, my friends, we set sail, and after a tedious and stormy passage arrived at, as I understood, Falmouth in Cornwall. I cannot say my voyage had improved me, for I was a great sufferer from sea-sickness, and much reduced in body. As to mind, I fear that would have been injured, had my health proved better, for the sailors endeavoured to teach me many bad habits, which I escaped only from indisposition. Parrots, like children, easily receive impressions; it therefore should be the constant care of those about them, to prevent their imbibing what is wrong. I may truly say, that I was never given to evil ways, or vulgarity; and have been generally admired for propriety of speech and conduct.

“The joy of my master on reaching the British shore, communicated the same to me, his companion: I felt gay without knowing why, and seemed to have an interest in all that belonged to England.

"Mr. Howard remained a few days at Fal-mouth to recruit his strength; during the time, I picked up my flesh and spirits, so that we began our land journey under very pleasant feelings.

"We again rested two days at Bath, in Somersetshire, and a most beautiful city it is. I was taken to a lady's house in the Upper Crescent; she placed my cage in the window while she fed and chatted with me. But though sensible of her good intentions, I was so much struck by the beautiful prospect before me, that I certainly did not appear to advantage, as my master often said I did, when speaking of this visit.

"The noble stone buildings of Bath, surrounded by hills, and the picturesque appearance of the whole, must delight every traveller of taste. I was almost sorry to leave it; but novelty has great charms. Once more we proceeded, snug as you please, my master occupying half the seat, and my cage the other (for we travelled in a hack chaise); when, just as we reached the twentieth mile-stone

from London, the chaise broke down; fortunately neither of us was hurt, and an inn being within sight, we were soon lodged in safety. At this moment the Reading stage drove up, and my master finding a place vacant, had his baggage removed from the broken vehicle, and jumped into the coach. The coachman offered to fasten my cage on the top, but the rain fell rather heavily, and my master was fearful of exposing me to the air in a climate so much colder than any to which I had yet been accustomed.

“There were four passengers besides Mr. Howard, two of them children; so my cage did not threaten a great inconvenience. An old lady, however, strongly objected to more noise, as she said, (looking at the children ill-naturedly,) which so offended their mother, that she begged I might be brought in, said there was plenty of room, and many more civil things. ‘Most votes carry the day,’ is an old saying; so it was in this case, and my master, though a well-bred man, scrupled not to accept her offer; so that, notwithstanding the old lady’s grumbling and sour looks, I was admitted; but

my master placed the cage on his knees, so that she was not incommoded by me in any way.

“The scene was so new, that I could only look and wonder for some minutes, not to stare indeed: for you may observe my species are not bold-faced. I never saw a parrot look any one out of countenance; we rather glance or look slily.

“The children eyed me with much curiosity, and when I picked up courage and asked my master what it was o'clock, the eldest, who was a boy, about seven years old, clapped his hands in delight, and began asking me a hundred questions; my replies astonished his mother; even the old lady smiled, and said I was a clever bird.

“The little boy who at first amused me, now became troublesome; tried to pull my feathers, and, in short, went through all those mischievous manœuvres that children so often practise towards defenceless animals. I tried to parry his efforts for some time, but my patience at length being exhausted, I gave his

finger a slight bite. This occasioned him to scream loudly, and set him crying; and the silly mother, forgetting it was at her desire I was brought into the coach, now began to blame herself for suffering such a nasty, spiteful creature to be so near her dear Willy, 'a sweet, kind-hearted child, who would not hurt a worm.'

"Mr. Howard tried in vain to make himself heard, and I must own the noise was tremendous; for my natural talent for mimicry tempted me to imitate master Willy's loud screams and sobs, so that we almost deafened one another. The old lady was outrageous, if we might judge from her looks; for not one word could we hear. The outside passengers enjoyed the uproar, and I sometimes caught the words, 'Well done, Poll. Pretty Poll.'

"At last my master, by shaking my cage, made me understand he was angry; and as I valued his good opinion, I lowered my voice a little, the baby cried itself to sleep, and Willy dwindled his sobbing into a peevish whine; while the mother muttered and grumbled, pro-

mising her darling sugar-plums, gingerbread, and many other niceties, if he would be quiet until they reached London.

"This is not a very favourable instance of my conduct on first entering the metropolis; but I really think Willy and his mother were yet more to blame. Spoiled children are the worst of all torments, and excuses are made for them because they have intellect, and ought to know right from wrong.

"When peace was in some measure restored, my master made an apology to the elderly lady for the disturbance he had occasioned; to which she coldly replied, but seemed to think the children as much in the way as his bird. So you may fancy what an unpleasant party we formed for the remainder of the journey.

"Arriving in Piccadilly, we separated, to the gratification of all parties. Yet, such is the perverseness of some children, that Willy actually roared out when he saw my cage removed, and declared he would have the Poll Parrot.

“ Seated in a hackney coach, my master began to chide me for what I had done ; but I could perceive he smiled while he did so, as I guess, at the conduct of the silly mother. We stopped at a handsome house in Portland Place, where a large family hailed Mr. Howard’s return with unfeigned joy. Here he had a father, mother, brothers and sisters : the latter of various ages, were well managed, and of course well behaved. I was soon a general favourite, and treated uniformly well ; a handsome cage was purchased, and a mahogany stand for it. Here I was properly fed ; but not luxuriously as now. When school hours were over, the young ones hastened to me, to talk and play ; but never to tease me. I don’t remember once feeling out of humour while I resided with this amiable family ; and here I must observe, how delightful it is to witness such conduct in youth, even to an insignificant bird !

“ Perhaps this was the most contented period of my life, and certainly the most in which I improved ; my temper became mild, and I was so well taught, that my language

astonished every one who conversed with me, and brought many strangers to listen to my extraordinary gift of tongue.

“ Mr. Howard’s father had a villa on the banks of the Thames, and to it the family removed early in June. My cage was placed in a bow window, overlooking the beautiful grounds ; and greatly delighted I was to behold a scene which reminded me of early days. I could not, it is true, compare my master’s small plantation to my native woods, but the trees grew thick, and even luxuriantly, and offered a tempting shade. I often wished to enjoy the cooling prospect, but my cage was never open but when some of the young folks were near to watch me. We are poor judges, and so I believe are human beings, of what is for our good ; that which I most desired proved, when gained, one of the greatest evils of my life.

“ It was one sultry evening in August, that the eldest young lady, and my great favourite, came to feed me as usual ; she was thus employed when, hearing her papa call her to take

an evening walk, she hastily put in the fresh victuals, stroked my head in hasty kindness, and ran away singing. As she shut the room door, my cage shook, and betrayed to my gladdened eye, that I was not fastened in my prison. I raised my left foot, and pushed the wired barrier between me and freedom; it opened readily, and in one moment I was on the grass before the window. I spread my wings, and reached the first tree; but fearful of remaining too near the house, I flew down the avenue, into a more remote part of the grounds. I must tell you that it was my intention to return to my comfortable home, after regaling myself with this rural excursion. Alas, such was not my lot! On a sudden I found myself close to the river, and, bending my flight downwards, hopped along the low bushes which skirted its edge; but short was this enjoyment: a boat, nearly hidden by reeds and bull-rushes, was within a yard of me ere I perceived it; but the two watermen who rowed it were not so dim-sighted,—they instantly saw me, and one of them so dexterously threw his hat, that he knocked me from a bush to the ground, then stretching his arm through the tangled weeds,

he caught me by the beak; for he, I suppose, guessed I should bite him.

“To resist was in vain; I could only look towards my late habitation, as I caught a glimpse of it through the trees, and regret I had so heedlessly lost a good home.

“The man who held me, addressed me in terms which proved he had been a sailor; I therefore repeated all the phrases I had learned in my voyage from Lisbon, while he and his companion shouted with surprise and laughter.

“‘Well,’ cried he, ‘I have heard many parrots in my time, but this is the bravest of them all: it talks as well as my little Jenny, and as tame too as an infant.’

“‘Faith, Jack,’ cried the other, ‘you have caught a prize,—that bird is well worth two guineas.’

“‘I don’t think,’ returned Jack, ‘I would part with it for double the sum; no, no, Poll is a downfall; I can buy an old cage for a trifle,

and the young ones will be finely pleased to have such a playmate.'

"What a dreadful hearing was this! I, who had been used to so much elegance and comfort, to become the companion of the vulgar, in some obscure part of the town; for I guessed Jack's dwelling must be of a homely sort. These anticipations kept me silent the rest of the way, and my new owner, supposing I was weary, did not teaze me to speak, but kindly took the silk handkerchief from his neck to keep me from the heavy dew falling; for he observed, there was no doubt I had been used to a fine cage and delicate fare.

"How great was my disgust when we landed at a flight of dirty steps! We proceeded through a narrow, filthy street, and at length took shelter in a very small, mean house, situated in a confined alley. I really thought I should not be able to breathe in such a place, and certainly passed a most uneasy night, covered by a large reed basket; for the man had no cage for me.

"The children were in bed when we arrived, so that I did not see them until the morning. Never was greater joy than little Jenny and her brother Tom expressed, when their father exhibited me to them.

"I was not well, and very unhappy; but I could not remain silent when solicited to say one word, by two innocent, tender-hearted children, who skipped and clapped their hands when I spoke to them.

"Their mother indeed was not so well pleased; she grumbled at the trouble of attending me, and talked of the dirt I should make in their small apartment. Her husband promised to look out for a cheap cage, and the children declared they would keep it clean, and attend to me themselves.

"Two days passed, and my master's earnings were not sufficient to purchase the desired cage. My basket covering was a very unpleasant and confined shelter; but I must do little Tom and Jenny the justice to own, that they never once attempted to molest or worry me in any way :

they could scarcely leave the room all day, so delighted were they to listen to and watch me.

“On the third day their father came home, and told his wife he had seen an advertisement offering a reward of three pounds for a parrot, which he doubted not was myself.

“‘Take him back, by all means,’ said she:

“‘O, pray don’t take him away,’ cried both the children.

“‘I don’t wish to part with the bird,’ said the man, ‘but money is tempting, and perhaps it is not quite honest to keep what belongs to another.’

“‘Why, you did not steal it, man,’ cried his wife; ‘the Parrot was fairly and honestly found, and you have a right to do with it what you will: but, as I said before, take him back to the right owner; that will satisfy your scruples, and put money into your pocket.’

“‘What, shall we really lose poor Poll?’

exclaimed the weeping Jenny; 'Daddy, do not, pray do not sell it.'

"The fond father hesitated; the mother chid Jenny and her brother for crying about such nonsense, and urged her husband to follow her advice. Amid the discord a neatly dressed young woman entered, who I soon understood was the waterman's sister. Upon learning the cause of the disturbance she witnessed, she differed from all parties, assuring them, she could propose what would be far more to their advantage than keeping the bird, or taking it back to Richmond.

"'You know,' continued she, 'my mistress is very rich, and not stingy, I can assure you. Now she has long been wishing for a good talking parrot; and as this one you say speaks so plain, I don't doubt but she would give you a much handsomer price than the real owners would do.'

"Jack's wife caught at this proposal; but he was unwilling to thwart the children, and could not readily determine the affair. Just then his

landlord calling for the rent, and poor Jack not being prepared to pay it, he no longer wavered, but agreed to his sister's offer.

"I was not depressed by the approaching change; for my situation was most unpleasant, notwithstanding the natural amiability of the children; besides, I accidentally discovered that I was in the neighbourhood of a most vulgar part of the metropolis, called Wapping, and my delicate nerves were quite offended by this degradation, as I thought it. As my stay was likely to be short, it was not deemed worth while to buy a cage for me, so that I still continued under the basket, half stifled.

"On the second day from this one mentioned, the young woman came to conclude the bargain: five guineas settled the business, and a cage was borrowed for my removal; but Hannah (the girl's name) observed, a fine golden one was purchased ready to receive me. This piece of news flattered my vanity, and when added to the joy of quitting my present abode, made me almost insensible to the sincere grief of poor little Tom and Jenny.

"It never entered into my head, that my new residence would be inferior to my two former ones; and again green trees and magnificent rooms swam before my eyes. The noisy streets we passed through did not surprise me; but, having come from Richmond by water, I had no idea of the interior of London, and expected every minute to turn into some fine open street or splendid square. Alas! I was wofully disappointed; for the journey ended at a large, gloomy-looking house in one of the narrowest lanes in Cheapside. Passing through a well-stocked, but dirty grocer's shop, we mounted a broad, dark staircase, and were ushered into my new mistress's presence. She addressed me in coaxing terms; but I was sulky, and answered sparingly. However, when removed into a large, though clumsy, new cage, and fixed in the dining-room window, loaded with all that parrots like to eat, I could not but relent a little, at which the lady was highly delighted.

"You must know, that in the commercial part of London the lower parts of the houses are generally appropriated to trade; so that

the family occupy the upper part only. It was the case here; the dining-room was on the first floor, and fronted the street. In one window I was placed; but so narrow was the street, and so high the houses, that it never appeared day-light complete. The weather was very warm, and the window left open; but trifling was the breeze I inhaled; while the constant rolling of carts, and the din of London cries and noisy passengers nearly crazed me: my temper was ruffled.

“ I repeatedly called to the passers by, and mocked the speakers; many answered, all laughed or scolded, so that I lived in continual agitation of mind and spirits. Nor was this all; my mistress was a widow without children; but she was a fat, good-natured woman, and liked to have young folks about her. Her indulgence of them was a source of evil to me; for spoiled children are apt to be cruel to animals, and *her* young friends were not better than others. I was worried to sing and dance, to ask questions and answer in the same breath. Tempting bits were held within my reach, then snatched away when I thought myself secure of

them. If, through eagerness or vexation, I snapped at the fingers of my tormentors, blows, pinches and cross words were my reward; in short, I have not yet patience to detail all I suffered in that abominable mansion. Yet I was well fed, kept clean, and had a most excellent mistress. I could really be tempted to give public lectures on the ill effects of mistaken indulgence; but so prejudiced is the world, that I fear my judicious advice would be termed 'Parrots' prating.'

"No doubt," observed Pug, sagaciously shaking his head, and resting it carelessly on his right paw.

Poll resumed: "Let me not, however, forget one pleasant day I experienced, when, my mistress being absent, her maid Sally invited my old friends, little Tom and Jenny, by way of a holiday. These sweet children were overjoyed to see me again, nor was I less pleased. My tongue ran the whole day; I endeavoured to shew them how glad I was to meet old friends, and we each felt sorry when evening brought the hour of separation.

"As winter advanced, I was of necessity removed from the window, and passed two months heavily enough; for gloomy was the apartment, and my mistress had a happy method of sleeping the whole afternoon. Except when she had visitors, we did not exchange a dozen words for many hours. In short, I found a kind of lethargy stealing over me, which threatened to destroy my social qualities.

"A niece of my mistress noticed the change, and concluding it was owing to the seclusion in which I lived, she proposed taking me to her house at Hampstead, where, she said, I should have air, and be cheered by the company of her boys.

"To these young gentlemen I was no stranger; but the acquaintance was not of a pleasant kind: they were unruly, cross children, and I, sincerely hoped my mistress would not consent to the plan. But her usual easy temper made her soon yield, and it was agreed the *sweet* boys should come to town early in the next week, and take me back with them.

“ Well, they did come in their papa’s gig, driven by a man-servant ; and strict were the orders their aunt gave them, concerning my treatment ; but she talked to the winds ; they said yes, without thinking, or even hearing half she said ; and when we were departing, they almost fought to have the particular charge of me.

“ My cage was covered all to a small space at top, lest I should take cold, and Master Benjamin, being the eldest, was allowed to hold it on his knee.

“ As soon as they were off the stones, Charles demanded to have his turn, and tried to drag me from his brother : this the other resisted, and it was with much difficulty the groom prevented all three tumbling to the ground. A fit of crying in some measure quieted Master Charles ; but when the man-servant got out to adjust the horse’s reins, Charles made another attempt to gain his point, and a struggle ensued, during which the cloth which sheltered me was removed, and in trying to replace it, Benjamin

overset the cage, and it fell into the road. Frightened as I was, I soon discovered the cage door was not only uppermost, but open. My wings spread unconsciously, and I reached a leafless tree in the hedge, where I viewed with malicious pleasure the party beneath. The man prudently remained at the horse's head until the frightened boys were out of the gig, when a general pursuit took place; but as the banks were high from the road, they were not quickly climbed. Add to this, James the servant was fearful of leaving the vehicle in a public road, and you may suppose Benjamin and Charles were not very formidable pursuers. My courage increased as the danger lessened, and I could not forbear taunting the bad children, who, though enraged, had no method of revenge.

"I flew across two or three fields, and alighted on a broad stone wall, surrounding a spacious garden. The wind blew keenly, and a brisk shower was falling; and as I rested a minute, I muttered some complaints, such as, 'Poor Poll; here is terrible work; Poll is lost,' &c.

"A venerable looking old man in a plain livery now appeared in a gravel walk just under this part of the wall, and looked up in astonishment as he listened to me.

"I must again repeat, our nature assimilates with mankind; we love their society though we fear their power. I did not fly off on perceiving the mild countenance of the stranger; I kept pace with him until he reached the end of the walk, when he entered the house by a side door, and in a few minutes I saw him open the folding halves of a large French window, which he directly quitted, leaving me free to enter. I did not hesitate long; the blaze of a large fire and hope of security led me to try new protectors. I was on the Turkey carpet in the twinkling of an eye, and almost as soon did the old gentleman appear in the garden, and close the window from without. Thus sure of his prey, he again entered the room, and by coaxing and gentle means, induced me to perch upon his finger. In this position he bore me to his mistress, a very old lady, who, seated in a huge arm chair, was knitting; a monstrous tabby cat at her feet. Puss raised her lazy form

on seeing me, and occasioned excessive alarm on my part. But she was too well fed and too lazy for any exertion, she only growled and laid down again; while her mistress took off her spectacles, cleaned them, put them on again, and viewed me over and over.

“ Andrew then related how I came into his possession; the old lady smiled, stroked, and spoke to me.

“ I liked the appearance of this, and ran on in my gayest style.

“ I understood that one of my species had long been a favourite with my new mistress, and that it died only a few weeks previous to my introduction.

“ The lady observed she thought I was not so handsome as her former pet; but she must confess I talked much better, and indeed was a most surprising bird.

“ ‘ I ne’er saw the like o’ it,’ said Andrew, in a broad Scotch accent, ‘ I ween Poll hae

come frae a bonny hame. Ye would nae see birds o' this sort flitting aboon our gardens just to get shelter.'

"'No doubt,' replied his lady, 'but Poll has been a pet before to-day. You must look to the old cage, Andrew, and see if it can be put in any kind of order for our unexpected visitor.'

"Andrew set about this task immediately, and in less than half an hour I was fixed in my new residence, surrounded with every refreshment I could need; and I assure you I was not a little hungry, having fasted so long.

"A long and comfortable nap much refreshed me, though I had an unpleasant dream of again being in the power of Benjamin and his brother; but happily it was but a dream, and I awoke to find myself under safe and honourable protection.

"You may naturally suppose that my life now ran on smoothly and pleasantly; but there

is ever some obstacle to happiness, as I found, even under a roof most hospitable.

“ Lady Placid, for that was my kind hostess's name, had a female attendant, who possessed none of Andrew's kindness of nature towards the helpless ; nay, I have heard it whispered, that my predecessor might have lived longer had she been less cruel. Until the arrival of the first parrot she had enjoyed all the confidence of her lady, and sat working with, or reading to her all the morning ; but Poll was a novelty, and often superseded Mistress Jane, to her great chagrin. She could not brook even so humble a rival, and made the poor bird feel her resentment, whenever opportunity offered.

“ In some measure I felt the effects of her anger, though honest Andrew watched her pretty closely ; but I had many a hard slap and sharp pinch when I talked too much for her delicate nerves. For, notwithstanding the praise she bestowed on my pretty tongue, when in the presence of her lady, we were no sooner alone than her head was distracted by my noise ; I

was the ugliest bird in the world, and she wished me by the side of her former enemy, who was buried beneath the great mulberry tree.

“However, wishes do not kill: I lived on, and lived to see her dismissed from her situation for impertinence to her indulgent mistress.

“Not one in the house regretted her departure, and you may imagine *I* did not; on the contrary, I believed my happiness complete. I was a weak, silly bird to determine so hastily; a change, a sad change, was near at hand; my good fortune received a severe check in the death of Lady Placid. This melancholy event took place rather suddenly, when I had been her inmate nearly two years. I was truly sorry, and spoke less for many days after. But poor old Andrew was the most serious and sincere mourner; he had lived in her service from boyhood, and ever found her a bountiful mistress. His grief had a sensible effect upon me, and he generally indulged it when attending me, as he was wont to do in our lady's lifetime.

“From the different conversations I heard, as the other servants chatted round me, I learned Andrew was made independent by his mistress’s bequest, and at this I sincerely rejoiced. He was going back to Scotland too, and I then began to tremble as to my future lot; but my fears were soon ended by Andrew taking my cage from its stand, and proceeding to a hackney coach, which waited at the door. He put me into it with his baggage, and got in himself. All the domestics seemed sorry to part with him,—a proof of his good conduct. Poor Poll was not forgotten in their adieus; and thus we departed.

“Hampstead is but a short ride from London; we were soon in Holborn, where we alighted at the Bell Inn, and I heard my protector inquire when the stage would start.

“‘At one, your honour,’ answered a coachman.

“One o’clock came; Andrew and I again were travellers: the Sydenham coach brought us to this delightful mansion. I was delivered into the hands of our present liberal protectress,

who was no less than the sister of my late venerable owner, in compliance with whose last request I was thus bestowed.

“That I was well received may be readily believed. Andrew was kindly treated, and remained two days with us; but on the third he quitted Rose Hall, and returned to his native country.

“I shall not trouble you with my regret and sorrow, when deprived of this old friend; but it was not trifling I can assure you.

“‘Andrew, honest man,’ I often exclaimed, ‘come, haste ye man, Poll wants you.’

“This sentence he had taught me, and was very proud when I learned it completely.

“It is now five years since I took up my abode at Rose Hall; the three first past without any interlopers; I was all in all with my mistress. Master Frederick too, when he came to visit his aunt, was much diverted by my gift of speech, and taught me many amusing

sentences ; and, as Julio observes, he never exercised undue power over me ; for he is a noble-hearted, humane boy.

“ Here ends my story, not particularly entertaining I will allow ; but candour and truth must plead my excuse. I could not dress up my narrative in false colours, and I trust my hearers will follow the example when relating their own history.”

Numberless thanks did the Brazilian bird receive, when her story was ended. All declared it was most entertaining, and each expressed fears of affording the like amusement.

Poll appeared overcome by their praise, and fluttered from side to side of her cage, as she made acknowledgments for their kind approbation, while her swelling neck and ruffled feathers betrayed how flattered she was, notwithstanding her humility.

The setting sun threw a gleam over the apartment, and shewed the near approach of evening ; and as Poll was known to retire

early, Julio proposed delaying his recital until the following day, observing, that as their mistress would not return before the ensuing evening, there would be sufficient time to recount his trifling adventures.

This proposal met general consent, and shortly after, James the footman conducted Cat, Greyhound, and Monkey, to their respective bed-places in a small room adjoining; the Parrot remaining in her usual station.

The next morning, soon as breakfast was ended, all eagerly assembled in the drawing room, and Julio, in easy attitude reclining began his promised tale.

JULIO'S STORY.

"Notwithstanding Mistress Poll's severe observation on the degeneracy of my country, I must say, I feel a degree of pride in being a native of Italy, a country celebrated for its acquirements, its arts and conquests. I will admit that our energies have long slumbered; but many ages must yet elapse ere the world

can forget what Rome was, or what Italy has given to the world.

“ In the magnificent city of Florence I first drew breath; my mother had been a favourite of a great cardinal, and by him presented to a lady of high rank. My birth-place was a palace; few dogs were so attended and watched during infancy. You would think me incorrigibly vain were I to enumerate half the praises bestowed upon my beauty when first exhibited to the world.

“ Florence is the capital of Tuscany, and the universal resort of travellers; its magnificent buildings, handsome bridges, wonderful specimens of paintings, statuary and architecture, must delight the eye of taste. Often, very often, have I heard the most rapturous expressions of approval from the various strangers who visited my mistress.

“ The language of Tuscany is esteemed the purest of all Italy, and many foreigners of distinction sojourn in Florence to acquire elegant Italian.

“ When I was about four months old, a gentleman from England was introduced at our palace ; and, from his polished manners and general knowledge, became a frequent visitor ; for the Count, my master, was a learned man, and kept open house for men of talent from all countries.

“ Sir Edward Butler soon distinguished me as the handsomest dog he had seen in Italy ; his notice greatly increased my self-consequence ; for I foolishly imagined it was another proof of his well-known taste, and I affronted my eldest brother by wondering *he* should be so little admired, seeing my mother was a distinguished beauty, and myself not far behind her.

“ Frescati pawed the ground with indignation as he checked my ill-timed vanity ; and assured me the time might come, when my beauty would stand me in little need. I laughed at his warning, and ran eagerly to meet my warm admirer Sir Edward Butler, who just then entered and called me to him in his usual affable tone.

"Many were the handsome presents of English produce and manufacture the Count and his lady received from this gentleman, who at length announced his intended departure. Compliments passed on both sides; but I now know enough of the world, to doubt all the professions I then heard.

"A few days after, Sir Edward quitted Florence; but previously, the Countess my mistress sent me as a parting gift to her English friend. He was quite delighted by this mark of attention, and, as he played with me, spoke of the pleasure I should afford his mother.

"I had no time to take leave of my own family, for we were not aware of the separation. But so constant had been my mother's lectures on my frivolous manner, that I was at no loss to guess what she would have said, had she known we were about to part.

"Frescati was out with the Count when I quitted the palace. I fear he did not grieve at

my absence, for he was certainly of an envious disposition; and though I will allow my vanity might sometimes have made me a disagreeable companion, yet I really was not ill-natured; and always expressed my sorrow for giving him uneasiness. I will not dwell on these reflections, for they are of a nature to give me pain; and do not place either Frescati or myself in an amiable point of view.

"Sir Edward was desirous of reaching Ireland before the winter commenced; and as it was then October, he did not stop long on the road. We spent a day in Genoa the proud; so denominated from its numerous churches and palaces built of marble. A few hours sufficed for other places, until we reached Bourdeaux in France; from this port we sailed for Ireland."

"Slight as my view of Bourdeaux was, I was much struck with its size, riches, and grandeur. I understand," addressing Swan-down, "that your Edward the Black Prince resided several years in this city; and here his unfortunate son, afterwards Richard the

Second, was born. The famous wine called claret, likewise the spirit named brandy, form a great branch of trade from this place.

“ Slender and delicate as I appear, I proved an excellent sailor, while my master suffered much from sickness. My food did not quite suit my appetite; for though good in its kind, a trading vessel afforded far different meals to the luxuries of a palace. Our passage too was very tedious, and I was not very sorry to hear the cry of ‘Ireland for ever,’ ‘the land of potatoes,’ and many other expressions of pleasure, uttered by the boisterous sailors, as we entered the spacious and beautiful bay of Dublin. As an Italian, I may be suffered to presume to own some idea of grandeur, beauty and taste: I must acknowledge the scene presented to my view claimed all my attention and praise.

“ My master observed my eager countenance, and smilingly observed, as he stroked back my long ears, that Julio was evidently admiring his beloved country, in return for *his* approbation of Italy.

"We landed at a place called the Pigeon House; for my master was eager to get on shore.

"I will not say much for the hackney coach which conveyed us into the city; so unlike was it to the elegant equipage of the Countess, or the convenient travelling one of Sir Edward. I did not care to offend my master by any appearance of disgust; but kept snug on his knees during the ride, never once venturing my delicate foot on the dirty cushions.

"I do not pretend to a knowledge of geography, therefore shall not trouble you with descriptions of a place no doubt familiar to you all from hearsay. Nevertheless, Dublin is an elegant city, its buildings very noble, and the squares strikingly large and handsome.

"My master's home was not in the city; but being a man of some rank, he remained a short time in Dublin, in order to pay his respects at the Castle, where the Lord Lieutenant

resides, and represents his Sovereign and yours,
George the Fourth.

“ It was on Christmas day that we arrived at Sir Edward's mother's house, a few miles from Dublin. Much disappointed I was at the little notice taken of me during the first hour ; for Sir Edward was an object of the tenderest regard to his mother and sister, a fine young lady of sixteen.

“ At length it was Julio's turn to be caressed ; my master presented me in great form ; and both ladies declared I was a perfect beauty. Miss Butler fed me with the daintiest bits ; and herself prepared a couch for my repose.

“ During the festivities of the season, I had full opportunity of ‘ shewing off ;’ for the house was full of company, and many fair ladies, who *should* have listened to my master's instructive conversation on what he had seen while on the continent, bestowed most of the time in playing with and caressing me.

"Miss Butler was certainly in a fair way to spoil me; but the good lady her mother, checked such fondness continually; for although kind and considerate to all animals, she thought it almost a crime to pet them as children, and feed them on luxuries, when so many human beings had scarcely a meal to put into their mouths.

"I must own I then thought her a very prejudiced person; and did not feel very thankful for the proper notice she took of me; but I now see her conduct in a very different light.

"Proud as we may feel of our superiority over some of our own race, after all, we are but brutes, and the necessities of mankind are of greater consequence than ours.

"You are aware that greyhounds are the swiftest and lightest of all dogs, and our sight so keen, that we pursue hares by this sense, and not by smell, as other dogs do: but Italians of my size and beauty are nurtured in the lap of indolence, and lose all that spirit and keenness for which the English greyhounds are so much admired.

“Sir Edward had two of these: he was a great sportsman, and valued them highly. I have really felt ashamed when I heard him boast of their exploits and courage. While patting me on the head, he observed, ‘Poor Julio has little notion of such exercise; he is only suited for ladies, to play at their knee, or sleep away time on a soft couch.’

“Fleetfoot and Slender were the names of my rivals; we seldom met, for they were never admitted to the drawing-room, and I seldom ventured out of warm apartments. For though Ireland is a mild climate, it was not like my native Italy. As I crossed the hall from the library to the drawing-room, I now and then encountered them, and not deigning to notice such vulgar creatures, I used to throw back my ears, raise my head to shew my profile, and skim the marble floor with all the conceit of a modern dandy. These airs were however checked, when I found the two friends only laughed at my folly; they seemed to consider me an atom, and once Fleetfoot actually jumped over me, pretending that he did not see so small a substance; then they put their heads together as if con-

jecturing the use to be made of me, wagged their tails, and went away simpering.

“My vanity was severely wounded, I slunk back to the library, and, couching at Sir Edward's feet, did not venture to move until he left the room. As we passed to the drawing-room, Slender bounded from the lawn, to fondle his master, and whether intentionally or not, I cannot say, but he passed me with a force that nearly threw me down. ‘Irish politeness,’ thought I as I crept to my master.

“‘Gently, Slender, gently,’ cried the Baronet, ‘you wild Irish fellow; do not you see how you have frightened master Julio? He will take a day's nursing after such roughness.’ Then stooping to pat me, he continued, ‘No, poor Julio, I did not bring you so far from home, to have you ill used.’ He then addressed me in the Tuscan dialect; of course I understood him, and pricked up my ears, skipped and played a hundred pranks to shew my knowledge. Slender slunk away, and if ever a brute countenance reproached man's, his did at that moment. He knew himself to

be a tried and faithful servant, and if not adorned with foreign graces, he possessed all the best qualities of a greyhound.

“The spring set in remarkably mild, and I scrupled not to join Miss Butler in her morning walks through the grounds. Once or twice we tried the high road; but the path was too moist for an elegante like myself. I would not advance, and my fair mistress was obliged to bring me back in her arms. My delicacy was greatly ridiculed by her brother; and he declared I was a downright milksop, and that his own honest dogs were worth a hundred Italian ones.

“These sarcasms were in great measure softened by the additional kindness of Miss Butler; she always took my part on such occasions, and scolded her brother for his censure of me.

“One evening in April, when the family dined out, I strolled round the flower garden, and enjoyed the fragrance of early sweets: one of the rustic gates being open, I passed

through, and found myself in a beautiful green lane; as I advanced, I heard voices, and soon perceived two children playing at the door of a small, but neat cabin.

"Dogs are universally attached to children; from my birth, I had lived where there were none of this interesting race. The two before me instantly secured my regards; their round cherry cheeks, laughing eyes and sweet countenances made direct way to my heart. I ran bounding up to them, and pulled the youngest by the petticoat,—for outer garment called gown, she had none. Neither had they shoes or stockings, yet I have never known happier children; so that fine clothes can have little to do with happiness.

"So fully engaged were the little urchins, that I was not perceived until I pulled the younger one. For a moment she fixed her eyes on me in delighted surprise; then clapping her hands with joy, she exclaimed, 'See Mary, honey, here is a dear crature of a dog!'

"'O! it's a picture, sure enough,' returned

the eldest girl, 'run to the barn, Judy, and tell mother what we have found.'

" 'We did not find it,' said the little one, 'it came to us you know. I dare say it wants to live in our cabin, and eat our nice bread. The poor thing,' and she stooped to fondle me.

" 'Much obliged to you, thought I, but much as I covet your notice, I have no desire to fix my abode in such a place, or to eat your cake-bread; such food would ill suit my appetite.

" 'The smiling Judy little guessed my ungrateful ideas, but continued to caress me; while Mary finding it was vain to try and separate us, went herself to the barn and told her mother of their prize.

" 'It is something like Sir Edward's fine dog,' said she, 'but so small, so beautiful, O! you never seen such a crature in all your life.'

" 'Mrs. Donovan hastened to see the wonder of all wonders, and certainly her praise fell little short of the children's. 'It is a choice

bit, indeed,' observed she, stroking my silky skin and admiring its softness; 'but where in the wide world did it come from; it's not the like of us can keep such dogs: it must surely belong to the big house. Sir Edward may have brought it home from foreign parts with the rest of his gimcracks.'

"'In truth, mother, and he may,' said Mary, rather despondingly, 'and I am sorry for it: I wish the poor thing had no friends but us.'

"'Bad friends for such a baste as this!' replied her mother; 'it's not our coarse fare would keep up this sleek skin. Ah! Mary, even the dogs get dainty in a gentleman's house.'

"'But we would be so fond of it,' said Judy, opening her arms and embracing me, 'that it should soon forget the fine living at the big house.'

I was so pleased with the little creature's warmth of heart, that I licked her face in real

fondness, while the mother and sister laughed heartily at this proof of my affection.

“Just then their father arrived, and listened to Judy’s account of me with a smiling countenance.

“‘The dog belongs to Sir Edward, sure enough,’ cried Donovan, ‘for I well remember when I paid my Christmas rent, Miss Butler was playing with the very crature itself; and she civilly shewed it to me, and told me how many miles it had travelled before it had the luck to reach ould Ireland. So it’s not here it must stay; I’ll just take the dirt from my hands and be after taking Mr. Slimlegs to the Hall—that’s what I will.’

“‘Do so, honey,’ cried the wife; but Mary and the young one looked very blank at this proposal, though the former agreed it was not honest to keep what belonged to others.

“Numerous were the kisses bestowed on me before Mr. Donovan could induce my new

friends to part with me ; and I heard their lamentations long after we entered the Baronet's grounds.

“ On reaching home, we found the whole family in confusion ; Miss Butler had returned and missed me ; every place was searched, and of course in vain. I have since learned, that Fleetfoot and Slender considered my loss as a gain ; and sincerely hoped my departure was a final one ; and for such unkind wishes I can now make due allowance.

“ Jemmy Donovan was a most welcome visitor ; my young mistress loaded him with thanks, and desired something nice might be sent from the larder to his children. The Baronet put money into his hand, and observed, that Julio could not have fallen into better hands ; for I found Jemmy was a great favourite with his noble-minded landlord.

“ Miss Butler pretended to be angry with me ; but it was indeed pretence, for every feature betrayed her pleasure on beholding me again.

“‘Do you know, Maria,’ said her brother gravely, ‘that I am tempted to regret I brought that animal to Ireland : I hoped it would please my mother and you ; but did not suppose, or desire, it should occupy so much of your time. A young lady of your age ought to have better and more improving pursuits ; and I may add, more humane ones. I used to delight in seeing you employed making garments for our poor tenants ; but work seems to be quite out of your calendar lately. I was quite shocked a short time since, to see poor Donovan’s children without gowns, and learned, after much questioning, that Miss Butler had not given them new ones this year, as she was accustomed to do. Surely a needle in your hand, and Julio on the carpet, would be more becoming than idleness, and the silly fondling of a dumb animal.’”

“Maria both loved and respected her brother, who was many years older than herself : her heart and temper were good ; reproof never met her ear from those she loved, without having the desired effect. From this evening, her attentions to me were circumscribed ; her

old habits of industry were resumed; the little Donovans had new gowns; and Sir Edward was gratified, and more affectionate to the amiable girl than before.

“To say that I was satisfied by this change would be far from truth; yet I saw the propriety of Sir Edward’s conduct, and admired his sister for her proper sense of duty.

“My pride and vanity were humbled, and of course my manners improved. I no longer flounced past my comrades when chance brought us in contact; I rather sought familiarity; it was received with true Irish warmth, and the acquaintance was productive of many happy and convivial hours.

“I now accompanied my young mistress in many of her rambles, and was astonished to find I was not the worse for such exercise; for in my puppy days, I imagined soiled paths or cool air, would kill me downright. Well might the honest greyhounds laugh at my effeminacy.

“Dogs are reckoned sagacious animals; but

how much more so would they be considered, if their language was understood by the human species ! But we can only converse with one another ; though our looks are always expressive of our feelings, and easily comprehended by mankind.

“ A year passed away thus rationally, and I was getting quite hardy, when the good Lady Butler was seized with a paralytic stroke, to the sincere grief of her children. She recovered, however, in a degree, and the physicians advised a milder climate. Sir Edward lost no time in preparing for the journey. I was not sorry to learn I should be one of the party ; for I flattered myself we should see dear Italy ere we returned ; yet I felt much regret in leaving my kind, hospitable friends, of whom I yet retain a grateful remembrance.

“ Miss Butler took me to bid farewell to the worthy Donovans ; and I was pleased to witness the liberal present she made them.

“ Mary and Judy bestowed many a fond hug

and kind wish on 'sweet Julio,' as they called me, and I gave them more than one parting look.

"Well, my good friends, we quitted Mount-Clare Hall, and sailed from Dublin for Holy-head; a few hours brought us to this land of freedom. As we travelled through Wales I saw much to admire, and I assure you I have some taste for landscape.

"Lady Butler became very languid as we proceeded, and her dutiful son, fearful of a relapse, proposed resting a few days at the seat of a friend, forty miles from London. The old Lady consented, and so well were we received, that my worthy mistress recruited herself by a stay of ten days.

"Our hostess was a widow lady with a fine estate, and living in great splendour. Her house had numerous guests at this time, and I never witnessed greater magnificence than her establishment displayed. I here found several greyhounds of Italian birth, but I beg pardon for observing, that it was universally

allowed, all were inferior to your humble servant in point of beauty.

“A pert little French lap-dog, was highly offended by the encomiums bestowed on me. I heard him tell an old Spaniel, that he was sick of hearing such skeleton beauty admired; for his part, he saw nothing in thread-paper legs or sleek skins to attract such notice: surely firm, plump flesh, and long silky hair, possessed far more real beauty; and he trusted French taste was too generally known to be disputed.

“‘Very likely,’ replied the Spaniel, drily; ‘I do not pretend to be a judge, and have too many duties to perform to think of pretty forms and silky skins. I am only sorry to see so many foreigners encouraged, while our native breeds are neglected or treated as slaves.’—

“The French lady little expected this philippic, and waddled away as fast as her fat sides would let her.

"I now come to an important part of my life, inasmuch as it changed all my future prospects. At the very moment I looked forward to a continental trip, fate reversed my lot as follows :

"There were at least half-a-dozen visiting dogs at Woodley Abbey, and as the owner, Mrs. Dormer had three of her own, we formed, a formidable party.

"It was the kitchen-maid's office to prepare our victuals, and whether from carelessness, accident, or any particular motive, I cannot exactly determine, but she boiled our meat in a vessel which had accumulated verdigrise, and in consequence we were all more or less poisoned.

"What consternation ensued! Each lady was alarmed for her pet; my kind friend Miss Butler paid me every proper attention, but as I was one of the greatest sufferers, my recovery was much longer bringing about. Sir Edward grew impatient to proceed; I was too weak to accompany them; so it was settled I

should remain under Mrs. Dormer's care until the return of the Butler family.

"This arrangement greatly grieved me; but I felt so enfeebled, I knew it would be impossible to travel.

"Often did the amiable Maria wish little Mary or her sister were to be my attendant; 'but, alas, they are far distant!' said she.

"I was spared the pang of parting, for Sir Edward would not suffer his sister to fret about trifles, when so serious an evil appeared in view; for Lady Butler was looking very ill. So, while I was taking my first airing in the park, these kindest of friends quitted the Abbey.

"It were needless to say, that I felt their departure; indeed it occasioned a slight relapse. Mrs. Dormer was much alarmed, and feared I should die. Thanks to her care, I got well; but the summer was far advanced ere I was able to walk about, and mix with the family.

“Congratulations from my own species were numerous on my first appearance among them, and I should have been flattered by the reception, had not the honest Spaniel before named, muttered his disbelief of such professions, and thrown out hints of very different behaviour during my illness.

“The French lap-dog and a countryman of my own were the only remaining visitors, Mrs. Dormer's Russian-pug, Moscow, an English pointer, and Carlo the Spaniel, formed our domestic circle, and certainly we might have been very comfortable had all been equally rational; but the affectation of Madame Fanchon, the conceit of Moscow, and the discontent of the Pointer, checked friendship and harmony.

“We had one day assembled in Mrs. Dormer's boudoir, the weather was excessively hot, and the green shades were not sufficiently down to exclude the sun; at which neglect of the servant Fanchon was highly indignant.

“How stupid these English people are!”

cried she; 'I am half melted by the sun; there is no way of escaping. I have tried the sofa and carpet; but both are exposed to the sultry beams. Now in France a domestic would be sure to shade the room entirely on such a day as this; but the people here have no delicacy.'

"'Fat, lazy folks,' returned Carlo, 'are generally too warm or too cold; idleness breeds discontent.'

"All the slim animals simpered at this observation; but the pointer owned, that warm weather was intolerable. 'Indeed,' said he, 'autumn is the only rational season; neither too hot nor too cold. A charming game season for me; it is then I feel exhilarated. I almost fancy I smell the plump partridge now; aye, if it were within a hundred yards, I should soon smell my victim; steal after it, stopping when it stopped. I imagine little game would be killed in this country without my assistance. Summer, how I wish you gone!'

"'Yet,' said Carlo, 'I have heard you complain of the fatigues of winter, and grumble at

being so long in the field—never thinking your prowess sufficiently admired.'

"‘I shall never have your good word, I know,’ replied the pointer, scornfully; ‘but how can a simple water-fowl sportsman judge of the spirited pursuits of *my* breed?’

"‘Humble as you deem my qualities,’ returned Carlo, ‘I have been, or rather my race have been, partakers of royal sports. When hawking was a fashionable recreation, spaniels were the chosen dogs for the sport.’

"‘Indeed!’ said the other in a surprised tone, ‘that must have been a long time since.’

"‘Some time, certainly,’ replied Carlo; ‘but our *fidelity* is yet in fashion, and the spaniel’s attachment to man is generally known and estimated. Nay, a Danish monarch instituted a Grand Order, or badge of distinction in memory of one of us, who had evinced peculiar attachment to his sovereign, when deserted by his faithless subjects.’

"The pointer had no such facts to adduce; he looked vexed, but was silent.

"Now you talk of Danish monarchs,' said Moscow, 'it reminds me of Russia. Such an extensive country as it is; such a mighty empire; dear me, I wonder how I can bear this little kingdom, after so magnificent a one as my native country! Such warm suns as you have in summer, and smoky fires in winter!'

"I can soon settle that difficulty,' observed Carlo; 'you were nobody in that very extensive country, and perhaps fared with dogs in general; in this little kingdom you are somebody, and fare better than many of its worthy natives. You can lounge away the summer in the shady parts of rich and elegant apartments, and slumber in comfort before the cheering blaze of our 'smoky fires in winter.' Who could resist being content in such idle independence?'

"Mr. Pug was terribly offended at Carlo's rebuke, and pouted his black muzzle in disdain; but the honest spaniel cared little for his anger.

‘ I wish,’ he continued, ‘ that all foreigners of our species would take as great a disgust at our freedom and plenty, as we have for their airs and arbitrary tempers : England would be bettered by their absence. Your noble and excellent emperor Alexander would be the first to do us justice ; and, as we all know, imitate us in more than one plan of utility.’

“ ‘ How dare you speak thus familiarly of our great Northern sovereign ?’ asked the strutting Russian.

“ ‘ O ! we dare a great deal more in *England*,’ answered Carlo, walking carelessly to the other end of the room.

“ My countryman now ventured to speak. He observed, that ‘ he had long been a resident of this charming country, and felt very sensibly the happiness he enjoyed. ‘ I believe,’ he added, ‘ that Italy may claim some share of refinement and taste, a little more so than our Northern neighbours are supposed to possess. But I think our Russ friend has proved, we are not

more conceited of these advantages than those of colder regions are of trifling ones.'

" 'I will say this for *you*,' interrupted Carlo, 'I never saw a foreigner so well-conducted; you have ever been a favourite with my mistress, but you do not encroach in consequence. Julio likewise deserves some praise. But I own I think his late illness is the chief cause of his present good behaviour; for when first he came here with the Butler family, I perceived much vanity and haughtiness in him; his beauty seemed to engross every idea, and I believe he thought every other dog despicable because not so handsome. He now seems to have regained his senses; sickness and the absence of his pretty young mistress have done much for him. I am always ready to serve strangers, and treat them kindly; but I am too much of a Briton to bear tamely their insolence.'

" There was so much truth in what Carlo had said, that I knew not well how to notice it; but I tried to shew I was not offended, and he was not the last to approve my conduct.

“‘ I think,’ said Fanchon, throwing back the long curls from her twinkling eyes, ‘ I think Julio is much altered for the worse of late,—I don’t mean as to looks, but manner; he is certainly catching some of the English coarseness.’

“‘ All the better,’ answered Carlo; ‘ he will then be so much the more removed from French folly, and that must be an improvement. However, don’t waddle away so angrily, Miss Fanchon; for really I think your airs very amusing; I am more angry with Moscow, who ought to feel some of his country’s spirit.’

“‘ We are all spoiled,’ said the Italian, ‘ by petting; little curly pole would be amusing, and Moscow very rational, if my mistress did not fondle and spoil them. You see how agreeable my countryman is now, separated from false indulgence. I was in a fair way of becoming a fop myself, had not Mrs. Dormer taken a trip to France last year, where she saw and admired our little French beauty. My nose has been out of joint ever since. I may say

with truth, that although at first a little mortified, I now cease to regret a fondness which often brought me into notice when I wished for repose, and subjected me to the rude hand of childhood.'

"' True Roman spirit !' observed the pointer sneeringly.

"' Better than sullen English discontent,' returned Carlo, briskly. ' I hope *you* will never travel with my lady ; for the specimen of English dogs would be a very bad one ; never satisfied, though without just cause of complaint. To hear you find fault and grumble, one would suppose England the worst country in the world. Yet I doubt not, were you to quit it, all you could see and hear abroad would meet your censure, and you would then boast of what you now affect to despise.'

" A slight altercation ensued between Carlo and the offended pointer ; but Carlo liked not quarrelling ; he found fault only where there was cause for blame, and would not continue

strife if it could be avoided. In short he was always on the right side of the argument. We all knew and felt this, though the surly pointer would seldom allow it. It is just so with mankind.

“This lecture of the honest Spaniel’s had some effect: Moscow began to find comfort in poor England, and Fanchon did not boast so much of French taste and customs; the pointer kept his discontent to himself, and we all managed to live tolerably together.

“As autumn approached I became anxious to learn how and where I was to pass the winter. My countryman at length told me he had overheard my mistress tell a friend, she should pass Christmas in London; but should return to the country early in the spring, and therefore should not remove the whole of her establishment for so short a period. ‘As for the dogs,’ she continued, ‘I shall take Fanchon; I cannot do without the pretty creature; she will be amusement enough. Of course I must take Julio; I promised Lady

Butler not to lose sight of him, and really he is a most beautiful animal.'

"I was not sorry to find I should be one of the town party; for I had a great desire to see the metropolis; and I flattered myself that the amiable family whose property I was, might return to England before we again settled at Woodley Abbey.

"Autumn passed without any remarkable occurrence. I observed the game season, so much desired by the pointer, did not afford him lasting pleasure. Mrs. Dormer had a brother who visited her every year for the purpose of sporting; this pointer was a favourite with him, and he kept him hard to work, but he only noticed him when thus engaged. This mortified the proud animal, and drew forth some bitter observations; but he was certainly not so violent in his resentment since Carlo's memorable lesson.

"The week previous to Christmas, Mrs. Dormer and a part of her household removed to Pall Mall.

“ London appeared a wonderful scene to me, and I had good opportunity of seeing it, for I constantly rode in the carriage, and looked about me, while my protectress was shopping in the fashionable streets. Such expressions of approbation did I hear, when with my two fore paws on the window-frame, I busily scanned the passing crowd! How many handsome ladies did I hear wishing I were their own, while some would stop to inquire the sweet creature's name! Shall I confess it?—I have seen at the very same moment a beggar with a helpless infant crave their charity, and meet a refusal even of a penny! In spite of the compliment to myself, I own such conduct shocked me, and I blushed at female folly.

“ I one day heard Mrs. Dormer tell a lady that she expected to see the Butler family in England in the course of the summer, and that the good old lady was getting quite strong. Truly did I rejoice at this; not but I was sensible of Mrs. Dormer's kindness; but my first friends were most dear to me.

“ I now come to a very disagreeable part of

my history ; but life is full of ups and downs. During the month of March, Mrs. Dormer had been confined with a severe cold ; and in consequence I was a prisoner. This confinement did not agree with me ; and as April came in mild and soft, she sent me out every fine morning for an airing in the Green Park, under the care of her own maid. This recreation was a great treat. I used to bound before Mrs. Jane in high spirits, and she good-naturedly carried me through the streets.

“ Several times I had noticed a strange looking man, in a large thick coat, who watched me very closely when I was taking my race ; but when by the side of the trusty servant, he did not seem to observe me. One morning that I had run a few yards towards what is called the Wilderness, a faint whistle, and a repetition of my name urged me on. Meantime, by a preconcerted plan, I afterwards understood, an old man inquired of Jane the nearest way to St. James’s ; she poor creature kindly stopped to direct him, while I was snatched from the ground, thrust into a bag, and so tightly held, that I could hardly breathe, much less bark.

"The hurried step of the person who carried me almost shook me to atoms; it was at least half an hour ere the journey ended. We stopped, ascended a flight of stairs, a key was put into a door, and in a few moments I was released from the dirty bag, to behold, what?—a small, dark, filthy room! An old table, two broken chairs, and a straw bed on the ground, formed the whole of the furniture. Not more than three panes of glass were to be seen in two large windows; rags, paper, and board, filled the remaining frames. The low and crumbling ceiling threatened to knock us on the head every time a coach or cart passed the house. I stood trembling and shivering before the thief; in him I immediately recognized the man in the large coat. He stroked and tried to encourage me, placed meat and milk before me; but, imagine my feelings, the food was literally dogs' meat! My stomach rejected the horrid meal; I turned from it in disgust; nor could persuasion, threat, or force compel me to touch it.

"The arrival of a second man gave me an insight into their plan. The last comer had kept

my attendant in conversation, while the other secured me, as described. They laughed over their success, and admired my form exceedingly. The first rogue told his companion how dainty I was, and added, he feared I should cost more in a month's keep, than would suffice them for two. They agreed it would not be safe to take me into public until the departure of Mrs. Dormer, which they understood would not take place for a month to come.

“What a hearing for me—to be cooped up in such a wretched habitation! I who had been accustomed to houses of the first style, whose feet had never yet touched a dirty floor—the thought was insupportable! The living too! I certainly could not survive such treatment long. Nay, the very appearance and habits of my associates were sufficient to destroy my nerves.

“As interest was the motive of their dishonesty, I was better off than I expected to be; for as I would not take common food, they were induced to buy superior, fearful I should lose my good looks, and they the wealth they expected to gain by my disposal.

" I cannot even at this distant period bear to look back on these disgusting scenes. Once or twice when left alone, I leaped on an old chair, and took a view of the neighbourhood. Such a street, such tumble-down houses, and wretched inmates looking from every window ! Italy, Ireland, Woodley Abbey, how ye floated in my brain at that moment ! I was cured of peeping, and for ten days lay half stupified on the bit of old rug placed in a corner for my bed.

" All things have an end, and time waits for none. Nearly five weeks elapsed before I enjoyed fresh air, when one morning early, after rubbing me with a soft brush to give an additional sleekness to my skin, Dick, the man who stole me, tied a new green ribbon round my neck, and carried me from Westminster, where we resided, to the King's Mews. Taking his station against the Mews wall, he held me in his arms in view of the passengers, or let me run a few paces to attract notice by my graceful action.

" Several persons inquired my price ; some

from curiosity only ; but one old gentleman seemed mightily taken with me, and although he was surprised at the price asked, turned back twice to offer a more reasonable sum.

“ My artful owner, however, knew better than to lower the bargain ; he remained firm and let the stranger proceed on his way.

“ Shortly after he returned to our elegant lodging in Westminster, where I heard him tell his friend, that by keeping me back until the morrow, he should make the old gentleman give his price. Anxiously did I await that morrow ; for it was almost impossible that my change could be for the worse.

“ On the following morning we again took our station at the same place, and ardently did I hope my freedom might be secured before night, for every moment increased the misery of my situation. The day, too, was chilly and rainy, and an exposure to wet I had never suffered.

“ At length the old gentleman, who was a

banker in the neighbourhood, passed; Dick smilingly held me forward, touching his hat.

“ ‘No, no, you are too dear for me,’ said the gentleman; ‘eight guineas for a dog, shocking, shocking!’

“ ‘Why I might have got ten yesterday, please your honour,’ returned Dick; ‘but I lost the bargain, thinking your honour would come back; and somehow I’d rather you had the animal, for I think you’ll treat it well.’

“ ‘Aye, aye,’ said the old banker, ‘it’s likely you lost two guineas on *my* account! No such thing; no such thing. You had better take my offer,—five guineas is a better price than you will get every day.’

“ Dick appeared quite astonished at the gentleman’s conscience, as he termed it; and stood out for the first-named sum. But after a long-contested battle, he consented to take six, and having received the money, gave me into the purchaser’s hands, while he called a coach for my new master.

"Never did I experience such happiness as when seated once more in genteel company. The old gentleman caressed me, and called me by name; for Dick had told him, that the person of whom he bought me, said I was called Julo, or some such name.

"After twenty minutes' ride we alighted at a handsome house in Russell Square, and being shewn to a drawing-room, my master was soon surrounded by half-a-dozen children, pretty and well-dressed, but so boisterous and eager to search grandpapa's pockets, that I thought they would pull him to pieces. On their first entrance I was going to advance, and claim their notice; but so eager were they to know what their too indulgent relative had brought them, that they rushed by me without knowing I was in the room.

"After a moment's view of their conduct, I was in no haste to present myself, and felt half a coward, when, calling me to him, the old gentleman held me up to their observation.

"All was uproar in a moment; 'Such a nice

dog!' 'Such a pretty name!' 'O Grandpa, let me have it.' 'No, Miss,' cried another; 'you are not to have every thing; you will give it to me, won't you, Grandpa?'

" 'I dare say indeed,' cried a big boy; 'give it to you,—such a little thing as you! No, no; I am sure Pa means it for me. I am a great boy now, and want a dog; and I'll tell you what, Grandpa,' he continued, addressing the old gentleman, 'if you will give it up entirely to me, I promise you not to cry when I go to school next time.'

"Grandpa shook his head; he doubted Frank's promise, and he was puzzled how to answer so many claimants.

"A lady just then entered who proved to be the mother; she was glad to see her father; but seemed little able to contend with so many disagreeable children, who ran to her, and all in a breath asked to have the pretty dog Grandpa had brought.

"I expected she would check their violence

but she only begged they would not give her the head-ache, and make their pretty eyes red, with crying, for they should each have a dog some day.

“ ‘ But I can't wait for some-day,’ said little Joseph angrily; ‘ nasty William sha'n't have this pretty dog because he is the tallest.’

“ ‘ No he shall not, my pet,’ answered the simple mother, ‘ if you will be a good boy.’

“ Maria, who was the eldest of the young family, supposed she was to be the chosen one, since William was thrown out; and therefore boldly declared the same. This only produced fresh clamour; Mamma was quite frightened, and rang the bell for the nurse-maids to remove the four youngest. They were dragged, rather than led, out of the room, squalling as loud as their angry voices would let them.

“ The old gentleman then seriously addressed his daughter, on the impropriety of

indulging her children in so silly a manner, and observed, his grandson Frederick was a pattern for all children; though an only child he was not spoiled either by his father or mother.

“ ‘Aye, to be sure,’ said she, ‘Freddy is a good child; but then he is always in such health, no wonder his spirits and temper are more equal,’

“ Her father would not allow any thing ailed her children; but declared they were only made ill from improper treatment, and he heartily hoped they would be sent to school, to teach them subjection.

“ On this point, neither of the parties ever agreed; so the conversation did not afford much gratification to one who knew nothing of the family concerns.

“ Willingly would I have accompanied the good old gentleman, when he left Russell Square, for I plainly foresaw the persecution I was to encounter.

"Mrs. Trevor, my new mistress, was highly pleased with my appearance, and took me on her lap to caress me, and wished she had half-a-dozen Julios, to give her little folks.

"You may imagine what kind of a life I led in this ill-regulated family;—fondled, pulled, squeezed, beat, coaxed, by one after another, until I was half bewildered. Good living was of little use, while my spirits were thus harassed. I was, and looked very ill.

"One day, I learned a visitor was expected whom all longed to see, and I therefore looked forward for an additional plague. I was however agreeably disappointed; their cousin arrived; and when I tell you, he was my present mistress's nephew, Master Frederick, you will not be surprised to learn, I found a friend. His gentle manner soon won my confidence; I licked his hand, jumped on his knee, and tried to evince my gratitude for his notice. The children were astonished at my sprightly manner; and wondered I never played with them in the same way.

“ ‘He is a pretty creature,’ said Frederick, ‘but he don’t look strong: our English greyhounds are finer dogs, I think.’

“ ‘That they are, Sir,’ observed the nursemaid; ‘these kinds of pets are only a trouble, and of no use whatever. This poor thing, indeed, leads such a life, that I wonder it lives at all. For my part, I can’t bear to see Miss Maria drag it about in her arms, and Master William pulling him by his collar, until the little creature is near being choked.’

“ ‘I am sorry to hear my cousins are so cruel,’ observed Master Frederick: ‘I had hoped Maria and William were too old to behave in such a manner as you describe.’

“ ‘But he is *my* dog,’ cried Maria, reddening, ‘and I may use him as I like.’

“ ‘I am sure I don’t hurt him, by pulling his collar,’ observed William.

“ Frederick now took Maria to task for the unfeeling speech she had made, and assured

her, if she did not treat poor Julio better, he would tell their Grandpapa, who would take him away.

"During this day, the amiable boy saw enough to assure him of my misery, and he ventured to speak of it to his aunt.

"'It is very true, my dear,' returned she, 'the children are *very* rough with poor Julio; but then, you know, they are so young, and it is very natural for them all to wish to play with him. It's of no use making children cry and fret; it only makes them ill. I really wish your Grandpapa had not brought him here; dogs are not fit presents for such young children.'

"Such *spoiled* children, she should have said, and I am sure Frederick thought the same; but he was too dutiful to rebuke his aunt.

"The next visit he paid us, he lost all patience: in witnessing my treatment he complained boldly. Mrs. Trevor began to see her error; but she was too indolent to attempt

a reform; and she soon consented to let me accompany her nephew to his grandfather's for a month or two, until 'the dear children could better understand how to manage dogs;' but she charged him to take me away privately, or 'the dears' would 'break their little hearts.'

"I am sure Frederick did not agree in this false notion of tenderness, but he was glad to rescue me on any terms. Think how I rejoiced, when, unconscious of what had been arranged, I was taken from the nursery as if to Mrs. Trevor's room, but in reality to my sweet young friend. He waited for me in the hall; and caught me up hastily and ran through the square. He then put me down to follow him, but I was so unused to the streets, and moreover so overjoyed at my freedom, that I knew not which way to turn; Master Frederick was therefore glad to call a hackney-coach, fearful of losing me when we passed through a crowd.

"My new home was in Westminster, 'tis

true, but of a very different appearance to my former one in that neighbourhood.

"I was glad to see the venerable face of Mr. Bowen again; he commended his grandson for the step he had taken; and feelingly lamented the want of order and propriety in Mrs. Trevor's establishment. This was, indeed, a happy period of my life; time passed so pleasantly. I was amazed to see long evenings approach, and dreaded lest I should be recalled to Russell Square: but, fortunately for me, a cat which had been tormented by one of the little Trevors, scratched the child severely, and so frightened the mother, that she declared she never would shelter an animal of *any kind* under her roof.

"A most kind resolve for animals of *every kind*, had the good lady been conscious of it.

"I have before observed that Mr. Bowen was a banker, and owing to this circumstance, I learned, what gave me the greatest pleasure, that the good Butler family were all in health,

and intended returning to their native country before the ensuing Christmas. *This* I heard him tell a gentleman, a friend of Sir Edward's.

"Ah! how I wished to make myself understood, and inform them that I belonged to the worthy Baronet in question. That was impossible; I could only regret this, and at the same time be grateful for the ease and comfort I then enjoyed.

"Early in January I was overwhelmed with grief by two events, as sad as unexpected,—the death of the good Mr. Bowen, and the removal of my amiable young friend to a public school.

"His parents had allowed him to live with his grandfather to please him; but he received daily instruction from a tutor, and was to quit London for Eton, when he reached thirteen. This period had just passed when his grandfather died. I spent a few days with him at his father's in Surrey, where my future destination was discussed.

“ ‘You know, Frederick,’ said his mother, ‘that I never allow animals to be petted in my house: we keep only useful dogs, who are properly fed and kindly treated; but they are not drawing-room guests. This pretty little creature is not suited to the rough usage of a kitchen; and, indeed, I do not wish for any more domestic animals than we have at present. Your papa and myself, can always find plenty of objects to assist, and should therefore think it unchristian-like, to waste on dumb creatures what would give comfort to our fellow-beings. I was thinking therefore, that in presenting the little Italian to your aunt Spencer, we should gratify her, and serve the dog. Her fondness for animals is carried far beyond our ideas of humanity; but we have no right to control her wishes, though we may avoid the errors they create. What say you, my dear, to this proposal? Speak freely; I consider Julio as your property, and allow you have the first right in his disposal.’ ”

“ I longed to hear his reply, and was much

amazed when I did hear it, for I fully expected he would decide on keeping me.

“ ‘I declare, Mamma,’ said he, ‘I have myself thought of the very same plan ; for I agree with you, Julio is not suited to our establishment. I really like the little thing ; for it is affectionate and gentle ; but I value our noble Rover a hundred times more, who saved my life when I fell into the pond. If my aunt Trevor had conquered her fear of animals, I should be sorry to return him to Russell Square ; for my cousins have no idea how a dog should be treated. But, as you say, aunt Spencer’s will be just the proper home for him ; so if you please, I will write to her on the subject.’

“ ‘Do so Fred,’ his mother replied, ‘the present coming from you will make it more valuable ; for although she is not particularly fond of children, you have ever been a favourite with her.’

“ Well, the letter was written ; Mrs. Spencer was delighted by her nephew’s kind offer, and

invited him to Rose Hall, previous to his fixing at school.

“ Ah! thought I, this is terribly changing work; I fear I shall never have a settled home. But I am happy to learn my new mistress has no family; for, much as I love children, generally speaking, it is probable there are more young Trevors than Fredericks, or little Irish rustics.

“ Mrs. Poll well remembers my first appearance in the present circle. Mrs. Spencer was never tired of admiring me; her nephew was overwhelmed with thanks. Nay, she slipped a pretty watch into his hand the day he left us, and assured him, the pretty Julio should be most kindly treated.

“ I soon discovered that Poll considered me a rival, and prated away in angry tone when she saw me thus noticed; but her jealousy gave way to time, and we were getting tolerably sociable, when Mrs. Swandown made her appearance; and, like all novelties, was the leading favourite for a time.

“ It was now *my* turn to be chagrined ; and I assure you I was most truly so ; for, begging Puss’s pardon, I considered her race far inferior to mine, and wondered how my lady could prefer a cat of English breed to a greyhound of my country. Pug put us all to rights ; and much as we have been annoyed by his tricks, I am of opinion his introduction was of service to us. It lowered our vanity, and decreased our indulgences. We became more united, in proportion as it was necessary to defend ourselves against his mischievous actions. I declare, however contrary my conduct may at times have appeared, I dislike squabbling, and could not help thinking when we disagreed yesterday morning, that all our behaviour was perfectly ridiculous : for as Poll has justly observed, we can have no serious cause of complaint. Servants have their faults like other folks ; and when we consider how much additional trouble and labour we occasion them, we can scarcely wonder if their tempers should be now and then a little ruffled by our habits and carelessness.

“ With this acknowledgment of error I close

my narrative, hoping I have not wearied my hearers, though I fear I have not entertained them as I could desire; but simple facts, as Poll says, should be delivered plainly.

"It is now our friend Swandown's turn to give us her memoirs; but I guess we shall hear only a part to-night, as my mistress is expected in the course of the evening; and we are in duty bound to receive and entertain her, even at the expense of this interesting plan."

"True," answered Poll; "I therefore propose that no time be lost in commencing our next tale; though I should deem myself stupid, as well as rude, did I not express the pleasure I experienced while listening to Julio's natural and well-told adventures."

A general burst of applause succeeded this speech: Julio could not but feel gratified by this unfeigned approval; but, as time pressed, entreated that Swandown would curtail such praise by the promised story.

SWANDOWN'S ADVENTURES.

THE chest of our graceful domestic animal seemed to expand, and she yet more drew up her stately head, as she purred through the following history :

“ As I well know, that much prejudice exists in regard to my species, and that we are often considered but as kitchen dependants, allow me to observe on some parts of our history not so generally known.

“ The ancients were of a different opinion from those who slight our merits. With the Egyptians we were objects of sacred veneration : to kill one of us was a capital crime. Even did a cat die a natural death, the inhabitants of the house would shave their eyebrows in token of sorrow ; and the deceased animal was embalmed and interred with honours.

“ The Turks to this day entertain a kind of sacred respect for us. Even the Britons so

greatly esteemed us, that in the tenth century they inserted our price in the regular laws of the land: a kitten before it could see, was rated at five shillings of our present money; and after a proof of its having caught a mouse, the price was doubled, and so on in proportion.

“ I think this is some proof of our having been *somebody*; and I have no doubt but historians could produce many others.

“ In the northern parts of Europe and Asia, our skins are a considerable branch of commerce. In the West-India islands, some of the Negroes frequently eat our flesh, as the Romans and Greeks used to do that of your species, friend Julio. Let me add, that in the south of Africa, the Caffree ladies use our skins as pocket handkerchiefs! Surely these circumstances are worthy of notice.

“ Having thus satisfied my family pride, I will descend to the every-day occurrences of my life.

“ An English farm-house was my first home, where myself and three more were born on the same day. The odious and cruel custom of drowning kittens, deprived two of my relatives of life in an hour after our birth; but my surviving sister was so like my mother, that farmer Haynes would not have her drowned. He observed, it was lucky to have a black cat in the house, and as my mother was getting old, he should like to have another lucky cat in readiness. I was not black, as you may perceive, but my mistress, who had got into her head some story of a tortoise-shell cat being a rich prize, determined to keep me on her own account.

“ Mothers are sometimes partial, and candour obliges me to own mine was rather so. My sister was her great favourite, and when she heard the likeness between them was so striking, her fondness increased.

“ The natural playfulness of kittens prevented my noticing this distinction so painfully as I should have done had my nature been reflective; and as we all fared alike, I was no loser by it;

on the contrary, I was oftener tempted to stray from her, and seek mice in the barn, by which means I became a forward mouser, and greatly eclipsed my sister in this point.

“ I shall never forget the proud pleasure I felt when laying at my mother's feet the first mouse I ever caught ; my sister had never been so successful, and she growled angrily as my mother praised my prowess. When my master heard what a good mouser I was getting, he did not allow the merit I expected ; in truth, he was determined the black kitten should do every thing best, and insisted his wife mistook the cleverness of the one for the other.

“ ‘ Nay,’ said my mistress, ‘ but you are out there, John Haynes, for ’tis my pretty fat kitten who kills all the mice. The little ugly black thing does nothing but sleep at her mother's side all day. I warrant she'll never be a good mouser.’

“ ‘ All nonsense, woman,’ returned he, ‘ she will be clever enough by and by ; they are but young yet ; but you' fancy, because your tor-

tortoise-shell has a pretty skin, poor blackey is nobody. I suppose by next year we sha'n't have a mouse in any of the barns.'

" 'Next year !' cried Mrs. Haynes ; ' no such thing, man, I'll assure you ; I don't mean to keep the kitten here killing mice, when I can make my fortune by her.

" ' Whew ! can you so ?' he exclaimed, and afterwards whistled ; ' then I will allow you are a cleverer woman than I thought you. Pray how, and where is this fortune to be made ; do you think I can make a bit of a fortune with poor blackey ?'

" ' Blackey, indeed !' returned the wife ; ' no, no, her beauty will be of no service in the way I mean. Do you know, John, that the Arts and Sciences in London will give me many hundred guineas for a real tortoise-shell cat ? There never has been one seen in England, and the learned folks would give any price for one, as I am told.'

" ' Then, by all means,' returned the farmer,

‘sell yours, my dear; though I own the learned folk would prove themselves great dunces to make such a bargain.’

“ ‘Aye, so you say,’ replied she; ‘but *you* have no taste for curiosities; I suppose *you* would not be proud to have a cow with two heads and five horns?’

“ ‘No, certainly not,’ returned the husband, ‘unless I wanted to frighten all the parish; or the cow would give milk in proportion to her heads. But this wonderful cat, my dear; when do you mean to take her to London?’

“ ‘I take it to London!’ replied the wife; ‘why, John, do you think I have nothing to do in your house, that I can go junketting to town like a fine lady? No, indeed, I have no such wild scheme in my head. I mean to ask young Mr. Sparkes, the doctor, who is well acquainted with all these matters; he will tell me how to proceed, without leaving my own affairs.’

“ ‘Well, settle it your own way,’ replied the husband, smiling, ‘only if you should get very

rich, don't forget John Haynes, your old acquaintance; and if the tortoise-shell beauty should prove no prize, why then, try poor blackey.'

"The good woman, though mortified by this raillery, felt so sure of being right, that she was determined to consult Mr. Sparkes.

"Meantime my vanity and self-consequence grew hourly, when I looked forward to such distinction. In what style I should live! How carressed by the great! What dainties would tempt my palate! In short, I could do nothing but anticipate. My mother in vain attempted to check these fancies, by relating her own troubles in life, and the disappointments and danger ever attending us. I attributed half her lecture to jealousy on my sister's account.

"There is an old saying, that 'a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush,' but I was not then sensible of this; the present was irksome; from the future I expected great things; and although perfectly ignorant of the meaning of

'Arts and Sciences,' I imagined these words were to make my fortune.

"Not to keep you in suspense, I will only relate, that my poor mistress did consult Mr. Sparkes; he completely crushed all her hopes by deciding I was not the sort of animal to be so much prized, though he doubted not I was a real *Hispanicus*, or tortoise-shell cat; and added, that had I really proved what she believed me to be, my price would have been very, very far below her expectations.

"Fortunately Mr. Sparkes was the oracle of the village, and the latter part of his speech in a degree reconciled Mrs. Haynes to her disappointment. Nevertheless she was mortified; the more especially as her husband would constantly joke on the subject, and lament to his neighbours that his wife should loose so great a fortune.

"For myself, I was sensibly wounded, and my sister's triumph on the occasion caused additional vexation. My mother advised me

to forget such prospects had ever been suggested, and to return quietly to my former way of life. But somehow I had lost my relish for mice, and for cat-like pursuits. The servants too, would laughingly push me from the kitchen hearth, and bid me go look sharp for a mouse as I used to do, before I thought of becoming a fine lady. Nay, my mistress, the cause of my folly, slackened in her notice of me, and oftentimes such words as 'tiresome plague,' 'nasty kitten; always under one's feet,' escaped her lips when in reality, I was neither troublesome nor in the way.

"This was a sad change you will acknowledge, and gay and frisky as I appeared, the natural artfulness of my race led me to retaliate whenever I saw opportunity of doing so. Many a nice bit I stole, and many a scratch I gave when detected in the theft; but these traits of character are common in all cats.

"My situation was certainly changed for the worse; but I was still sportive and gay.

"One morning as I was sniffing round a

large bowl of milk that I dare not touch, a man servant entered the dairy with my mistress.

“ ‘ Heydey !’ cried she, ‘ how came you here, Mistress Frisk ? Dairies are pretty places for cats I must own.’

“ ‘ That is a pretty kitten,’ cried the man : ‘ Is she a good mouser, Mrs. Haynes ?’

“ ‘ So, so,’ returned she ; ‘ but she is very young, as you may see. I used to think she would be the best cat in the parish, but I don’t know what has come over her of late, she never looks after a mouse now.’

“ ‘ Ah, she will come to again, I doubt not,’ answered the stranger. ‘ What has become of your old black cat ?’

“ ‘ Well and hearty, Mr. James,’ replied she ; ‘ but she is getting old now. This is one of her kittens ; and there is another of them, as black as herself. My husband is very fond of it ; and no wonder, for it is a sharp little thing, and smells the mice twenty yards off.’

"This is a new opinion thought I, and all owing to that abominable 'Arts and Sciences.' I only wish good Mr. James would take me from such a weathercock mistress.

"Hardly had I felt this wish, when James observed, 'How pleased the young people at the Grange would be to have such a pretty play-fellow!'

"'Do you think so?' asked Mrs. Haynes; 'then I am sure they shall be very welcome to it; two cats are enough for us; and therefore if you have a mind for this one, pray take it Mr. James. I am sure you won't see a handsomer kitten any where: Mr. Sparkes, the doctor, assures me it is a real Hisponical, or some such word, that means tortoise-shell.'

"James soon settled the matter, and promised to call for me in the evening.

"As soon as he departed I went in search of my mother, to relate what I had heard.

"Well,' said she, 'now your roving dispo-

sition will be gratified, but I fear you will soon regret this quiet home. Children are pleasant companions when in good humour, but they are terribly bad masters; if not amused they can be very cruel. In great houses, servants are too busy or too idle to attend to the comfort of dumb animals. It is our nature to be sly and selfish; but beware how you deceive those above you, or seek your own convenience at the expense of others. Once detected, and all future mischief will be laid to your account; every thing broken or eaten, that servants do not choose to own, will be charged to puss's account; and 'the cat broke this,' and 'dear me, if the cat has not eaten the great piece of meat I left on the table not a minute ago,' will be sounded in your ears from morn till night. All this I know from experience.'

"I listened to this warning with as much gravity as a kitten may be supposed to possess; but I blush to add, the impression it made was of short duration. Yet I liked not parting with my mother and sister.

"Evening came, and James was as good as

his word. He asked my name. No regular one had been given me, but my mistress now and then called me Frisk, on account of my rapid action, so James fixed upon thus calling me.

“The farmer’s wife lent him a basket to hold me, and a cloth was thrown over me. But I was not inclined to make resistance; I flattered myself grandeur, elegance, and every happiness were now approaching: I therefore lay quietly in my new equipage, which I believed was conveying me to the splendid change of abode.

“Before I was taken from the basket, I heard a soft voice entreating James to tell what he had got in it.

“‘It is something alive, Fanny,’ said a louder voice, ‘for I hear it move.’

“James threw off the covering, and lifting me out of the basket, placed me on the floor in the presence of two of the sweetest children ever beheld. The soft countenance of the girl,

and the broad laughing one of her brother, offered encouragement; but I shrank back involuntarily, hunched up my back, and mewed for my mother.

“‘Poor little Puss!’ said Fanny, stooping and gently stroking me, ‘why do you cry?—No one is going to hurt you!’

“‘What a pretty creature it is!’ said Master Alfred; ‘I never saw such a handsome one; but she is not funny and playful like Grandma’s cat.’

“‘Because she is frightened, Sir,’ replied James: ‘when she gets used to you, I will answer for her being frisky enough. She is full of tricks; and, what Ann will be glad to hear, she can catch mice, young as she is. This is the first time she has quitted her mother.’

“‘I am glad to hear she is a mouser,’ returned the nurse-maid, who was lulling a baby to sleep; ‘for my cupboard is overrun with the mice: they eat the sugar, bread, butter, and all that comes in their way.’

“‘They are great plagues, sure enough,’ observed James; ‘but I hope my little tortoise-shell friend will soon rid you of them.’”

“Ann then directed James to place a saucer of milk before me; after which he wished us good night. The children thanked him over and over again for bringing such a nice little fat thing as Frisk.”

“I saw no more of my young friends that night, for it was near their bed-time. I certainly had witnessed none of the disagreeables my mother had mentioned, and flattered myself she had overdrawn the picture.”

“Ann made a bed for me in the bottom of the cupboard, in the hope I should give proof of my mice-catching talent by the morning. But I was not very keen set, and change of air had created a drowsiness not to be overcome, so that I slept soundly all night. This is not very usual with my species; for we are deemed wakeful, and easily disturbed.”

“I awoke rather early, and the cupboard

door being only a-jar, I walked into the nursery, where the nurse was preparing breakfast. The gentle Fanny and her brother I found were yet asleep in a room adjoining.

“ ‘ Well,’ said Ann, patting my head as I jumped on a chair near to where she stood ; ‘ are you very hungry this morning, or did you feast upon my mice last night ? I am afraid you are yet too young to destroy my enemies.’ ”

“ I rubbed my head against her hand, and mewed significantly by way of a promise ; but she understood me not, and only observed I was the handsomest kitten she ever saw. She put down a saucer of nice bread and milk, and told me to eat my breakfast. I did so ; and while thus employed, she retired to dress the young folks in the next room.

“ I just finished my repast as they entered, and ran bounding to meet them.

“ Truly delighted they were to see me in such spirits, and Alfred declared it was very very good of James to bring me.

“ I played a hundred tricks while they were at breakfast. Their innocent mirth awakened the baby who slept in a cot in the same room ; but it seemed good humour was the order of the day in this sweet family ; for after the little one had cried itself thoroughly awake, it was quite sensible of the caresses of its sister and brother, laughed, cooed, and kissed them by turns.

“ When dressed, Ann brought the child to the breakfast table, and Alfred held me up for the pretty creature to stroke me.

“ I now expected a whole day of idleness and romps ; but I was disappointed. Alfred though but eight, and Fanny one year younger, had their lessons to learn ; and soon as breakfast was over, they drew their stools to the window, and opened their books.

“ I tried in vain to attract their attention ; only once did Alfred heed me, and that was when pulling him by the shoestring, I untied it. His funny countenance relaxed into a laugh, but Fanny's shake of the head restored his

gravity; he shook me off and pursued his studies.

"I must own this appeared a stupid scene to a playful kitten; and glad I was when a loud-sounding bell made the children jump up, and shut their books.

"That is your Mamma's bell, my dears," said Ann; "are you ready with your lessons?"

"Both replied in the affirmative, and in a minute all were on the alert.

"I waited rather impatiently to see the result as a party concerned; but to my great chagrin, I saw the two children leave the room without me, while Ann muttered their praises to herself, and then aloud wished the babe she held might be as good as the other darlings; and I am sure if I might judge of her kisses, she had no doubt on the subject.

"I was running after a ball Ann had thrown down to please the infant, when Alfred, with heightened colour and face full of importance,

rushed into the room, and told his nurse, that Mamma wanted to see the kitten, and that he was to take it to the drawing-room. Then taking me round the body, he descended the stairs, and ushered me into the handsomest apartment I had then ever beheld; though I now recollect it was plain and usefully furnished, rather than splendidly. The owner of the mansion was a country gentleman, living in a simple but hospitable manner, more desirous of being beloved than of being admired.

“ ‘ Here is Mrs. Frisk,’ cried Alfred, putting me on the carpet, ‘ what do you think of our kitten, Mamma ?’

“ ‘ Think, Alfred,’ replied his mother, ‘ why I hardly know what to tell you; she is so beautifully marked, so fat and playful.’

“ ‘ I knew you would like her,’ said Fanny, ‘ and you can’t think, Mamma, how many tricks she can play. She made us laugh all the time we were at breakfast.’

“ ‘ Yes, my dear,’ returned her Mamma; ‘ I

know they are very amusing ; but you must not bestow too much time on Frisk, as you call her ; no lessons must be neglected ; nor should you handle her too much. Cats are not of a faithful nature, like dogs ; they are cunning creatures, and will appear to be friends with you, yet the next moment scratch and bite you. They will break your dolls and pretty tea-things, steal your milk, and do many other bad tricks. But much of this may be avoided by not petting them. However, you should always treat them kindly ; for when children torment animals, they deserve to be hurt, and one can never feel pity for them. This pretty creature is but a kitten, and will not do serious mischief while so young ; and now let me shew you how to divert her and yourselves too.'

" She then took a sheet of writing paper, and cutting it into a deep fringe, rolled it up, and tied a string to one end of the paper ; then told Alfred to draw it briskly round the room, which would tempt me to play, and if held a little from the ground, I should learn to jump.

" Alfred did so, and my consequent freaks

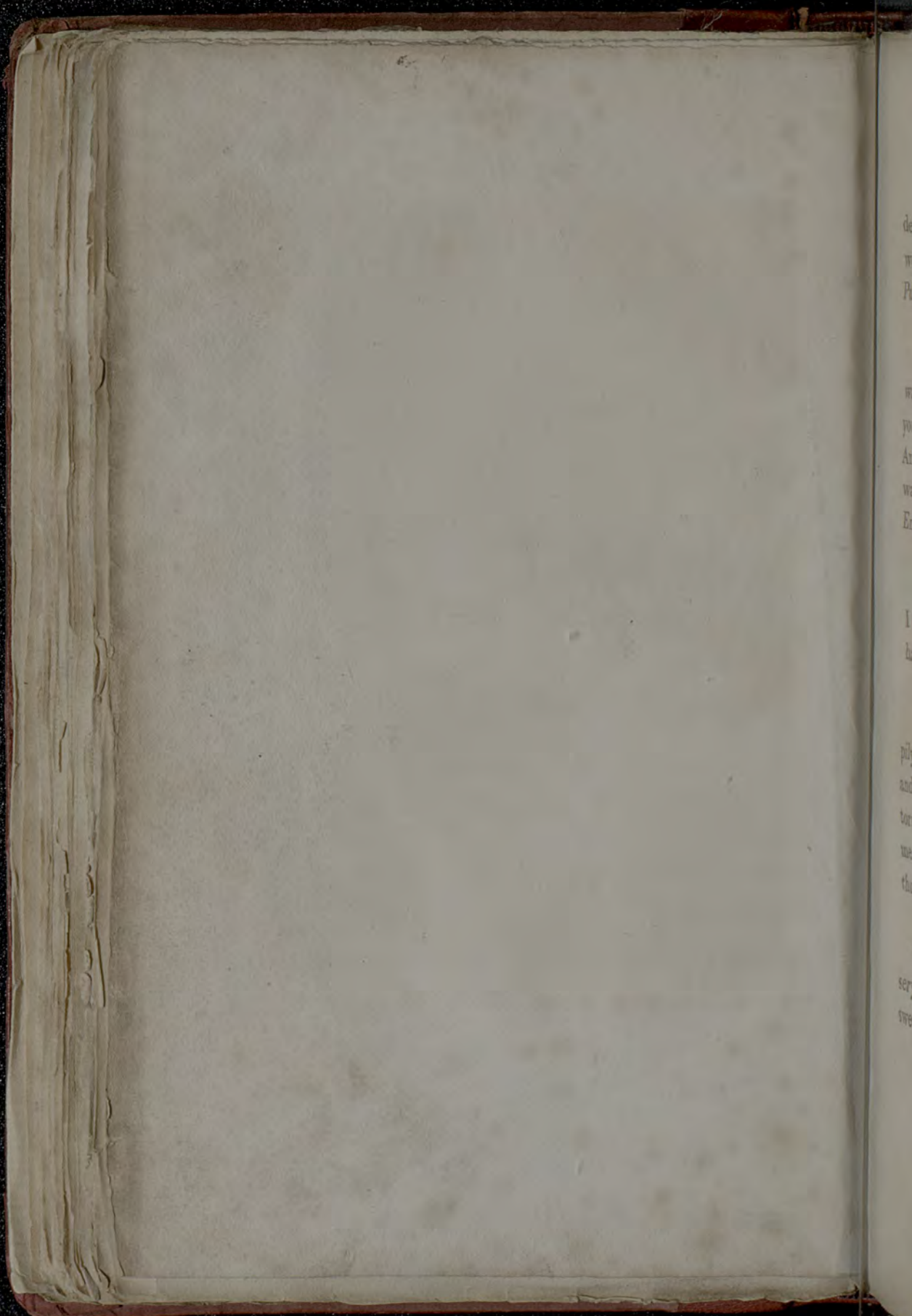
Confidential Memoirs.



my consequent freaks delighted the children beyond description.

see page 226.

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delighted the children beyond description. They were anxious to shew dear little Harry what Puss could do.

“ Away they hied to the nursery, and Harry was pleased for a few minutes ; but he was too young to be a judge of my accomplishments. Ann, indeed, laughed heartily, and declared I was the prettiest and most amusing kitten in England.

“ All this was gratifying to my vanity, and I really was very happy ; so amiable a family I hardly ever met with.

“ I may truly say my spring of life was happily spent : I romped, ate and drank, slept, and did just as I liked. The children never tormented me ; the servants never buffeted me, as I have since been. The summer passed thus tranquilly ; autumn brought a change.

“ Some visitors were introduced to our nursery circle, who were far different from the sweet brother and sister. The two Miss Mel-

viles and their brother came to spend a few days at the Grange on their way to London. Although they were pretty, engaging children, yet they were not reared in that obedience to their elders as to be checked when they did wrong. Their own maid had no controul over their actions, and 'for the sake of quiet,' as she said, yielded to them in every thing, so that they were unruly and troublesome in the extreme.

"With me they were at first much pleased, and my tricks made them laugh still more than our own little folks. But they were not satisfied with my natural efforts; Master Melville was determined to make me a famous leaper; he therefore teased me continually by placing his hands before me, to entice me to jump over them, and when thus worried I made the trial, he raised his hand higher, so as to balk my leap, and then would beat me for not performing the task.

"The remonstrance of Fanny and Alfred had no effect on the mischievous boy. Ann

indeed would not suffer me to be ill-treated in her presence ; but when her back was turned, my tormentor resumed the unfeeling sport.

“ Playful as I was by nature, this constant exercise did not suit me ; I tried to shun the youthful party, and crept into a corner when I saw them prepare for play.

“ The gentle Fanny was quite grieved to see me frightened at them, and tried to coax me back again ; but I was soon glad to escape when Master Melville joined us.

“ One of the young ladies became indisposed with a cold, which increasing, the hospitality of my master would not allow of their departure until Miss Sophy was better. This piece of intelligence I heard with real sorrow ; for my troubles would be augmented by their stay.

I was sleeping quietly on the seat of Mrs. Ann's nursing-chair one afternoon, while she and the children were walking in the shrubbery, when John Melville stole softly into the room, and catching me up, ran with me to a distant

apartment. I was scarcely awake when I found an uncommon tightness about my two hind legs. I began to struggle for freedom; but the cruel boy held me so fast between his knees, that I could not get away. He proceeded to confine my other feet by the same means, that of tying walnut-shells on them by way of pattens. During the performance he chuckled with pleasure, as he anticipated the success of his inhumanity.

“ Having completed the job, he carried me to a kind of stone room adjoining the nursery, and turning the key, put it into his pocket, leaving me in terror and solitude. The noise of my own feet caused me great alarm; I ran from side to side of the room, mewing and growling in wild affright.

“ The uncouth noise I made soon reached the ears of the nursery-party, on returning from their walk; one and all wondered where I could be, and what occasioned such a clatter.

“ Master Melville wondered with the rest, though he secretly enjoyed his joke,

"A search was made; but no Puss found. I heard myself called, and tried to answer; but my walnut ornaments were louder than my voice. A loud burst of laughter from the rude boy awakened Ann's suspicions; she taxed him with having hidden me. He denied; but the cowardly blush which overspread his cheek did not convince her of his innocence; she persisted in being right, and he, at length, stammered out that he thought I was in the next room,

"Ann came directly to release me; but no key was to be found. She boldly demanded it of Master Melville; he pretended he had forgotten where he put it; but upon my angry advocate's declaring she would instantly go to the drawing-room, and relate the whole affair, he slowly drew it from his bosom, and threw it on the floor.

"I need not add that I was quickly freed from my trammels, stroked and fed, while the tearful children clung to Ann as if afraid to stand nigh the young tyrant and his unfeeling sisters.

"No enticement could induce me to gambol that day, even with the coaxing Fanny. I was in a tremor from head to foot, and quickly retreated when any one approached me.

"In the evening, when the children had retired to bed, Ann surprised me by wrapping me in her apron; and, descending more stairs than I had ever noticed before, she uncovered and, placing me before a fat, comfortable looking woman, who was knitting, hastily said, 'Here it is, Mrs. Parsons. I assure you it is a harmless, entertaining creature. I am sure you will be pleased with it. I cannot stop another moment, for the children are alone. That disagreeable boy Master Melville will be finely disappointed when he finds his plaything is gone.' Then wishing Mrs. Parsons 'good night,' she disappeared in a moment.

"What can all this mean, thought I, as the fat person rubbed my sides, and patted my head. Surely I am yet in the same house; and who is this stranger?

"A few minutes satisfied my curiosity; for

an elderly man entering the room, Mrs. Parsons began to tell him, that the nurse-maid had begged her to take charge of the poor little kitten until the Melvilles quitted the Grange; for Master John would otherwise destroy it.

“‘How unlike our own sweet children!’ continued she; ‘they are so kind to every thing living!’

“‘Unlike, indeed!’ returned the man; ‘and what a pity their parents do not rear them better! Mrs. Melville is laying up a store of misery for herself in indulging them.’

“‘Aye, that she is, Mr. Tomkins,’ said Mrs. Parsons; ‘but she has herself to thank for it. I wonder how any child could ill use such a pretty cat as this; I protest it is quite a picture.’

“‘It is a pretty thing, sure enough,’ replied Mr. Tomkins; ‘but I guess they have not made it a good mouser up stairs. The children would fondle it too much; handling spoils young kittens.’

“‘Why, they tell me,’ said Mrs. Parsons, ‘that it is very expert at catching mice, young as it is, and I think we shall give it opportunity enough if it remain with us. I am sure I can answer for my little pantry; it is really astonishing to see how bold the mice have grown; they run from shelf to shelf before my eyes.’

“‘Well, we shall see what Miss Puss can do for you,’ returned the butler, for such I understood he was.

“A good supper raised my spirits, and Mrs. Parsons gave me a soft mat for my bed, so that I had no reason to complain of the change in my situation.

“On the morrow I began to look about; things looked still better; my meals were regularly given to me, while both Mrs. Parsons and the butler took great notice of me. The apartment was too remote for Master Melville to intrude, so that I had no fear on that head. In the course of the day I caught a mouse, as it crept round the skirting board; and for this

proof of dexterity was highly praised by both parties.

"I soon learned that my new mistress was the housekeeper, and from what I have since seen of family arrangements, none ever filled the situation better.

"I don't know any change more complete than that of a kitten, to a cat. In the human race, though the sportiveness of childhood gives place to maturity, a naturally lively disposition will shew itself through life, and we often see very animated and cheerful old persons. But with us the frolicksome kitten becomes the grave and stately cat, and seems to have lost every feeling of liveliness: our very looks are a check to mirth. I once heard a very sensible gentleman say, that when he said or did a foolish thing, he always thought the cat's gravity was a sort of reproof, and that she looked offended by his folly.

"At the period I became a guest of Mrs. Parsons, my hearers must remember, I was young, but a material alteration took place, ere I quitted her.

"From the day I caught the mouse, my relish for such increased, so that from inclination I became a mouser, to the infinite delight of the good housekeeper. She declared she could not let me return to the nursery until her pantry was quite free from the mischievous vermin.

"Week after week, month after month, elapsed, and I was still retained; I cannot say against my wishes, for my secluded life had greatly lessened my playfulness. I was insensibly getting serious, add to which, cats are fond of self; and the warm fire-side, soft hearth-rug, and neat apartment of Mrs. Parsons, were advantages not to be slightly valued. I own they were comforts to me.

"As spring approached, I ventured into the kitchen-garden, which was close to our part of the house; and here I once or twice met my old friends Master Alfred and his sister. They were most glad to see me, and wished to take me to the nursery again; but on Mrs. Parsons assuring them I no longer ran after balls and cut-paper, or liked to be stroked and fondled, they yielded their wish to hers.

“‘ You see, my dears,’ she observed, ‘ how big she has grown: this is no longer your pretty, playful kitten, Frisk; but a great heavy cat that would be too heavy to carry about, and perhaps scratch your pretty fingers for touching her.’

“ The children were surprised and disappointed, but they wondered I did not seem glad to see them, and want to follow them.

“ Gratitude is certainly not a feline quality, for *we* do not retain strong remembrances of kindness done us; and our best friends are soon forgotten. But surely this is a fault of nature’s, and we are therefore not individually to blame.

“ My kitchen-garden rambles awakened a new taste, of a nature I have heard universally condemned; but such censure is illiberal, for here again is nature to blame; I mean the appetite for birds. Many a fine songster made me a dainty meal; and I can scarcely decide in which I most excelled, mouse, or bird-

killing ; but I imagine few of my kind surpassed me in either.

“ Nevertheless, my expertness was nigh proving fatal to me ; as you will allow, when I relate what happened to me at this juncture.

“ The stable-walls inclosed one side of the kitchen-garden, and here I had often been tantalized with a sweet note. It was so nigh as to convince me the singer was within a few yards of me. I looked into every bush, climbed every tree in vain ;—the expected meal was not there. Day after day I listened, watched, and was disappointed. At length passing through the garden-gate into the stable-yard, I perceived a lad, one of the under grooms, holding a cage in his hand, and chirping to a fine linnet who seemed to know and answer him.

“ O! O! cried I, here is the prize at last, but I must be cautious ; for Frank is a cunning fellow ; and I now see why he never suffers me to go near the stable, although he is always complaining that mice swarm the place.

"I drew back gently, half closing my eyes, yet narrowly watching the boy. In a few minutes he went into the stable, but left the door sufficiently open for me to see him hang the cage against the wall, and certainly not high enough for safety. None but epicures can imagine how eagerly I watched his departure, and the fear I was in, lest he should fasten the door. Fortune was on my side; Frank was called several times by the coachman; but he was deaf to all but his linnet's song, until the angry tone of the man made him hasten away, only slamming the door after him. Impatiently I waited until he was out of sight, then darted across the yard into the stable: my prey was not difficult to reach.

"But as these adventures may meet the eye of the human species, I shall forbear describing what I fear might create disgust. Suffice it, that the poor linnet never sang again.

"The remains of my victim were shortly after discovered by Frank; and the coachman having seen me sneaking away, the poor lad readily

guessed who was the destroyer. This I learned afterwards; for had I known I was seen in my flight, I should have been wary in avoiding the indignant bird-owner. He vowed dire revenge, I learned, should I ever fall in his power. Alas! I was ignorant of these terrible threats, and believed I had managed the affair so well, that there was no chance of detection.

“ It was about a week subsequent to this that, being attracted by some sparrows on that side of the garden, I climbed the gate, and sat watching the chirpers in a tree above, when Frank, who was cleaning a saddle, caught a glimpse of me. He immediately determined to punish me for killing his bird; he dissembled his intention however, and approached me with a voice of kindness. I was so much deceived, that I suffered him to approach me, without moving. False confidence! the moment he was within reach, he caught me by the back of the neck, and in that position bore me to the stable; he there gave me a sound drubbing. It was the first time I had been so severely treated; terror and surprise made

me a coward, otherwise, it is probable I might have shewn a spirit of retaliation.

“ After this chastisement, he shut me into the stable and went away muttering yet farther threats. I expected no other than to be killed. I forgot my present sufferings in the fear of future. Huddled together I sat in a dark corner watching the door, expecting Frank's return every moment. What would I have given to be seated at good Mrs. Parsons' feet, or on Mr. Tomkins' knee, while he took his tea and toast! Never more was I to see my own comfortable apartment or kind friends! All mewing for assistance was vain, my call could not be heard, and evening came upon me without hope of relief.

“ Fatigue, hunger and pain, induced a drowsiness, I was just beginning to indulge, when a key turned in the stable-door, and made me start.

“ Frank and another boy entered.

“ ‘ Here, Bob,’ said my enemy, ‘ here is the

cat, take her and give her to any one in the town who wants a good mouser. Be sure you take her to the town, for she must not be seen in the village. Mrs. Parsons is so fond of her, she will be in a fine fuss when she finds the spiteful thing is lost. But mind me, don't play any tricks with her; I have given her a good beating, and that is enough. I know you do tease animals sometimes, but I charge you not to hurt this one.'

" 'Never fear,' returned Bob, 'why should I hurt her? It's a very handsome cat, let me tell you; and I think I know where I could get half-a-crown for her ladyship.'

" 'Then get it by all means,' said Frank, placing me in his arms, 'and now march off with your bargain. I shall be wanted in doors presently. Good bye, cruel Frisk, and when I get rid of you, I may venture to have another bird.'

" Bob was out of the stable-yard in a moment. I struggled to get free, but he only held me the tighter, and now and then hitting me

some hard slaps. I then remembered what Frank had said of his usual habits, and thought it best not to irritate him.

"After a short but hurried walk, we reached an old barn; there I was deposited for the night, and Bob retired. I suppose he did not wish his friends to see me, and chose this place as sure of concealment. When he was gone, I tried every corner and crevice of the building, in the hope of escape, but old as the structure was, I found no aperture large enough to allow of my passing through.

"I had never been so long without food, and felt much exhausted; but I was also weary, and at length fell asleep.

"I enjoyed several hours' repose, and awoke ravenously hungry. This was not a barn for mice: from its appearance it had long been useless. I walked from end to end of the great ruin, examining every spot, in the hope of a crumb, but my search was fruitless.

"At length the heavy door creaked on its

broken hinges: I turned and beheld Bob with a small basket in his hand.

"I ran towards him, for I guessed he brought me provisions. No, he had not; the contents of the basket were not for me. The unfeeling boy did not seem to think I could be hungry. He laughed at my mewling; and, as I rubbed against him, asked me if I was ready for a journey, and then lifting up the basket-lid, popped me in, and fastened it with a string.

"Noise enough I made, but it was to no purpose. There was some kind of provision in the same prison, but so securely wrapped up, that although I tried to gnaw it in every direction, I could not get at it: the smell was savoury, so you may imagine my tantalizing situation.

"Our journey appeared very long; Bob stopped, and I hoped it was ended; but he only rested himself on a bank. Again we set forward, and in a few minutes he was accosted by an acquaintance, who inquired where he was going.

“‘To Aylesbury,’ answered Bob; ‘I am taking a roasted pig to my sister. I assure you I had rather be going to the races; all our village lads are gone, but mother would have this nasty pig taken to Hannah.’

“‘Why I wondered to see you going this road,’ returned the other ‘I am for the races I promise you. Pshaw, man, never mind the pig, go to the races with me; and the pig will serve us for dinner.’

“‘And what would mother say to that?’ observed Bob; ‘no, no, that will never do. I wish I could see Jonas the coachman; he passes through the town, and would leave it at my sister’s.’

“‘So he would,’ replied his companion, ‘and if we cross the fields we should catch him at the turnpike. But what is that noise? Is the pig alive? I am sure I heard it move.’

“‘Bob, laughing heartily, explained; then added, he did not know what to do with me, if he went to the races,

" 'Let her adrift in the road,' returned the other. I make you of pig business a guided

" "Suppose she finds her way back," said Bob, 'Frank will never forgive me, he makes such a to-do about this cat, or else I should'nt mind throwing her into a ditch.'

" "And what is to hinder you? asked the inhuman acquaintance. 'Frank is not here. Drown Mrs. Puss by all means; it is the safest way of getting rid of her, and is fine sport into the bargain.

" "Think, my friends, what I suffered at that moment. My only hope was Bob's promise to Frank; yet what could be expected from such a boy?

" "He did at first refuse to comply, and even prevented Jones, as he called him, from untying the basket; but with a little further persuasion, and a glowing description of the races, he hesitatingly drew me forth; suffered Jones to cut the string in two, one half tied the pig fast, the other, horrible to relate, was

fastened round my neck, and by this I was dragged to a large ditch, by the road-side.

"Many were the efforts I made, and loudly I mewed for liberty, but my persecutors had no hearts. Jones mocked my tones of distress; and Bob observed, my squalling would soon be over.

"Twice they threw me into the ditch, and twice I crawled to the bank, for the water was more shallow than they hoped it to be.

"'Tie a stone to the string,' cried Jones, and then she'll go down. I hear a coach coming, so haste you. Jonas won't wait, you may be sure.

"'Halloa boys! what are you doing there?' exclaimed a man, who was seated on the top of the stage-coach they expected: 'Surely you are not going to drown that poor cat! What harm has she done you?'

"Bob began some kind of excuse for his conduct; but Jones laughed outright.

“‘If you don't want the poor thing,’ said the man, ‘I'll give you sixpence for it. I know a person who will be glad to have it. I am ashamed to see two such great boys, so cruelly and idly employed.’”

“After a short consultation, I was handed to the stranger; but Jones was obliged to climb the wheel to receive my price. Hardly had he got the sixpence, when his foot slipped, and he fell with much force against the bank which skirted the road; a severe bruise on the side of his head made him call out lustily. Jonas the coachman stopped to learn the extent of the accident; but finding it was not serious, he wished him joy on his narrow escape; then whipping his horses, was proceeding, when Bob called to request he would take charge of the basket.”

“‘No, no,’ answered coachee, ‘carry it yourself, you are an idle fellow, and will only get into mischief if I spare you this journey. I guess you want to go to the races, instead of your mother's errand; if you do, I hope

your father will give you a proper horse-whipping when you return home.'

"Never did I witness two such mortified countenances as those of Bob and his bleeding companion. Shivering and wet as I was, I could not help rejoicing in the disappointment, as did all the passengers outside the stage-coach.

"My preserver now cut the string from my throat; a young woman rubbed me with her thick cloth cloak, and as the sun was shining strongly, I began to dry; but I was so exhausted, that I seemed more dead than alive.

"'Poor thing!' said the female, 'how frightened it is! It is wonderful how children can be so cruel.'

"'Aye, it is,' replied the man; 'but I think most boys like to worry cats. He then related several instances of his own ill conduct when a boy, at the remembrance of which

he laughed, though he condemned the same in others.

"I thought this curious reasoning, and was quite at a loss to imagine how he could see his own faults in so different a point of view.

"I secretly wished, that I might not mix with boys in future, if the antipathy he mentioned was so general.

"We were still in my native county Buckinghamshire, and I understood the coach was to stop at Aylesbury, for the passengers to breakfast; for it was yet early in the day. But when I heard we had yet five miles to go, I was much disappointed, for I sadly wanted food.

"Don't forget to put me down at the 'Grey Horse,' said my friend, 'for I shall walk through the fields, and I want to give this animal to our good landlady at the 'Grey Horse.'

“ ‘Never fear! I shall not pass the ‘Grey Horse’ without a sup of ale,’ answered coachee.

“ This was good news for me; for I naturally supposed my journey would end sooner than I at first believed.

“ I was right; in little more than half an hour we stopped before a small inn close to the road-side. A clean, ruddy-faced woman came to know if the passengers would take any refreshment; and espying me, she began to praise my beauty; and asked Farmer Bradley where he got such a fine young cat.

“ ‘I am glad you like her, mistress,’ returned he, ‘for I just now saved her from being drowned; and bought her for sixpence, just because I thought you would like her.’

“ The landlady returned him many thanks, and took me from him with real satisfaction; for she declared, her house was not furnished without a cat.

"I was no sooner brought into the bar than a plate of cold meat was placed before me, and when my mistress saw how voraciously I ate, she observed, I appeared half starved, and gave me some nice warm milk.

"Once more I felt the comfort of a fire-side ; for although the weather was getting warm, yet from my recent disaster, I experienced a sensible chilliness, and gladly stretched myself on the hearth to enjoy a nap.

"Sleep and good victuals soon restored me. The good landlady had no children, at which I did not repine ; for, short as my life had been, I had seen enough to convince me there were more enemies than friends among them.

"Except when seeking mice, I lived at the side of my mistress, who was constantly praising my abilities, and boasting how many mice I had killed.

"She had only one servant, a complete drudge, and as I never interfered with her pursuits, we were tolerably good friends.

"The noise of an inn, or rather country ale-house, was entirely new to me, and at first unpleasant; but I soon became accustomed to it, and ever listened with interest to the various stories and anecdotes I heard from the evening guests, who came to drink their ale, and read the news.

"Here I first knew something of politics, and when I heard of the unsettled situation of France, wondered what were the feelings and situation of my species in that country. I quite rejoiced when certain that Louis XVIII. was restored to his family honours; for I then hoped our unfortunate race would be at peace.

"Warriors and politicians would have smiled at my fears on this head; but I can tell them, cats have both discernment and feeling.

"One of our customers had been a London-shoemaker; he was, or pretended to be, acquainted with all that was passing there, and to strangers would relate all the wonders of the

metropolis, to their great amazement. Many became desirous of seeing London from his description, myself among the number; for, domestic as we are generally esteemed, I was then but in the prime of life, and a sort of fate seemed to urge me on to the busy scene. Yet I was not discontented with my home, for I had not mixed in great life, therefore had no elegancies to regret.

“ My sojourn at the Grange was spent chiefly in the nursery or housekeeper's room, in comfort rather than splendour; and the accommodation at the ‘ Grey Horse ’ were of the best kind, though in a plain way.

“ It was now July, sultry and fine. I enjoyed the shade of a thick-growing honeysuckle, which clustered round the parlour-window, sheltering a wooden seat under it, where the weary traveller rested on his way.

“ I was so generally known to be a pet with the landlady, that no one dared to molest me. The barber of the village was indeed particularly

fond of me, and taught me to partake of his toast and ale ; so that I usually looked for my share when he was present.

“ One afternoon, having just finished such a meal, I crept under my favourite honeysuckle, in order to slumber, when a cloud of dust suddenly overwhelmed me and my shelter. The cause was soon explained ; an elegant barouche and four horses stopped at the humble ‘ Grey Horse.’ In it were two ladies and the same number of gentlemen ; there was likewise an out-rider.

“ My poor mistress and her maid were instantly in a bustle ; the former came courtesying to the carriage-side, smoothing her apron, and hoping the ladies would take some refreshment. Great was her joy when she learned they meant to dine there if she could speedily provide dinner.

“ So few visitors of this description honoured our dwelling, that it was quite natural the family should be in confusion while preparing dinner. I ventured in doors, and hardly knew

my own home; the landlady and Jenny her maid were constantly in each other's way. Jenny was told to kill the chicken and boil it in the same breath; and the flurried girl thought her mistress had fried the pancakes when she had only mixed the batter; even I was pushed aside, and told I was troublesome.

"If such a change is effected by the presence of the great, thought I, I have no cause to wish for a place under their roof; every thing is now topsy-turvy, which an hour ago was in the highest order. Moreover I thought it hard to be turned out of my own apartment for strangers, because they had a fine equipage.

"I was sneaking through the passage, when a loud exclamation from one of the ladies checked my course.

"O, you sweet creature!" cried she; "what a chest! what a beautiful marked back, all in shades, as if it were painted! Do look, Mrs. Martin; did you ever see so handsome a cat?"

"Handsome, indeed!" returned her com-

panion, in a most affected tone : ' do pray Mr. George, bring the sweet animal in ; I am afraid to touch her myself, for cats are sly creatures I know.'

" Mr. George obeyed ; I was placed on the table, and the two females had not words to express their admiration. They told my mistress when she brought in dinner, that her cat was enough to ensure guests if it were once seen.

" The good woman was quite proud of these praises ; told them how near being drowned I was ; how a friend presented me to her ; and what a fine mouser I had grown, and withal was as gentle as a lamb.

" I thought it wise to stick by such friends during dinner, trusting some dainty bit would fall to my share. I was not mistaken ; the ladies vied with each other in feeding me ; I really believe I had a quarter of a chicken.

" There was something in these strangers that I could not well understand ; there was

none of the dignity of manner, ease, or elegance, such as I had in idea attached to the wealthy and great; but cats are not particular in their company, if they are well treated and fed.

“‘I think,’ said one of the gentlemen, ‘that you ladies will quite fret at leaving Puss behind; now, if you will leave the matter to me, I promise to take her to town with us, and the old landlady be none the wiser.’

“Can these be English quality, thought I, who would purloin me from my good mistress? No, no, they shall not find me so ungrateful; but just then Mr. George gave me a piece of cheese from his own plate, and it is wonderful to think what a change of sentiment this act wrought in me.

“So many good things quite overcame me; I fell into a deep sleep, and was only awakened by a sort of smothering feeling, which gave me an idea I was dying. I heard indistinct bustle and noise; but was so squeezed that I could not arrange my thoughts to know the truth.

"At last I breathed freely; the pressure was removed. I found myself upon Mr. George's knee, in an open barouche, the dinner-party surrounding me, laughing loudly at their success, and the pleasure of cheating the 'Grey Horse.'

"I was quite confounded by the boldness of this plan; and notwithstanding I heard London was our destination, could not feel satisfied in the change of situation.

"Aylesbury was soon reached, and I ventured to look about me as we passed through the town. It was the busiest place I had ever seen; my companions were much diverted by the look of observation I assumed; but I was not dashed.

"We stopped to make some purchases in lace, and then pushed on with double speed; for I found we were to be in London that night.

"As nothing interesting occurred from this time until our arrival in town, I shall pass

over a few hours, and only state that at past ten o'clock we reached Berkeley Square.

"London appeared a most splendid place to my eager eye; for late as it was, a bright moon displayed the large houses and grand squares to much advantage. But judge of my astonishment when I found the whole of our travelling party descended to the lower apartments, and proved no other than upper servants.

"It could make little difference to me, you will say; yet I somehow was vexed by the deception; for it was plain they had acted their master and mistress's part on the road.

"Mrs. Lowe, the first who had noticed me, was the housekeeper, and to her apartment I was taken. I excited universal admiration among the servants, who either approved me, or wished to flatter my mistress. This last was not a difficult matter; for her conceit and false consequence were but too obvious; how unlike my worthy Mrs. Parsons!

"I was now in the heart of the great metro-

polis ; but certainly not a whit the happier for being so. Mrs. Lowe ordered one of the housemaids to attend to me, which she did while I was an object of notice with my mistress. But when it was discovered that this whimsical person had a new favourite in a fine singing goldfinch, my meals were less regularly given ; I soon went half a day without a bit or a drop. For this neglect and unkindness was I snared from my snug home the ' Grey Horse.'

" I understood the season of the year was not a fashionable one ; but that my Lord Ranger's family, which was the title of our master, were going for a trip to Paris, and I experienced some uneasiness at this knowledge ; for we cats have quite a horror of water, and I dreaded the idea of a voyage, even so short as from Dover to Calais.

" From this fear I was soon relieved ; for after several days' bustle and packing, all the Ranger family departed, leaving me under the care of a person who had charge of the house.

" What a change of living I now experienced !

Plain vulgar cats' meat, in scanty quantities, with a drop of milk in a large saucer of water; and this not very often! True, I was in London, and in a nobleman's house; but gloomy did the large empty rooms appear to a family-animal like myself. The food, indeed, I at first entirely rejected; but hunger at length compelled me to submit, and my appetite degenerated by degrees. Autumn and winter passed drearily; nevertheless I had formed an acquaintance with several of my species, and with one a friendship I thought would last for ever.

"He was our next-door neighbour, and his sleek black coat always put me in mind of my mother. I had more than once ventured through an attic window to his dwelling, and shared stolen scraps of delicate flavour; but he one evening gave me a regular invitation to dinner, as he termed it; but I own when I learned the hour was to be eleven, I could not reconcile myself to the distinction, and fancied it must be supper.

"Well, about a quarter of an hour before the appointed time, I passed through the well-known opening, but was long on the stairs ere

I presumed to descend; for the glare of the lamps and chandeliers, the noise of the servants running to and fro from the dining-parlour, with the clattering of plates and dishes, quite bewildered a novice like myself.

"By degrees I reached the hall, but dared not risk a step further, until I saw my friend at the top of the kitchen-stairs. By significant looks, and a motion of the head, he instructed me which side of the hall to take.

"What a sumptuous banquet I enjoyed, and what a tremendous crowd of servants! At last I was safe through, and followed my host into a recess, between the butler's pantry and the servants' hall.

"Here he began to lament the necessity of secrecy, and hoped that my evident tremor would not take away my appetite. When I was sufficiently recovered, I apologized for my rustic bashfulness, and assured him I was quite myself again. He then quitted me for a few minutes, and returned with a choice bit of fricaseed chicken; a second excursion brought

a delicious slice of fish ; a third some Parmesan cheese, and all this in so short a space of time that I foolishly imagined they were voluntary gifts from the cook, and heartily wished so generous a servant presided in our establishment.

“ I complimented him on the richness of the repast.

“ ‘ Why,’ replied he, ‘ it must be owned the viands are of the choicest kind ; for we this day entertain his Royal Highness the Duke of York, and of course the Duke, my master, spares no cost on such an occasion. But I confess the cooking does not exactly suit my palate ; I have lived in the service of a foreign ambassador, where I tasted the most delicious and uncommon mixtures, such as would not suit every English cat ; but my taste is not an every-day one, as my good father used to observe ; for he likewise lived in that luxurious family, and would in all probability have died there in honourable old age, but for an unlucky accident.’ Here my black friend sighed, and turned the conversation. So I thought it would

be rude, if not impertinent, to ask questions; otherwise I was tempted to inquire what happened to his parent.

“ Little did I suspect this old gentleman lost his life in consequence of being so notorious a thief. One day attempting to run away with the best part of a hare, a French man-cook threw a stool after him, and actually knocked him on the head.

“ Boasting is a silly habit even in animals; but to return to my story.

“ My friend gave me some curious information respecting the higher orders of society; for he had mixed in the first circles. Of our own species he had much to say, and amused me exceedingly by anecdotes of the few I knew.

“ I mentioned a black and white kitten which I reckoned a beauty.

“ ‘ Kitten ! ’ echoed he ; ‘ Kitten ! I promise you, her kittenish days are over. She was old enough to kill a mouse when I gave my first

party after my father's death, and that is two years since.'

"I was surprised, for I really thought her younger than myself.

"I spoke of a tabby, whom I believed to be the best mother I had seen in town.

"'Best!' he repeated, 'all pretence! She struts about indeed with her two handsome daughters, because they are admired, and are old enough to kill mice for themselves; but to my knowledge she has witnessed the drowning of two young broods without a single mew. I hope you don't call this mother-like.'

"I had nothing to say in defence of such conduct; but when I heard him censure *all* our acquaintance, I began to think him severe. Yet such is the force of flattery, that when he changed his tone to that of praise of my beauty, he appeared all discernment.

"I felt awkward in not being able to invite my friend to return this visit; but I had no

good fare to offer, and an empty house was not a place for entertainment.

“ Upon my praising the Parmesan cheese, he requested I would let him get me another piece. I modestly declined, but he was so pressing I at last consented; but never can I forget the scene that ensued. It seems a little footboy had watched my poor friend through all his late transgressions, and named the theft to the under butler; he desired him to keep his eye on the black robber, as he termed him.

“ The second attempt for the Parmesan cheese gave the desired opportunity; butler, footman, scullion, all joined in the pursuit. I heard the threats each ushered; I saw my unfortunate host hunted from place to place, until, dashing over a tray of glasses, he caused a crash that seemed to me like the breaking of every window in the house.

“ Hitherto I had crouched, trembling, in the darkest corner of my hiding-place; but seeing all parties run to the one spot, I rushed out and reached the stairs; on the top I en-

countered a young terrier, who disputed my way, loudly barking.

“ I am sure the Duke of York and the grand folks must have been very merry if they heard not this new uproar.

“ A footman in fine livery now ran into the hall to stop the terrier's noise, and while they struggled with each other, I darted up the drawing-room flight, and so on to the attic; the window too was open; but, alas! that of my own residence was closed.

“ Any place was preferable to the house I had just quitted; I wandered through gutters and over the roofs of houses half the night, when just as daylight appeared, I discovered an open window, and timidly entered a room which I soon discovered was under repair. I judged the house was uninhabited, and therefore ventured from room to room. No creature was to be seen: the hall-door was not closed; but when I saw palings surrounding the premises I feared I should not get out.

"A strange kind of noise now struck on my ear, and caused so much alarm that I retreated behind the door porch, and saw several Irish labourers enter to their work; happily they saw me not, and as soon as they were settled at work, I crept into the street. It was not yet seven o'clock; few people were stirring; I passed unobserved; but we cats are not fond of sunshine rambles: I felt a terror while thus exposed. I was a stranger to the streets of London, and looked round in dismay at the dreariness of my prospects.

"Just then I perceived a girl taking down the shutters of a small shop; I slipped in without her perceiving me. An elderly, half-starved-looking woman was blowing the fire in a small room adjoining. I mewed as I approached her, and she put down the bellows to look at me.

"'Why Patty, whose cat is this?' exclaimed she to the young person I before mentioned.

"'Cat!' repeated the girl; 'why, aunt, never saw it before. How came it here?'

“ ‘That’s what I want to know, child,’ said the aunt, ‘I suppose it came in when you opened the shop. But I am sure we don’t want any more mouths to feed these hard times; yet it’s as pretty an animal as I ever beheld. Put it outside the door; let us get rid of it before it is used to the house.’ ”

“ Patty with much feminine sweetness began to stroke and pity me. ‘Poor little creature,’ said she, ‘we don’t know what hard usage has driven you into the streets at this early hour. Do you know, aunt, I should like to keep it until I can speak with Lady Meeke’s housekeeper; for I remember she asked you twice last week if you knew any person who had a pretty cat,—her lady is so fond of them.’ ”

“ ‘So she did, child,’ returned the sharp-visaged shopkeeper; ‘well, I declare I never thought of that. You shall go there to-day, and inquire if she wants such an one now. Meantime the cat must be fed, that’s the worst of the business; every thing eats now-a-days.’ ”

“ As she muttered the last few words she

poured about a tea-spoonful of milk into a saucer for my breakfast; but Patty, who guessed cats might be hungry as well as human beings, added her share to the drop, which quenched my thirst, if it did not afford me a meal.

“About noon, Patty went on her errand, and returned with a smiling countenance. She had seen the housekeeper, and I was to be taken to Park Lane immediately. I had no baggage or fine wardrobe to assort, so was soon ready for the introduction.

“Patty carried me to Park Lane; I was well received; and as the housekeeper was just going to receive her lady's orders for dinner, she embraced the opportunity of shewing me to her.

“In her ladyship's elegant boudoir I found four of my own species; but neither was tortoise-shell. She bestowed the warmest approbation on my appearance, and desired I might be well attended to. But when I learned what was included in this care, I was

not so well pleased, for I underwent such a washing in strong suds, and then a brushing equally bad, that I wished myself far enough from the cleaning scene. However, when completed, I was so much admired, and got so nice a dinner, that I soon forgot the disagreeable process, and played with my lady's knitting-case as I used to do with Ann's knitting-needles in the nursery at the Grange.

“Lady Meeke had two sons, who were then at school. You may suppose I had no desire for their return home; for *now* the name of children frightened me; I had experienced their want of feeling in more instances than one, and I could not hope to meet Alfreds and Fannys every day.

“Easter came, and the Master Meekes had a week's holidays. I dreaded their arrival; but my fears were needless; they proved kind-hearted and obedient children, amusing and agreeable to us all, which was more than we were to each other.

“I was a great favourite with them: they

told their Mamma I was handsomer than all her other pets; and wished I was going back to school with them. I became quite playful and young again, they taught me several habits, which gave me an appearance of genius I really did not possess.

“ My jumping was the astonishment of all who saw me. Master George taught me to leap over his hands, or a stick, and as he waited my improvement patiently, I succeeded beyond his hopes.

“ By his brother I was taught to give my paw when asked, sing and dance, as he called it; but I doubt if my vocal and dancing abilities had been understood unless interpreted by the teacher.

“ Among those who witnessed these exhibitions, was my present kind protectress; she certainly gave me full credit for my exertions, and repeatedly expressed how happy she should feel to own so fine a creature.

“ She was praising me one day to a young

lady who was, like herself, a morning visitor, when she demanded, if she did not think me a beautiful animal.

“ ‘Very handsome,’ was the reply; ‘but I am not partial to cats,’ she continued: ‘indeed I never petted dumb creatures but once; and in that instance, I might be pardoned; for never was a finer, gentler dog, than my pretty Italian greyhound. My brother brought him from Italy; and he would have gone with us to France, had he not been nearly poisoned by a careless servant. We left him with good Mrs. Dormer until our return, and from her he was stolen during a short stay in London.’ ”

“ Mrs. Dormer ! ” exclaimed Julio, “ then the fair speaker was my amiable Maria ! ”

“ Just so, ’ returned Swandown : “ I smiled to myself as I heard you relate your adventures in the Butler family; for I knew I had seen one of its members. Miss Butler is a sweet young lady: I shall give you pleasure by saying, that her venerable mother was then in good health, and they were all going to Ire-

land in a few days from that on which I saw her."

Julio expressed his sincere delight in hearing such good accounts of his favourites; then requested Swandown to proceed.

She did so, as follows :

"Previous to the young gentlemen's return to school, Master Meeke purchased a beautiful canary, intending to take it with him; meantime, aware of its danger, surrounded by so many cats, he hung it up in his bedroom, and locked the door whenever he went in or out. But my scent was stronger than he imagined; I watched him to the abode of his treasure, and stole in so closely yet speedily, that I was under the bed in the twinkling of an eye.

"Whilst thus concealed I certainly did reflect on a *former* bird-adventure; but reflection did not subdue my appetite; the temptation was too strong to be resisted, therefore, as soon as

my young master left the room I quitted my hiding place, and with one spring reached the bird-cage. Unfortunately, the noise I made attracted Master Meeke, who was only in the next room; he came instantly to learn the cause, and discovered me clinging to the wires, while the terrified inmate beat its wings in dismay and affright.

“With a violence and indignation not natural to him, my young friend forced me from my hold, and turned me out of the room.

“I had done the bird no bodily injury; but I learned it did not survive the fright many hours.

“I now became such an object of dislike to the two boys, that they entreated their mother to send me away; nor would they leave home without a promise from her, that I should be gone before the next holidays.

“I thought this very unjust, and wished I could make myself understood; so that I might

reason with them on the subject. But this was impossible; they went to school, and I was brought here.

"Mrs. Spencer's reception of me was all I could desire; but I was not quite satisfied in noticing her attachment to Poll and Julio.

"I could also see they had no pleasure in my society; but we each conquered our dislike, and, I imagine, now live upon equally good terms with the rest of the world. I have seen many disagreements among the human species; the squabbles of brutes are far less censurable. Here my adventures end; all that has happened since must be known to you, and needs no repetition."

Before we begin Pug's Memoirs, it may be necessary to observe, that the recital of the last adventures received some little interruption from the return of Mrs. Spencer, who was so partial to her four animal pets, that she seldom left them but at meals.

They were now on such terms with each

other, and so interested in the histories already related, that it seemed an age to wait a convenient time for the tale yet untold.

Pug, indeed, considered it a great disadvantage to *his* poor powers of entertainment, for he observed, the longer they waited, the greater would be their expectations.

Mrs. Spencer, at length, gave a grand route, which so entirely occupied her time and attention, that Pug was fully at leisure to satisfy the curiosity of his friends, and, no doubt, his own vanity.

With a bow, and a shrug full of meaning, Pug thus addressed his attentive companions.

PUG'S ADVENTURES.

"Like my friend Swandown, I have a strong objection to boasting, otherwise I might enlarge on some points of our general history, without differing from the greatest naturalists ;

for we monkies have puzzled even philosophers, as to our origin. The learned have written to prove our affinity to the human race: again, the learned have written in order to disprove this; so that it is still a question to be answered; and it is plain, mankind are very sore on the matter. It must be acknowledged our imitations are wonderful copies of human habits, and oftentimes the best satire on their folly.

“ In the dominions of the Great Mogul, which you know is India within the Ganges, we are absolutely worshipped. Ignorance and superstition are, I must own, carried very far, when such adoration can be paid to any animal in the universe; but I wish to shew how valued we are in some countries, though in England we are but the vehicles of amusement.

“ The country of Congo, in Africa, is my native one. Africa is a separate quarter of the globe, and this part of it was discovered, by the Portuguese, in 1481. Within land there are many desarts, abounding with various sorts of beasts; many of them whose nature is of

the most ferocious kind; for Africa is more remarkable for wild beasts than any other part of the world. I believe I may include monkeys with the wild ones; but not with the ferocious; for we are soon made tractable, and become the companions of man. We seem but to want speech, to prove our equality.

"The savages of Lower Guinea, otherwise Congo, suppose us to be men, and a celebrated Catholic writer, (Father Carli,) in his History of the Kingdom of Angola, which is situated in Congo, affirms he found our race useful, and faithful attendants; guarding him from thieves, or rats, fetching water, and even combing his hair. In short he could manage them far easier than his fellow-beings.

"I call this holding a place in the scale of nature; and certainly feel a little proud in being able to give such authority for our talents and domestic qualities.

"At the same time, I shall not deny that we are mischievous and deceitful in a great degree; and so adroit in defending and assisting each

other, that few dare attack us openly. Even the lion and tiger will not dispute possession with us. We carry on war from the tops of trees; and by our agility escape pursuit.

“For myself, I was taken too young to shew my dexterity in such cases; but I remember witnessing such scenes, in which my own parents took an active part. You may suppose we are not easily caught: those who undertake our capture, shoot our unfortunate mothers when bearing us in their arms. Such was the fate of mine; she dropped dead; and I, her ill-fated cub, fell into the hands of her destroyer. I was in a manner bespoke, and became the immediate property of an Englishman, who was mate, or chief officer, of a Guinea ship, bound for Liverpool.

“However grotesque I may appear to some, I can assure you I was generally admired by the ship’s crew, during our voyage to England. Numerous were the tricks they taught me; and which I so quickly learned, that I became a constant source of entertainment, from the captain to the cabin-boy. I climbed the rig-

ging like an expert sailor ; ran away with the culinary articles ; hid their tobacco-boxes ; and could even wind up a watch. One and all declared I was the cleverest monkey they had ever seen, often as they had taken such animals to England. And when I had a slight illness of three days' continuance, the honest tars nursed and attended me as though I had been a child.

"Our passage to Liverpool was long and dangerous ; more than once I was nigh being washed overboard, for I was at full liberty. Another time, during a storm, I received a blow on the side of my head, from a flapping sail, and retain the mark to this day. I was quite stunned ; and it was generally feared I was dead ; however, I soon recovered, and the wound proved of greater consequence some time after, as you shall hear.

"One of the sailors was particularly fond of me ; and I fully returned his partiality. My master observing this, gave me into his care ; and promised him a recompence if I reached England alive.

“ It was autumn when we entered the harbour of Liverpool ; and much did I wonder at the scene. Several strangers came on board our ship while I remained ; for, although the mate went on shore the first day, I was left with honest Jack for several.

“ At length Jack was ordered to bring me on shore to my master's house. Many times was our course checked by boys and others to look at ‘ Jack,’ as they called me. I did not like this observation and merriment I excited ; and when near enough my tormentors, gave them some sharp scratches, and even bites. Shouts of laughter followed these proofs of my anger ; and the mob increased as we proceeded.

“ At length we reached the first house I ever inhabited ; and greatly I wondered, as, seated on the shoulder of my master, I beheld the novel appearance of the apartment, and the pursuits of its inmates.

“ A wife and one child constituted his family ; the little boy was terribly frightened at me, though he laughed at my tricks. His mother

declared I was an ugly creature; and she well knew monkeys were so mischievous, that every thing in the house would go wrong, while I was in it.

“ ‘See, now, Mr. Smith,’ said she, ‘if the audacious thing has not taken the very apple the child was going to eat! See, see, he will throw the glass off the table! Look how he grins and shews his teeth at me. Dearest me, man, what could possess you to bring us such a useless creature?’

“ My master, laughingly, took my part, and assured her, when she got used to me, she would find me very entertaining. She shook her head, and seemed ill satisfied. I thought after so long a voyage, she might have studied her husband’s wishes a little more; but I soon discovered she was mistress and master too. Some nuts were brought, and my master gave me some to crack; I copied him so exactly, that he and the boy were much amused; but the good lady was determined not to like me, and condemned my very dexterity; and added, it was quite unchristian-like to teach dumb

animals the ways of children. I chattered and mimicked her resentment, which caused her husband to laugh heartily: this only irritated her, and she threw the cork-screw at me. I returned the compliment, by collecting the nutshells, and pelting her as long as they lasted.

“Any person possessed of common sense, would have smiled at least to witness such a reprisal; but this ill-tempered woman was so highly incensed, that she absolutely shed tears, and insisted that I should not remain a night in the house.

“My master could play the king on board of ships; but here, he had little to say, and was only successful enough to procure me a night's lodging: he promised I should be sent away.

“If this be English manners, thought I, a fig for this polished people; and as for hospitality, the savages of my native country could set a far brighter example.

“Then, again, I began to imagine it was

the general conduct of those who dwelled in houses, and I heartily wished myself once more in a ship.

“ Much I blamed my master for yielding to his headstrong wife ; but I now find, much of the peace and happiness of families depends upon *giving up*, as it is termed in England.

“ Sleep obliterated the unpleasantness of my first reception ; and when I awoke the next morning, I flattered myself things might be changed. But Mrs. Smith had not relented ; she would scarcely let her husband finish his breakfast, before he went on board of ship to speak to Jack about taking me.

“ When he left the house, I drew back to a corner of the parlour, waiting his return in sulky inactivity ; for I was much offended.

“ Once, when she left the room, I ran forward, and overthrew her work-basket, mixing its contents in a manner that would give her much trouble to disentangle them. Remember, our nature is mischievous ; and that, naturally

frolicsome, we may do with impunity, what in mankind would be inexcusable malice.

“ Fortunately for me, Mr. Smith and honest Jack entered the house just as she again seated herself; so that my trick was not discovered, and in a few minutes I was made over to the delighted tar.

“ My old master patted my head, and wished me well; muttering, he would take care how he brought a present for his family again.

“ So pleased was Mrs. Smith at getting rid of me, that she actually gave Jack a glass of grog. As she took the glass from him, I made a snatch at her fine lace cap, bringing away at the same time some long ringlets, which I had before supposed to be her own. Her husband laughed outright; my new owner hastily left the house to conceal his own mirth, and spare me punishment. But he did not spare his merriment when once out of the lady's hearing; and more than once he told the story with much humour to his comrades, who came to his

lodgings; for he had left his ship, and was going to London by the heavy coach.

“Accordingly, we mounted the said coach on the following morning, and reached London on the evening of the second day. How many strange sights I saw during this journey! What a variety of persons and towns! Sharply did I look about me; and, perhaps, few travellers arrested more attention than I did. Every body seemed pleased with me; I was well fed, and warmly wrapped up at night.

“I could almost fancy I now hear the noise and confusion which stunned me as I entered the great city. I was then frightened by it, and clung to my master for protection.

“We alighted in a narrow street, called Lad Lane, but as our baggage was of a trifling nature, did not enter the inn. Jack flung his bundle over one shoulder, and holding me close to his bosom, went in search of a lodging. This he procured in the neighbourhood of the Tower, but I cannot say much for the elegance of our

abode ; for, a more dark or dirty hovel I scarcely ever saw. Yet he seemed contented ; and as there was no Mrs. Smith to ill-treat or turn me out, I had no inclination to complain. Indeed I had seen so few dwellings, that I was not competent to make comparisons, and could not lament comfort I had never enjoyed.

“ Our hostess was a woman of vulgar manners ; but she was also good-natured, and so fond of giving every person and living creature enough to eat, that I rather overfed than otherwise ; my warm-hearted master paid liberally for my board ; but I am convinced, *that* did not influence her kindness towards me ; for I have seen her give many a slice of bread and a penny to the hungry, and feed her poor neighbours’ cats and dogs.

“ I felt a great attachment to my honest owner, and grateful to his landlady for her generosity to me. Yet I could not relish the society of their companions ; I played off my tricks with more glee when alone with my master. This he at length perceived ; and thinking I

wanted more air and exercise to raise my spirits, determined to take me out every day. I liked these excursions, though the passengers were sometimes troublesome to us; for Jack would buy nuts or apples, that I might shew off my ingenuity in eating them, and by this means often drew idlers after us.

“ One day a boy purchased a roasted apple, and held it towards me; I eagerly put out my paw to take it, but so great was its heat that I dropped it immediately, to the delight of the lookers on. They cried out, ‘ Pug has burnt his fingers;’ this roused me; I hastily jumped from my master’s arms, caught up the smashed fruit, and threw it so direct into the offender’s face, that he called out lustily, and I then had the general laugh on my side.

“ Another time, when a young urchin had tormented me by offering an orange, then drawing it back as I attempted to reach it, I suddenly leaped on his head, and gave him several hard scratches; he roared for assistance, and was answered by continual peals of laughter from the crowd.

"In short, it would weary you, were I to repeat half the jokes I thus caused; some of them, indeed, proved no joke to those I punished. But it was usually their own conduct that provoked my anger, though I certainly enjoyed the ridicule they excited.

"We had one afternoon nearly reached Temple Bar: my master stopped at St. Dunstan's Church to see the figures strike the clock; an old shipmate who waited for the same purpose recognized him, and they were shaking hands, when a stage-coach heavily laden, upset close to us. A scene of terror and confusion ensued, Jack and his comrade, with the warmth of true British sailors, ran to give their aid; somehow I slipped from his arm, and was forced on by the crowd, expecting every moment to be trodden to death. A gentleman at last discovered and raised me: he seemed to fear I should bite him, but my own fears were too lively to injure any one. I clung to him, looking around in vain for the face best known to me. The stranger, from the pressure of the mob, was obliged to take shelter in a tobacco-nist's shop, where he was civilly invited to

take a seat. He placed me upon the counter, and then related to the master of the shop, how I came into his possession.

“ ‘I am sure,’ he added, ‘I don’t know what I shall do with him. I am a great way from home, and indeed my young people are so much alarmed at the sight of monkies, that I should hardly venture to take this among them.’

“The shopkeeper was a short, sturdy, sprightly-looking man, about sixty. He wore a brown close wig, rather too small for his head; so that it appeared to fit the top only. His spectacles were thrown up on his forehead; he had all the air of honesty and business. With a good-humoured smile he declared, he should like to have me very much, for he thought us very amusing animals; and as he had no children to frighten, or wife to object to his fancy, if the gentleman was agreeable to it, he would keep me with pleasure.

“The stranger desired no better; he departed, and I was ushered, not down, but up

stairs ; for as friend Poll has already observed, ' citizens in general have their kitchen and sitting-rooms above stairs.'

" When Mr. Bennet, my new master, said he had no wife to object to his plans, he said right ; but there was another person in the house, more difficult to please than half a dozen wives ; this personage was the cook. She had been so long used to rule the house, and have every thing her own way, that it was necessary to consult her in all matters.

" On my first appearance she was outrageous ; and thought her master must be mad to load the house with such rubbish. But when she saw me snatch up a kitten, and dance it, as a child would a doll, her feelings took a new turn, and, with arms akimbo, she laughed until she could scarcely stand.

" The shopman now procured a string, and fastened me to the leg of the kitchen-table ; this only allowed me to reach a certain part of the room ; the confinement was new to me, and

greatly depressed my spirits; but I was cunning enough not to rebel, and waited my liberty with much patience. For several days, cook and I were good friends; but one morning I stole a turnip, and licked up the best part of a rice-pudding prepared for baking. These thefts ensured me a severe thrashing, for which I vowed revenge, as soon as an opportunity offered. Accordingly, on the next Saturday, when she trimmed up her best cap for Sunday, I embraced the moment of her rising to answer her master's bell, when, crumpling her fine lace and muslin, I stuffed it into a rat-hole under the dresser.

"Upon her return she missed her cap, and began searching a band-box, table-drawer, and every where near. All this time I shammed sleep, and so effectually, that though she at first suspected me, she was induced to believe me innocent.

"The shopman and apprentice lad came to their supper while she was searching, and upon hearing of her loss, readily guessed that I was

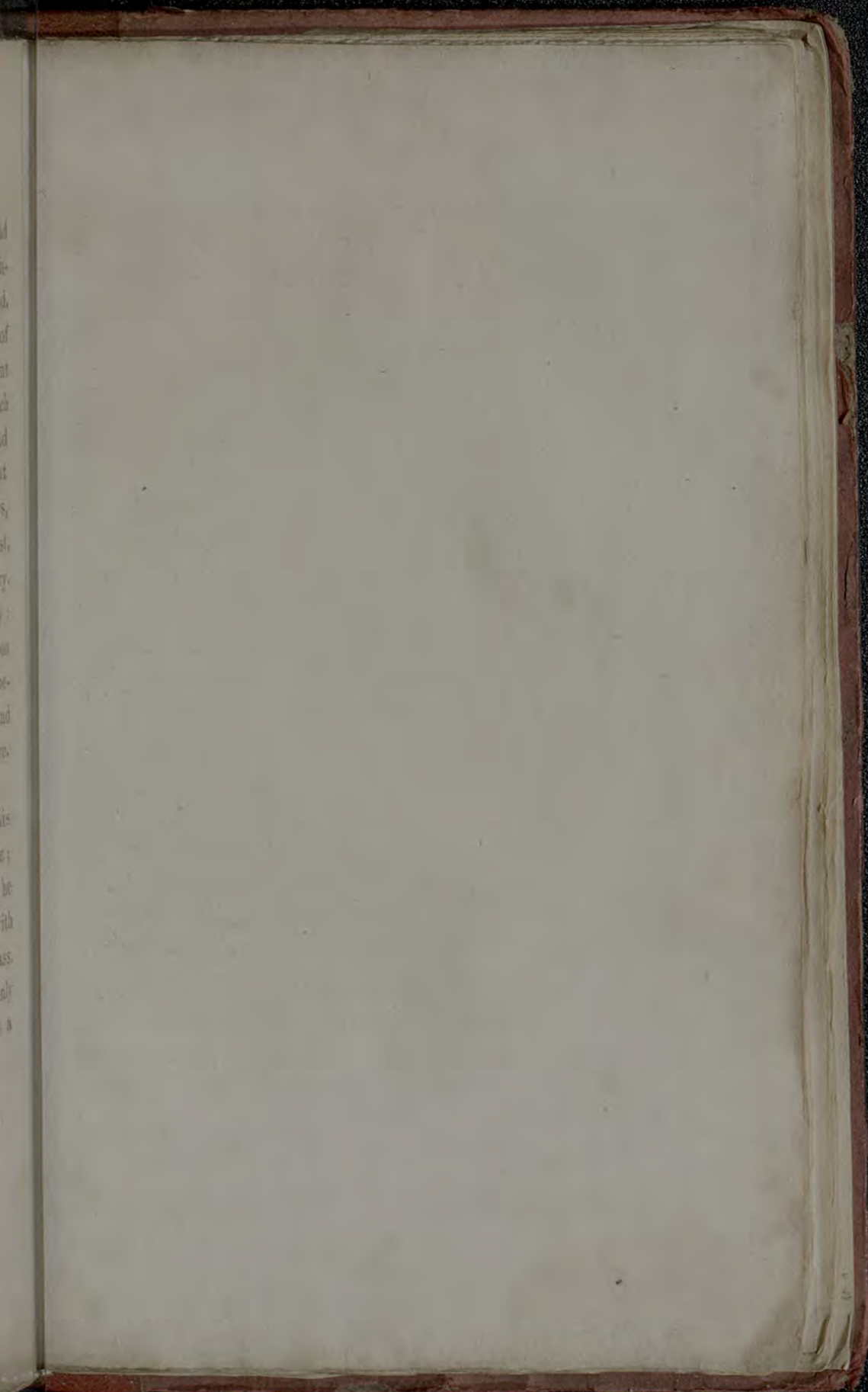
the author of it ; but as she was not the kindest companion, neither regretted her misfortune, nor cared to name their suspicions.

“ Their smiles gave her an idea that they had hidden her Sunday-cap ; and her angry manner of accusing them but augmented their mirth : a curious squabble ensued, which ended but with the hour of repose ; cook retiring confirmed in her belief of their wickedness, and they enjoying her mistake.

“ Well, Sunday came ; Mrs. Cook could only wear her second-best cap ; she headed her dinner table with a very bad grace, declaring she had a great mind to throw the plum-pudding behind the fire, in return for their destroying her best cap. Her companions laughed, but took care to secure the pudding. I crept to the hiding-hole, and drew forth the cap, which, having opened as well as I could, I placed it on my own head, as I had seen her do, and then drew as near the dinner party as my string would allow, tossing my head with an air of conceit, as if proud of my dress.

“ The boy first caught sight of me ; and immediately burst into so violent a fit of laughter, that his companions looked up amazed. The truth was soon told, and cook, in spite of her anger, laughed too. Their merriment brought the master to learn the cause ; which he declared must be madness, for they had awakened him out of a comfortable nap. But when he saw me sitting with crossed paws, like a bashful lady, he laughed with the loudest, and would not let cook remove my finery. This did not close the adventures of the day : Mr. Bennet invited me to spend the afternoon with him ; and I assure you I was most liberally treated : almonds and raisins, nuts and oranges were on the table, and I had my share.

“ I played off all my tricks in return for his kindness, and never amused an individual more ; he really laughed himself to sleep, and as he sat nodding in his arm-chair, I made free with some wine and water he had left in a glass. This, added to my previous spirits, certainly took effect on my head, and I became in a manner intoxicated.



Confidential Memoirs.



"Matters were in this state when cook came to clear the table, her gravity could not stand the scene, and she begged her master to look in the glass"

see page 297.

“ I have already observed, that my master's wig did not well cover his head, from which cause he had a constant habit of pulling it at each side, and settling it one moment to discompose it the next. I had not been five minutes in his company before I noticed this; and immediately I saw him in a slumber, I gently leaped on his shoulder, removed his wig, and gave him cook's cap instead of it. The wig instantly covered my own head; and, as you may suppose, my shoulders. Mr. Bennet waked rather suddenly, and seeing me so equipped, was highly amused, though he was unconscious of his own appearance.

“ Matters were in this state when cook came to clear the table; her gravity could not stand the scene, and she begged her master to look in the glass. The old gentleman did so, and was not disconcerted; but he thought it quite time to recover his wig, and attempted to lay hold of me for the purpose. But I had no mind to relinquish it, and jumped hastily from him, throwing down bottles, glasses, and all that came in my way. Mr. Bennet thought

this carrying the joke too far ; cook screamed with anger and surprise, seizing her master's stick to chastise me. There was no time to be lost ; I made my way out of the room into the kitchen ; they followed in quick pursuit, and I darted out of the window on to what is called the leads. Here cook's flower-pots suffered, and when she beheld the devastation, her indignation knew no bounds.

“ ‘ O ! my mignonette,’ cried she, ‘ and my beautiful scarlet-runners ! The vile animal has destroyed more pots than cost me a crown. Do, Sir, fetch your blunderbuss and shoot the mischievous creature.’ ”

“ ‘ Mischief I had done undoubtedly ; but I must so far differ from Mrs. Cook as to affirm, that the mignonette, as she termed it, was yet under the mould, and the beautiful scarlet-runners were not an inch high ; and I believe there were not two garden-pots uncracked in the whole collection, however fright might have led her to magnify the value of her property, as well as my wickedness. Any how, I felt it

would not be safe to return to my old quarters ; therefore, climbing the low roof of a washing-house, I ascended the withered branches of a shrivelled tree, which stood alone amid brick and mortar. I really wondered how any thing green ever ventured to grow in such a place ; but, perhaps, in its prime, fields, rather than houses, were its neighbours.

“ I hopped from this to a ruinous building ; and so on, from roof to roof ; sometimes aloft amongst a ‘ grove of chimneys ;’ at others, making the tour of a hundred old work-shops.

“ I now began to look around in search of a home ; for I had no intention of wandering this way all night. On a sudden I discovered water-boats rowing backwards and forwards, and some fine trees near the edge of the river.

“ I afterwards learned, the water was no less than the famous Thames, the pride of London ; and the trees were situated in a garden belonging to the Temple. This change of prospect

was cheering to the eye, yet I wanted something more,—a *shelter*.

“At that moment I discovered below me, leads somewhat similar to those of Mr. Bennet's, but in much better order, with a row of garden-pots full of stone-crop, daisies, and sickly geraniums, and an open window immediately over the choice plants.

“There, thought I, must be my resting-place, but I must be cautious how I intrude; the master may not be a Mr. Bennet, though it is probable cooks are alike in most houses. I crept down to the desired spot, and seating myself close to the window-sill, waited an opportunity to gain notice. Presently I heard voices, and ventured to peep into the room. It was a kitchen, but the furniture so neatly arranged, the bright grate and white hearth looking so temptingly clean and comfortable, that I longed to be inside.

“At a tea-table near the window, were

seated two persons, one evidently a visitor, but both appeared to be domestics. As they sipped their tea, the following conversation took place :—

“ ‘Dear me, Mrs. Molly,’ said the visitor, ‘what a fine taste you have for gardening ! I never *seen* any body’s flowers more forward for the time of year. How delicate those daisies do look ! And the stone-crop is quite a sight ! Your geranums are not quite so strong, I think.’

“ ‘No, ma’am,’ replied Molly, ‘they are not yet ; I have taken great pains with them. Somehow, I don’t think this air is quite the thing for flowers. It is astonishing the difference between my little garden here, and our fine one on Epping Forest.’

“Not at all, thought I : Molly continued—
‘I think it is so pleasant to see a little green about one, if it is only chickweed ; but you see ma’am, I understand something of gardening. You don’t see this place to advantage now, it is too early in the season ; by and by I shall

have sweet peas as high as the third pane of glass ; and I generally treat myself with a pot of pinks from Fleet-market. Then, I assure you, the scene is quite rural ; not forgetting the chirping of the pretty sparrows.'

"This must be cockney taste, thought I. The visitor expressed her belief of the beautiful appearance Molly's garden must have in summer, and regretted *she* could not keep a single flower in the mould for the tiresome cats, who scratched them up directly they were set.

" 'That is very provoking,' said Molly ; 'but our cat is too well-bred to meddle with my flowers ; and she is such a mouser, I wouldn't part with her on any account. I believe your people don't like cats.'

" 'No,' was the reply, 'they are so afraid of their birds ; the poor cats lead a terrible life in our house.'

" 'Aye,' returned Molly, 'it was just so when I lived at Mr. Bennet's, a little lower down ;

his good lady would not suffer a cat in the house, on account of her canary. Then we were overrun with mice; then my master got a terrier, who was to kill all the rats and mice in a week; but he and the great house-dog used to quarrel and fight so much, that he was obliged to be sent away. I don't know how they have managed since; but I'm sure the present cook won't be half so patient as I was with them all. I used often to tell my master he would be sorry enough when I was gone; but he couldn't bear contradiction, he used to look so ———

“As Molly paused for a comparison, I popped my head in at the window, resting my chin on the sill.

“Molly saw me, started, shrieked, and dropped the cup, her best China tea-cup, on the floor.

“‘O! what is the matter?’ exclaimed her companion, in alarm; then directing her eyes according to Molly’s, she beheld the cause

of her terror, and instantly shrieked still louder.

“ I retreated, expecting a host of pursuers, but kept near enough to hear what was passing within.

“ Several voices joined in conversation, and Molly was repeatedly asked what occasioned her alarm ; but she had not courage or power of speech for some moments.

“ At length, sobbing, she declared, that just as she was speaking of her old master Bennet, he, or his ghost, popped its head in at the window. She could not be deceived, for she knew his wig too well.

“ I heard a man's voice declare that Molly was out of her senses, and then inquire what the other poor woman had seen.

“ ‘ O, Sir,’ she exclaimed, ‘ I really assure you it is no dream ; for though I can't say I know Mr. Bennet from Adam, yet I am certain

I saw an old gentleman pop his head in at the window; he had a great huge wig on, and grinned at us both!

“‘A great huge wig!’ returned somebody laughing, ‘that is a good joke; for certain it was not old Bennet, for he wears a very small one.’

“‘If ever I *seed* him in my life,’ said Molly rather angrily, ‘I *seed* him just now; and no wonder I screamed, and broke my best China, as come all the way from *Indy*. I’m sure it’s no joke to me.’

“‘I can only say,’ observed Molly’s friend, ‘that I saw an old man’s head in a wig; and I won’t be sure, but I think I saw a bit of a blue coat and a red collar.’

“This produced a fresh burst of laughter, and a young gentleman stepping quickly forward, declared he would have a search for Mr. Bennet’s wig at least. I thought the business would end in a manner I might not like, there-

fore it was best to decamp ; but willing to have my sport to the last, I took the terrifying wig from my head, and threw it with all my force into the kitchen, scampering away the same moment, dexterously climbing the side of the house, and so on to the next and next. Even at that distance I heard the uproar and mirth my late action had caused, and felt some curiosity to know how they would dispose of the wig, and whether it would ever reach the right owner.

“ But my own merriment was checked in a manner I little suspected ; for as I was dropping from a pointed roof into a gutter, I lost my hold, and fell headlong down. Though not seriously injured I was bruised all over, and was not able to move for some minutes. I groaned and chattered as if desirous of awakening compassion in some kind breast, yet I had little hope. However, aid was nearer than I expected ; my noise attracted a lodger in the house to which the gutter belonged ; he looked out of a small window, and seeing my helpless situation, stretched his arm towards me. Thus

encouraged, I crawled to meet him, and he lifted me into the room.

“ With much humanity he attended to my bruises, then offered me some of his evening’s meal.

“ My new abode was of very inferior kind, and my host a solitary being, who seemed glad to gain even such a companion as myself.

“ Being much fatigued by my late toils, and in pain from my fall, I was glad to repose on an old coat he gave me for a bed.

“ In the morning I was sufficiently recovered to notice my new master ; but my spirits were yet low. After breakfast he prepared for work, and I then discovered he was a tailor. Seated on the same board, I watched his motions, and, as usual with my race, began to imitate them. He laughed and caressed me, declaring I should soon make an excellent workman ; and I really believe, had he instructed me, I should have been able to follow the trade.

"The poor tailor grew extremely fond of me, and by degrees made me a complete suit of clothes,—a handsome jacket of scarlet, faced with blue, and a soldier's cap to correspond. I did not at first relish the confinement of dress, but time reconciled me. The love of finery is as strong with us as with those individuals in mankind called *fops*; and I doubt not *they* often experience much inconvenience from the nature of their garments; but *fashion*, my friends, *fashion* can bear a great deal.

"Kindly as I was treated, I did not approve of our habitation,—an obscure back garret; the sky and smoke our only prospect. I wanted to see more of life; in short, I wanted liberty.

"It seems my friend the tailor had often spoken, and perhaps *boasted* of my talents, to the person who employed him, in consequence of which I was taken to see him.

"Few beaux could attract more than I did on this occasion. I had the universal gaze of the passengers; I bowed and kissed hands to

them, as I had been taught by the shopman at Mr. Bennet's.

“ My owner's master kept a handsome shop in Holborn. On our arrival at it, I was placed on the counter, and excited much approbation from the shopkeeper, who confessed he had never seen so sensible a monkey; and after I had exhibited all my tricks, he made an offer to purchase me.

“ The poor tailor was not very willing to part with me; but his necessities were urgent, and his master's price was tempting, so that he did not long stand out against his interest.

“ I was well pleased to stay behind, for the scene was enlivening, and every thing about me looked far superior to what I had ever witnessed. Seated in the shop-window, I saw and was seen. If the passer by was diverted by my appearance, I can truly say I had equal amusement in watching and laughing at him. And I think I may with truth assert, that I brought an increase of custom to the shop;

every one liked to play with Mr. Remnant's monkey; and Pug was considered one of the best articles he displayed through the fine plate-glass window.

"One trick of mine gave great satisfaction, and I doubt not it spread my master's fame. I had seen both him and his young man present cards of address to the customers, and took upon myself this part of the business. Indeed I would not suffer any other to undertake the office.

"Accordingly, as soon as I saw a stranger enter the shop, I immediately stepped forward and presented a card, and have often followed them to the door, bowing and scraping, as if to return my thanks for favours received.

"Many a laugh this occasioned, and more than once excited a wish to possess me; but Mr. Remnant was not a needy man, and declared he would not lose Pug for twenty pounds. This he repeated before all sorts of customers, and his workmen; one of them

thought to benefit by the declaration in a way you shall hear.

“ He determined on stealing me, in the hope of so liberal a reward, should he pretend to recover me. But this was not an easy matter; for monkeys are not such gentle animals but they can resist violence, and even prove powerful antagonists; besides, I was seldom left alone. However, he was a cunning fellow, and did not take his opportunity when a few were present. He chose Saturday-night for his scheme, when the shop was generally filled with his fellow-workmen, and taking care to be the first settled with, he drew back, and leaned against the window-frame, near the door, and slyly held some cherries to tempt my approach. I caught at the bait, and ran forward; he threw a piece of baize over me, held it tight, and catching up his bundle, hurried out of the shop. For my part I was lost in surprise; but as soon as I understood I was trepanned, I began to struggle and bite the covering, even to the fingers of the holder. He changed me from hand to hand in vain; for as

the baize got looser, and I more free from pressure, I became more desperate, until at length, I gave so severe a bite that he dropped me on the pavement with a force that hurt my back, though it set me at liberty. I extricated myself, and jumping upon a door-step, defended myself against his attempts to regain me.

"It was late in the evening, otherwise our struggle had gathered a mob; as it was, four or five persons came round and enjoyed the battle between the tailor and his monkey.

"On a sudden I jumped over the shoulder of the provoked thief, and although pursued, by favour of darkness, escaped through some courts opposite, and lastly down an area, the gate of which was open.

"Here I took breath, and hoped for temporary rest; but in a moment a little girl opened a kitchen-door, and came to draw water from a tub, close to where I had taken shelter.

"I wished to make friends with her, and

gently raised my paw to her hand ; but had I been the plague, she could not have been more terrified. Loudly shrieking for her mammy, she stood with raised hands, fixing her eyes on me, afraid to move one way or the other.

“ I declare I was quite astounded, not to say wounded, by this reception ; for really there was nothing in my appearance but what might be seen every day in the most fashionable parts of the town. Surely, thought I, a gay soldier is not so terrifying an object ; but perhaps it is too dark to discover my red jacket.

“ ‘ What is the matter, child ? ’ exclaimed the mother, as she ran to her assistance.

“ ‘ O mammy ! ’ returned the girl, ‘ such a little man in a red coat ! Take him away, take him away ! ’

“ ‘ O the dickens ! ’ replied the woman ; ‘ a man in a red coat ! we shall be robbed and killed. Brother, brother Joe, come here directly ; there is a robber in the area.’

"A stout young man in handsome livery now came forward, vowing he would blow the robber's brains out; but when he beheld the gigantic form of your humble servant, he was dumb with astonishment.

"I perceived he was not frightened, so ventured to approach him, and endeavour to make one friend at least. He soon undeceived the affrighted pair, and assured them I was only a harmless monkey, though a great beau. He then got a candle, and, taking me into the kitchen, more closely examined me; he laughed most heartily as he viewed my habiliments, turning me round to observe how well they fitted.

"'What an ugly creature!' cried the woman; 'I'm sure I wonder how any body can like monkeys, they are of no use but for mischief.'

"'I beg your pardon,' returned Joe; 'they are sometimes very useful animals, and in some countries as good as a servant. Why do you

know, they can be taught any thing, and what will surprise you, they are eatable ?'

" 'Eatable !' echoed his sister, ' why, who would eat such coarse, nasty food ?'

" ' O, many gentlemen and ladies abroad, replied Joe, ' such as the negroes of Guinea in Africa.'

" ' Aye, negroes indeed !' observed his sister ; ' they may do as they please in such outlandish places ; but in this Christian country I'm sure the *sight* of them is enough. I hope,' she continued, ' I hope you will take it away with you ; for I cannot bear to look at it, much less let it live in the same house with me.'

" ' Well, don't frighten yourself, sister,' returned Joe ; ' I will not leave him behind, yet I'm sure I cannot promise him a very comfortable home ; for never were such spoiled children as ours, only I think Pug is able to take his own part.'

"These words did not hold out any flattering prospect, yet there was a feeling in the young man's manner, which promised protection, and there was nothing in the present abode to regret leaving.

"The silly woman could not conquer her repugnance, and never let her brother rest until he departed; he shortly after did, bearing me on his arm. Swandown will stare when I inform her, our journey ended in Wimpole Street, at the house of Mr. Melville, who was no other than the father of the tiresome children who so cruelly annoyed her in early life.

"The first time I was introduced to them I really thought there was nothing to fear; for they were the prettiest children I ever saw in my life, and being rather in awe of a monkey as a plaything, they did not offer any insult. But as soon as we became any way familiar, and I allowed them liberties, they betrayed their tyrannical disposition, and took every opportunity of shewing their power. I was neither

allowed to eat, drink nor sleep, but when they chose. They would dress or undress me three or four times in a day, until I began to rebel, and gave them such rough usage in return, that fear kept them in a little order."

"I am not surprised," said Swandown, "by this account; for I had early proof of such behaviour; but pray did not their parents interfere when they saw them behave so ill?"

"Why," replied Pug, "I suppose Mrs. Melville thought she interfered when she said, 'Fie, my dear! don't tease the poor monkey.'—'Naughty child! you should not hurt the poor thing, because if you do, it will bite you.' So that they were only bidden to forego hunting me lest they should incur danger themselves, and not from any principle of humanity. Such injudicious conduct must injure children, and I fear it is but too common."

"The little Melvilles did not appear deficient in natural abilities; but their time was spent in idleness; and although they had

masters for a certain period of the day, no sooner were they alone, than the books were thrown aside, and no attention paid to the tasks allotted them. Thus they were ever in disgrace with their instructors, and consequently made no progress in learning in any of its branches.

“ One morning Miss Melville not having patience to learn a grammar-lesson, after crying over it, and turning up the corners of the page over and over again, in a sudden fit of anger tore out the leaf of the book, and crumpling it up, slipped it between the sofa and the cushion. I was playing on the hearth-rug at this moment, and determined to turn the action to good account.

“ When the master came, the dunce brought her book, as if quite ready to repeat her lesson, but of course no lesson was to be found. Recent marks of tearing explained how it was gone; but Miss Melville appeared perfectly unconscious of the truth. Her tutor, however, was not so easily deceived; he begged her to recollect if she had not herself made a mistake, and

torn out the page instead of learning it. This she denied, but so faintly and in such confusion of manner that I judged this the proper opportunity of exposing her disgraceful conduct: so jumping on the sofa, I drew forth the fragments of grammar, and mounting the study-table, displayed them to the wondering party. John Melville was at first inclined to laugh; for he really believed me the sole author of the mischief; but Eliza, the youngest girl, read in her sister's countenance how far she was guilty, and checked her brother's mirth. Denial would have been vain; Miss Melville read in her instructor's severe look his opinion. I was glad to see her shed tears, and witness the traits of shame in her brother and sister,

“The master declared I was a valuable monitor, and he wished every idle young lady or gentleman had as good a one.

“From this time Miss Melville entertained a fear of me, which was of service to us both; for it caused her to forego many improper actions, and spared me many a buffet; for she

dared not tease me as formerly. Eliza was the most amiable of the three, and consequently my favourite ; but even *she* was very far from being faultless.

“ John, as Swandown can certify, was a violent-tempered child, and desirous of having all things his own way. If he wanted to walk out, no matter the rain or dirt, he would cry for an hour at the necessary confinement. Did his sisters own a toy or book, he instantly wanted to exchange with them, and upon refusal would stamp and put himself into the most disgraceful passion. The servants were soon weary of such behaviour, and constantly leaving Mr. Melville’s service.

“ I lived only a few months in the house, but I believe they changed nurse-maids thrice in that short space of time.

“ One morning that Master Melville had taken medicine for a cough, he was ordered not to take his usual morning-walk ; the other young ones were, however, to have theirs ; but

from a foolish motive of sparing him a necessary disappointment, the maid was ordered to steal the children out of the room without his knowing their intention.

“ He had half eaten his breakfast when he discovered the fraud, and, as usual, a fit of passion ensued ; during it he threw the dessert spoon, with which he ate his bread and milk, from him, with a force that carried it to the top of a press, or projecting closet. I expected he would at least endeavour to regain it, but I fully believe he was not aware of its resting-place. His cries and sobs brought a footman, who proved to be my friend Joe ; his influence was too trifling to assuage such rage, and mamma was obliged to be applied to. I was out of all patience when I beheld the foolish coaxing of this lady, and the various things she promised her darling if he would be appeased.

“ The wonderful business settled, George, a coloured boy who was being brought up under the butler, came by his lady's order, to divert young master by playing battledore and shut-

tlecock. It was no easy task to please such a companion, and poor George found it so. His tawny face was a constant source of ridicule with the children; nay, I have seen hands raised against him. He bore this treatment very patiently; but I often saw the starting tear dim his intelligent eye.

“Of me he was very fond, and I always rejoiced in his presence. But he was fearful of encouraging me too much; for the children would laugh, and say, we both came from the same country, and if Pug could speak, he would call George his brother.

“The affront to me was trifling; but my resentment was greatly roused when I witnessed the wounded feelings of the poor lad.

“Surely if children were fully aware how disgusting they appear when thus unkind and insolent to their fellow-beings, they would reform themselves, and not need the reproof of the brute creation.

“Some weeks after the above circumstance a table-spoon was missing from the butler’s pantry, and as it was not the first, strict inquiry took place. The cook was a careless woman, and had twice left the area-gate open on her return from market. Poor George was the person to discover this, and notwithstanding the propriety of his naming it to her, she was much offended, and called him a meddling negro.

“The butler thought differently, and when he missed the spoon in question, avowed his belief that Mrs. Cook had again left the gate open, and some dishonest person had entered the kitchen and robbed them.

“At this, cook was indignant. She declared she was the most careful person in the world, and as to the spoon, she did not believe the thief was far off. In short, she hinted too plainly at George, to be mistaken, and when urged, owned such were her suspicions. She moreover named the dessert-spoon which had been lost ever since the morning George played

with Master Melville in the nursery, when they were quite alone; and 'the dear innocent child could never be up to the tricks of a cunning black boy.'

"Mrs. Melville began to doubt, and sweet John was questioned on the subject, but in so confused a manner, that the child was quite bewildered, and although he could call to mind something concerning the spoon, it was not sufficiently connected, to make a clear story. His prevarication was called a confirmation of George's guilt, and he was threatened with immediate imprisonment, if he did not confess his guilt.

"Tears, and the most affecting avowals of innocence, were George's only answer; but they only procured him the name of 'hardened thief,' from the prejudiced party. The butler boldly took his part, and tendered his warning if George were prosecuted.

"I learned this last intelligence from a conversation between Joe the footman and the

nurse-maid, who was describing how she left the spoon by the side of Master Melville's basin.

"My powers of mimicry were awakened by seeing her place, remove, and replace the spoon. On a sudden I jumped on the table, seized the spoon she was using and ran away with it. Joe, laughing, tried to catch me; but I evaded his open arms, leaped a chair-back, and then the press-closet before named. Joe now threatened me with a switch which he held in his hand; and as I had no mind for a thrashing, I at length threw the disputed article at him. This was not all; the long-missing dessert-spoon was thrown after it, covered with dust and tarnished, proving how long it had been in that condition.

"The truth, in a degree, instantly flashed on the minds of the astonished pair, who, as they conversed, gave me the most reproachful looks, supposing *I* had caused the uproar. I understood their menaces, and only wished for the power of language to undeceive them.

"The finding of the lost spoon became a general concern; the news reached the dining-parlour just as dinner was removed, and as there was only an intimate friend of the family present, the whole party was ordered into Mrs. Melville's presence.

"*I* was considered a material witness, and fixed myself on the elbow of my mistress's chair, with all the consequence of a king's counsel.

"I believe more than one was disappointed by the explanation which followed; for cook had talked over several of the servants to her side, who were quite astonished to find the monkey the thief, and not Black George.

"The gentleman-visitor seemed much interested in the affair, and turning to me, declared he was tempted to punish me for involving an innocent boy in so cruel a dilemma. Then turning to the servants, he added, 'These animals usually copy the actions of others; did any of you ever throw any thing aside in the way described?'

"The house-maid now stepped forward, and observed, that on the morning the spoon was lost, she was sweeping the nursery-stairs when she heard the screams of Master Melville, and had reached the nursery-door to learn the cause, when she saw him throw what she supposed to be a toy, with great violence, and guessing he was in one of his fits of anger, she judged it best not to interfere, therefore retired, but directly she heard where the spoon was found, she remembered the action of the young gentleman.

"'Impossible!' cried Mrs. Melville, half angrily, 'my son is not of so passionate a temper; and the observation on your part, is vastly impertinent. No, no; it was that tiresome Pug, was it not, Johnny, my dear?'

"John stood twirling an orange, and resting first on one leg then on the other, as children are apt to do when at a loss to excuse themselves; at last he stammered out,

"'I don't quite know, Mamma; but I be-

lieve, I think I did throw the spoon there; that day Susan was so cross as to go walking without me; but I shouldn't have done it, only—only—

“ ‘No excuse, my man, no excuse,’ said the strange gentleman, clapping him on the shoulder, ‘speak the truth boldly, and shew us you are above falsehood.’

“ John blushed, but gained courage, and gave them a very clear account of the transaction; and added, that he really did forget it, until the house-maid told what she had seen.

“ ‘I believe you, my dear,’ returned the gentleman, ‘and am much pleased to see you so readily acknowledge your fault. If you had caused poor George to be sent to prison, think how unhappy it would have made you the rest of your life!’

“ John looked pleased at receiving praise for actually doing right, and even told George he was sorry to be the cause of any blame to him.

This was doing much for such a boy as Master Melville ; and I could not help hoping the impression just made, would be of lasting duration.

“ The next day the table-spoon was discovered among the kitchen-utensils ; another proof of the cook’s carelessness. Then, ‘ dear heart,’ how sorry she was that poor George should have been suspected !

“ But poor George was not so easily satisfied ; he gave his master warning ; and, in a few days, left Mr. Melville’s for the service, or rather protection, of the gentleman who had been present at the dénouement, and who was no other than Mr. White, of the Grange-House, Buckinghamshire, where Swandown once resided. No doubt from her description of the sweet Fanny and Alfred, George had a most comfortable situation ; for he was engaged to attend upon them, and take charge of the latter’s pony.

“ Sorry as I was to part with my African

friend, I could not but be pleased by his good fortune ; and so was the good butler, who had vindicated him so handsomely.

“ All things considered, I conceived I made a tolerable figure in this business ; and had the pleasure of seeing some amendment in the unruly children residing with me. But much time was requisite to do away so many faults ; and my stay in Wimpole Street, did not exceed a month from this period.

“ The story of the spoons made a great noise among the servants ; and my ingenuity was greatly exaggerated by the house-maid, who attributed to herself and me the whole explanation.

“ The kitchen-guests increased on my account ; and I was exhibited in my red jacket as the wonder of my species. Cook, indeed, was not so profuse in my praises ; she was prejudiced enough to consider me a joint cause with George, for the censure she had received

from her master ; and often wished me a hundred miles off, so that she never more should be troubled with the sight of me.

“ One of her female friends who had heard her repeat this, offered to put her in a way of getting rid of the ugly thing, and secure a guinea to herself at the same time. I had no great opinion of Mrs. Cook’s honesty ; but I could not believe she would sell her master’s property, for such I considered myself.

“ I was mistaken : I know not how it was managed between them ; but they contrived to remove me while asleep, and I awoke in a new abode, and amid strange faces.

“ A most curious groupe surrounded me, who enjoyed my surprise when, rubbing my ears, I first looked about me. The mean apartment, the harsh features of one man, the half-starved ones of another, with the fine apparel, gold and silver trimmings, feathers and trumpery, in which others were decked, quite astonished

me; for I could not believe they were quality folks.

“ Their conversation soon let me into their pursuits; the harsh-looking man was a person who attended fairs, with dancing dogs, &c.; and I had been smuggled from Mr. Melville's to be exhibited to the public at large. My abilities were not at first estimated as they deserved, for I was so astonished by the late transition, that I could not rally my spirits to ‘show off.’ But I quickly perceived my master was not to be trifled with; and his severity to the other animals in his keeping, was a notable warning to me. I therefore exerted myself, playing off some happy tricks, most of which I learned from the poor tailor; and these efforts gave universal satisfaction. My master affirmed, that much might be made of me; and he thought, with proper instruction, I should shortly become a perfect dandy, and as such he should introduce me.

“ I was at a loss to guess what sort of ani-

mal a dandy might be ; but when put in train I was not long in discovering, that a dandy was a caricature representation of a beau. It is really a pity that mankind do not leave us monkeys in the full possession of dandyism, for it makes *us* diverting, but *them* contemptible.

“ Well, my friends, I proved myself an apt scholar ; and I believe few ever had a better master. Nay, I have heard it whispered, that he had hired himself as valet to a nobleman of high rank, in order to acquire a thorough knowledge of the dandy dress and habits.

“ At Bartholomew Fair, I made my *début* in this character ; my dress was new and elegant ; the stiffened collar, broad wristbands, and stays, formed a kind of armour not very agreeable to a naturally free-born animal ; but the applause I gained gratified my vanity, as I suppose it does the human species, for I submitted with a good grace.

“ With my hat almost upon my nose, a small

cane swinging carelessly in my right paw, I attempted to turn my head fashionably, and when it stuck fast in my starched neckcloth, loud peals of laughter greeted my ears.

“My master, in crimson-satin jacket, seamed with tarnished gold, and a Spanish hat, with dirty-white feathers, blew a cracked trumpet, and loudly invited the gaping crowd to ‘walk up, and see the curious dancing-dogs, and the wonderfulest monkey ever exhibited in this here kingdom.’

“Meantime I bowed, scraped, and invited them by gesture; always sure of success; and many nice gingerbread and other nuts I gained; for every one was eager to shake hands with, and caress Mr. Dandy.

“On the second night, I became much fatigued; such constant exertion would have tired a real beau.

“My master, whose stentorian voice still

held out, had no idea of my 'giving in,' as he said. I was urged by words, and even blows, to 'show off,' until wearied and tormented, I could hardly support myself. His assistant proposed my retiring to rest, that I might be fresh for the morrow, which was the last day of the fair.

"Fairs are bad places; they encourage idleness, and tempt people to spend what they cannot afford to lose. Add to this, they cause much mischief among the lower classes. Animals may well dread their approach, be they employed to drag heavy loads, or exhibit their feats to a gaping multitude. Humanity recoils at the cruel methods adopted to teach, and then force, a dumb creature into habits nature never intended for it. And I am well assured, did young persons know the harsh measures pursued on such occasions, they would shun, rather than seek, these exhibitions.

"On the last day of this famous mart for confusion, mischief, and low fun, I was again

brought forth, in better spirits certainly, but I was sorry to learn, I was shortly to be annoyed in the same manner at another fair.

“Why, this is worse than the Melville family, thought I. Their ill-treatment lasted but for a time; this constant fagging will soon destroy both spirits and constitution.

“The events of this third day were of a nature quite unexpected, and more agreeable to my feelings than I could have hoped for, under existing circumstances. I think it was about the fifth time I had ‘shown off’ all my tricks, when not being quite so expert as my master wished, he gave me a smart rap with a cane, which so offended my consequence, that I retired to a corner of the stage erected in front of the booth, and leaning my head on my paw, refused to obey his further orders, to the great delight of the spectators, who one and all took my part.

“How far the showman would have humour-

ed this freak I know not ; for just at that instant, a man, forcing his way through the mob, came directly in front of the booth, where he fixed himself, eyeing me closely. I looked at him, and quickly discerned the weather-beaten countenance of honest Jack, I may say, my first protector. Our pleasure was mutual, and I should have jumped to his extended hand in one moment, had not the pantaloons of our party caught me by the back of the neck, and gravely asked me where I was going.

“ ‘To his right owner,’ returned Jack ; ‘for he is my monkey, whatever way he may have fallen into your hands.’

“ The fellow stared in affected astonishment, and called his master to settle the business.

“ Red with anger, Mr. Leopardo came forward, and demanded how the insolent sailor could dare interfere with his performances ; threatening to call a constable if he did not immediately

decamp. But my friend Jack was not easily intimidated. He affirmed, that Pug was his property; that the animal knew him; and if left to its choice would go to him, if he used certain phrases to which he had been accustomed.

"I listened to him eagerly, and betrayed strong inclination to leap from the stage; but the pantaloons held me by the collar, whilst his master addressed the crowd, who were decidedly against him.

"He assured them he bought me only a few weeks back; had taken great trouble and pains to instruct me, as my manners must show; that he knew I had been a long time in this country, and must have forgotten the turbulent tar, if I had ever known him; that the present interference of the fellow was only to make a disturbance, and injure his trade.

"That I deny," returned Jack, "for you may wander the world over with your dogs

and monkies, for ought I care, so that you let me have mine. I boldly demand that faithful creature, which came all the way from Africa with me, and knows me at this moment. Besides, I well know that he has a scar on the left side of his head, which he got in a storm during the voyage; any one may satisfy himself that will take the trouble to look.'

"Mr. Leopardo was aware of this truth, and avoided seeking into it before the public; but he persisted in Jack's story being a fabrication, and added,

" 'You see, ladies and gentlemen, his habits are quite different from those he must have learned, mixing with rough tars, on a long voyage; he is quite a land beau—not a bit of the sailor about him.'

" 'As to that,' replied my friend, 'you can make dandies of men; it would be hard if you could not make them of monkies.'

"The laugh was now against Mr. Leopardo.

Jack handed me his tobacco-box ; I opened it, took a piece out, and chewed it with an aptness that could not be taken as a first attempt.

“ Laughter and huzzas followed ; all declared I belonged to the sailor, and urged him to take possession of his property. This he was well inclined to do ; but I spared further mischief, by jumping suddenly amongst the noisy rabble, in spite of Mr. Pantaloon's efforts to secure me.

“ I was caught up by a companion of my friend ; who retreated hastily, Jack following in the rear. Whether we were pursued, or not, I cannot tell, for the uproar was too great for me to distinguish ; but Mr. Leopardo had a poor chance in such a chace, and was, no doubt, obliged to give it up, to prevent worse consequences.

“ The conquering party proceeded to Westminster, where one of them resided ; a gay evening was spent to commemorate my restoration ; and I must own I was not the dullest of the merry crew.

“ Early friends are not easily forgotten ; I felt this sensibly, as I entered into old habits with the well-meaning tar. But our renovated friendship was to be of short duration ; for, returning to our former habitation near the Tower, Jack entered a public-house to rest himself, and fell fast asleep. I watched by his side until I grew drowsy myself. But I endeavoured to keep awake, for I mistrusted the looks of a man who sat opposite to us, and kept his eye constantly on me. I fancied he had some evil design against my unsuspecting master, though in truth *I* was the object of his attention. At length I slumbered ; he embraced the opportunity, and gently drew me from my master's shoulder. I felt the movement, but could not sufficiently rouse myself to discern who held me : indeed we had reached his abode before I discovered the truth. So enraged was I by his villainy, that I gave him some lasting marks of my resentment.

“ He was actually afraid of me, and took care to secure me by a chain, ere he went to his bed.