Instructive Lessons

CONVEYED TO THE

YOUTHFUL MIND

THROUGH THE

MEDIUM

OF

TALE AND DIALOGUE.

BY

Lilliputius Gulliver.

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INSTRUCTIVE LESSONS.

GENERAL RULES FOR BEHAVIOUR.

FEAR God, honour the king, reverence your parents, ſubmit to your ſuperiors, and deſpiſe not your inferiors.

Pray daily, converſe with the good, avoid the wicked, and attend to inſtruction.

At coming into company always bow, and remain uncovered, eſpe-

cially in preſence of your parents or elders.

When you ſpeak to your parents, begin with Sir, or Madam; never delay to do as they ſhall order or bid you, nor enter the room where they are, if ſtrangers be there, till ſent for.

Never quarrel or diſpute with any one, eſpecially your brothers or ſiſters; but be loving and obliging to all.

Never come to table till waſhed and combed, nor meddle with any thing till helped, and whatever it be, content yourſelf therewith, and not find fault.

Feed yourſelf decently, greaſing the table-cloths, your clothes, or fingers, as little as poſſible.

Make no noiſe in eating, nor eat greedily: neither ſpit, cough, nor blow your

your nose at table, unless you cannot avoid it, then do it with as little noise as possible.

Lean not on the table or back of your chair, nor stare any one in the face.

Never drink or speak without emptying your mouth: and on quitting the room make a handsome bow or courtesy.

To look at one and whisper another at the same time is unmannerly, as it is to whisper at all in company.

To whomsoever you speak, in asking a question or returning an answer, remember to use the proper title of respect, as Sir, Madam, My lord, My lady, &c.

Never attend to such as whisper, or speak in secret, or correct your

superiors though you know they are wrong. When any thing immodest is spoken in your hearing, seem not to hear it; and beware of saying any thing that will hardly be believed.

Always give the wall to your elders and superiors, and leave to pass into any room or narrow passage, where only one can pass at a time, unless you are ordered to go before. And keep company with none but what are good: "Evil communications corrupt good manners."

Tell me with whom thou goest,
And I'll tell thee what thou dost.

These, my dears, are the rules; and now follows a letter in verse, from a celebrated poet to a young and noble lady.

My

My noble, lovely, little Peggy,
Let this, my first epistle, beg ye,
At dawn of morn, at close of ev'n,
To lift your heart and hands to Heav'n;
And, dearest child, along the day,
In every thing you do or say,
Obey and please my lord and lady,
So God shall love, and angels aid ye.
If to these precepts you attend,
No second letter need I send,
And so I rest your constant friend.

FLORIO AND FLORELLA.

THERE was a countrywoman, who, upon her intimacy with a fairy, desired her to come and assist at the birth of her daughter; when the fairy (taking the infant in her arms) said to the mother, "Make your choice; the child, if you have a mind, shall be very handsome, excel in wit even more than beauty, and be queen of a mighty empire, but withal unhappy; or if you had rather, she shall be an ordinary, ugly country creature, like yourself, but contented with her condition."—The mother immediately chose wit and beauty for her daughter, at the hazard of any misfortunes. As

As the child grew, new beauties opened daily in her face, till in a few years ſhe ſurpaſſed all the rural laſſes that the oldeſt people had ever ſeen: her turn of wit was genteel, polite, and inſinuating; ſhe was of a ready apprehenſion, and learned every thing ſo faſt, as ſoon to excel her teachers. Every holyday ſhe danced upon the

green with a superior grace to any of her companions. Her voice was finer than any shepherd's pipe; and she made the songs which she used to sing. For some time she was not apprized of her own charms; till diverting herself with her playfellows on the green flowery borders of a fountain, she was surprised with the reflection of her face. She observed how different her features and her complexion seemed from the rest of her companions, and admired herself greatly. The country flocking from day to day to obtain a sight of her, made her more sensible of her beauty. Her mother, who relied on the predictions of the fairy, began already to treat her as a queen, and spoiled her by flattery. The young damsel would neither

neither ſew nor ſpin, nor look after the ſheep: her whole amuſement was to gather flowers to dreſs her hair with, to ſing, and be in the ſhade.

The king of the country was a very powerful king, and he had but one ſon, whoſe name was Florio; for which reaſon his father was impatient to have him married. The young prince could never bear to hear the mentioning of any of the princeſſes of neighbouring nations, becauſe a fairy had told him, that he ſhould find a ſhepherdeſs more beautiful, and more accompliſhed, than all the princeſſes in the world. Therefore the king gave orders to aſſemble all the village nymphs of his realm, who were under the age of eighteen, to make choice of her who ſhould ap-

pear

pear most worthy of so great an honour. In pursuance of the order, when they came to be seated, a vast number of virgins, whose beauty was not extraordinary, were refused admittance, and only thirty picked out, who infinitely surpassed all others. These thirty virgins were ranged in a great hall, in the figure of a half-moon, that the king and his son might have a distinct view of them together. Florella (our young heroine) appeared in the midst of her companions like a lily amongst marigolds; or as an orange-tree in blossom shows among the mountain shrubs. The king immediately declared aloud, that she deserved his crown; and Florio thought himself happy in the possession of Florella. Our shep-

herdess

herdeſs was inſtantly deſired to caſt off her country weeds, and accept of a habit richly embroidered with gold. In a few minutes ſhe ſaw herſelf covered with diamonds and pearls, and a number of ladies were appointed to wait on her. Every one was attentive to prevent her deſires before ſhe ſpoke, and ſhe was lodged within the palace in a magnificent apartment, where, inſtead of tapeſtry, there were large pannels of looking-glaſſes from the floor to the ceiling, that ſhe might have the pleaſure of ſeeing her beauty multiplied on all ſides, and that the prince might admire her, wherever he caſt his eyes. Florio in a few days quitted the chaſe, and all the bold exerciſes in which before he delighted, that he might be always

with

with his mistress. The nuptials were concluded, and soon after the old king died. Thereupon Florella becoming queen, all the councils and affairs of state were directed by her wisdom. The queen-mother, whose name was Envy, grew jealous of her daughter-in-law; she was an artful, perverse, cruel woman; and age had so much aggravated her natural deformity, that she resembled one of the furies. The youth and beauty of Florella made her appear yet more frightful; she could not bear the sight of so fine a creature. She likewise dreaded her wit and understanding, and gave herself up to all the rage of malice. "You want the soul of a prince," she would often say to her son, "or you could not have married

 this

this mean creature. How can you be so abject as to make an idol of her? Then she is as haughty as if she had been brought up in the palace where she lives. You should have followed the example of the king your father, when you thought of taking a wife. He preferred me, because I was the daughter of a monarch equal to himself: send away this insignificant shepherdess to her hamlet, and take to your bed and throne some young princess, whose birth is answerable to your own."—Florio continued deaf to all the entreaties of his mother. But one morning Envy got a billet into her hands, which Florella had written to the king; this she gave to a young courtier, who by her instructions showed it to the king, pretend-

ing to have received a letter from the queen with such marks of affection as were due only to his majesty. Florio, blinded by jealousy, and the malignant insinuation of his mother, immediately ordered Florella to be imprisoned for life, in a high tower built upon a rock which stood in the sea. There she wept night and day,

not

not knowing for what ſuppoſed crime ſhe was ſo ſeverely treated by the king, who had ſo paſſionately loved her. She was permitted to ſee no perſon but an old woman, to whom Envy had entruſted her, and whoſe buſineſs it was to inſult her upon all occaſions.

Now Florella called to mind the village, the cottage, the ſweet privacy, and the rural pleaſures ſhe quitted. One day, as ſhe ſat in a penſive poſture, overwhelmed with grief, and to herſelf accuſed the folly of her mother, who choſe rather to have a beautiful unfortunate queen, than an ugly contented ſhepherdeſs; the old woman who was her tormentor, came to acquaint her, that the king had ſent an executioner to

take off her head, and that she must prepare to die; Florella replied, that she was ready to receive the stroke. Accordingly the executioner (sent by the king's order at the persuasion of Envy) appeared, with a drawn sabre in his hand, ready to perform his commission, when a woman stepped in, who said she came from the queen-mother, to speak a word or two in private with Florella before she was put to death. The old woman, imagining her to be one of the ladies of the court, suffered her to deliver her message; but it was the fairy who had foretold her misfortunes at her birth, and who had now assumed the likeness of one of Envy's attendants; she desired the company to retire a while, and then spoke thus to Florella

rella in secret: "Are you willing to renounce that beauty which has proved so fatal? Are you willing to quit the title of queen, to be put in your former habit, and to return to your village?"—Florella was transported at the offer; thereupon the fairy applied an enchanted mask to her face; her features instantly became deformed, all the symmetry vanished, and she was now as disagreeable as she had been handsome. Under this change it was impossible to know her; and she passed without difficulty through the company who came to see her execution. In vain did they search the tower; Florella was not to be found. The news of this escape was soon brought to the king and Envy, who commanded diligent search

to be made after her throughout the kingdom, but to no purpose.

The fairy at this time had restored Florella to her mother, who would never have been able to recollect her altered looks, had she not been let into the circumstance of her story. Our shepherdess was now contented to live an ugly, poor, unknown creature in the village, where she tended sheep. She frequently heard people relate and lament over her adventures; songs were made upon them, which drew tears from all eyes; she often took a pleasure in singing those songs with her companions, and would often weep with the rest. But still she thought herself happy with her little flock, and was never once tempted to discover herself to any of her acquaintance.

THE

THE EFFECT OF GOOD-NATURE.

A FAIRY TALE.

THERE was in my country a widow, who had two daughters: the eldest was just like her mother, cross, surly, and proud; but the youngest (a beautiful girl) was all meekness, complaisance, and good-nature. As people, however, are generally fond of their own likeness, the mother despised this pretty young creature, and obliged her to drudge in the kitchen, whilst her favourite, the eldest, sat primmed up in the parlour, and was indulged in every thing.

As this little girl was obliged to do

all the houſehold work, it was her buſineſs, among other things, to go twice every day to a well, near two miles from the houſe, to draw water. One day, juſt as ſhe was going to fill her pitcher, there came to her a poor woman, and begged that ſhe would let her drink. "O! ah, goody, with all my heart," ſays ſhe, and accordingly rinced her pitcher, took ſome of the cleareſt water, and held it up to her mouth, that ſhe might drink with the more eaſe; and, after the pitcher was returned, dropped her a fine courteſy (notwithſtanding ſhe was ſuch a poor ragged woman), and aſked if ſhe would pleaſe to have any more? "No, I thank you, my pretty dear," ſaid the woman; "but ſince you are ſo good-natured, and behave with

ſuch

such good manners, I cannot help bestowing a blessing upon you; and from henceforth, whenever you speak, there shall come out of your mouth either a flower, a jewel, or a piece of gold."—(For you must know this was a fairy all the while, who had only taken the form of a poor country-woman, to see how this little girl would behave.)

When

When she came home, her mother began to scold at her for staying so long; "Where have you been all this time, hussy?" says she.—"Dear mamma," says the girl, "I beg your pardon for staying so long (for she never told a lie); but I met with—" and was going on with the story, when instantly flew out of her mouth two roses, two pinks, two pearls, two diamonds, and three pieces of gold. "Bless me," says her mother, quite astonished, "what do I see! roses, and pinks, and pearls, and diamonds, and gold, come out of the girl's mouth! How happens this, child?"—The pretty creature told her mother the whole story, during which time there dropped from her mouth such a vast variety of flowers, pieces of

of gold, and precious stones, that the house was strewed from one end to the other. "Bless my eyes," cried the mother, "I must send my child thither; Fanny, come hither, and see what drops from your sister's mouth when she speaks. Take the pitcher, and go you for some water, my dear, and obtain the same blessing."—"Yes, I will warrant you," says the ill-bred minx, "it would be a fine sight, indeed, to see me draw water."—"You shall go, huffy," said the mother, "and this minute."—So away she went, but grumbled and growled all the way; and instead of the pitcher, took the best silver tankard in the house.

As soon as she arrived at the fountain, there came out of the wood just by,

by, a lady dreſſed in the moſt ſplendid manner, and aſked leave to drink. (This was, you muſt know, the ſame fairy, who had now taken the air and dreſs of a princeſs, to ſee how far the girl's pride and ill-nature would carry her.) "Am I come hither," quoth the ſaucy ſlut, "to ſerve you with water? Pray what do you take me for, a waiting-maid? I did not bring the ſilver tankard here for your ladyſhip, as I know of; but, however, you may drink if you will."

"You are not over and above mannerly," replied the fairy, without putting herſelf in a paſſion; "and ſince you are ſurly and diſobliging, whenever you ſpeak a word hereafter, a ſnake or a toad ſhall fly out of your mouth."—As ſoon as the mother ſaw her

her coming home, she cried out, "Well, daughter!"—"Well, mother!" answered the pert hussy, and out of her mouth leaped two vipers and a toad.—"O mercy!" cried the mother, "what do I see! All this is occasioned by the witch her sister; but she shall pay for it;" and immediately ran to beat her; but the poor child fled away, and hid herself in a forest that was in the neighbourhood.

The king's son being on his return from hunting, accidentally cast his eye on this fair virgin, and being enchanted with her graceful features, asked her what she did there alone, and why she cried. She told him what had happened, and said her mamma's rage was so great she was afraid to return home. The young prince

prince seeing so many brilliant diamonds drop from her mouth, which were equalled in brightness by nothing but her eyes, promised her his royal protection; conducted her to his father's court, and having obtained his permission, married her the next day, and built for her a stately palace, the front of which was overlaid with pure gold, the floors paved with pearls, and the ceilings and walls bedecked with the richest diamonds. The turf in her garden bears a continual verdure, the most delicious fruits bow down their labouring branches to salute the enchanted eye, and the odoriferous never fading flowers pay an eternal tribute to her virtue and good-nature. In this state of happiness she suffers none to approach her but those who

who are esteemed for their piety, virtue, and good manners; and persons of every state and condition, who come thus recommended, are admitted. She is blessed with a numerous offspring, who all inherit her amiable virtues, and every thing prospers in her house, and in the state. The prince, her husband, thinks himself blessed above all men in the world, and she is the happiest woman upon earth.

But how different from this was the fate of her sister! She, by her pride and ill-nature, at last rendered herself disagreeable even to her own mother, who being unable to bear with her intolerable temper, turned her off; and seeing herself thus despised and hated by all mankind, she

retired

retired into a wood to avoid being seen, and was there torn in pieces by a wolf.

THE HISTORY OF KING ALLGOOD.

THERE was a king, whose name was Allgood, feared by all his neighbours, and loved by all his subjects. He was wise, just, good, valiant; and deficient in no quality requisite in a great prince. A fairy came to him one day, and told him, that he would soon find himself plunged into great difficulties, if he did not make use of a ring, which she then put on his finger. When he turned the stone of the ring in the inside of his hand, he became invisible,

ſible, and when he turned the diamond outwards, he became viſible again. He was mightily pleaſed with the preſent, as ſoon as he grew ſenſible of the ineſtimable value of it. When he ſuſpected any one of his ſubjects, he went into that man's houſe and cloſet, with his diamond turned inward, and heard and ſaw all the ſecrets of the family without being perceived; when he miſtruſted the deſign of any neighbouring potentate, he would make a long journey unaccompanied, to be preſent in his moſt private councils, and learn every thing without the fear of being diſcovered. By this means, he eaſily prevented every intention to his prejudice, he fruſtrated ſeveral conſpiracies formed againſt his perſon, and

disconcerted all the measures of his enemies for his overthrow. Nevertheless, he was not thoroughly satisfied with his ring; and he requested of the fairy the power of conveying himself in an instant from one country to another, that he might make a more convenient and ready use of this ring. The fairy replied, "You ask too much; let me conjure you not to covet a power which, I foresee, will one day or other be the cause of your misery, though the particular manner thereof be concealed from me." The king would not listen to her entreaties, but still urged his request. "Since then you will have it so," said she, "I must necessarily grant you a favour of which you will dearly repent." Hereupon, she chafed

his

his shoulders with a fragrant liquor, when immediately he perceived little wings shooting at his back. These little wings were not discernible under his habit, and when he had a mind to fly, he needed only to touch them with his hand, and they would spread so as to bear him through the air, swifter than an eagle. When he had no further occasion for them, with a touch again they shrunk to a small size, so as to be concealed under his garments. By this project, Allgood was able to convey himself in a few minutes wherever he pleased. He knew every thing, and no man could conceive how he came by his intelligence; for he would often retire into his closet, and pretend to be shut up there the whole day, with

strict orders not to be disturbed; then making himself invisible, he would enlarge his wings, and traverse vast countries. By this power he entered into very extraordinary wars, and never failed to triumph. But as he continually saw into the secrets of men, he discovered so much wickedness and dissimulation, that he could no longer place confidence in man; the more powerful he grew, the less he was beloved; and he found that even they, to whom he had been most bountiful, had no gratitude nor affection towards him.

In this disconsolate condition he resolved to search through the wide world, till he found a woman complete in beauty, and all good qualities, willing to be his wife; one who should

should love him, and study to make him happy. Long did he search in vain; and as he saw all without being seen, he discovered the most hidden wiles and failings of the sex. He visited all the courts, where he found the ladies insincere, fond of admirers, and so enamoured of their own persons, that their hearts were not capable of entertaining any true love for a husband. He went likewise into all the private families; he found one was of an inconstant volatile disposition, another cunning and artful, a third haughty, a fourth capricious; almost all vain, faithless, and full of idolatry to their own charms.

Under these disappointments he resolved to carry his inquiries even to the lowest class of mankind;

whereupon he found the daughter of a poor labourer, fair as the brightest morning, but simple and ingenuous in all her beauty, which she disregarded, and which in reality was the least of her perfections; for she had an understanding and virtue which outshone all the graces of her person. All the youth in the neighbourhood were impatient to see her, and more impatient after they had seen her, to obtain her in marriage, not doubting of being completely happy with such a wife. King Allgood beheld her, and he loved her; he demanded her of her father, who was transported with the thoughts of his daughter's becoming a great queen. Clarinda (so she was called) went from her father's hut into a magnificent

ficent palace, where she was received by a numerous court. She was not dazzled nor disconcerted at the sudden change. She preserved her simplicity, her modesty, her virtue, and forgot not the place of her birth when she was in the height of her glory. The king's affection for her increased daily, and he believed he should at last arise to perfect happiness, neither was he really far from it; so much did he begin to confide in the goodness of his queen. He often rendered himself invisible to observe her, and to surprise her; but he never discovered any thing in her that was not worthy of his admiration; so that now there was but a very small remainder of jealousy blended with his love.

The fairy, who had foretold the fatal consequences of his last request, came so often to warn him, that he thought her importunity troublesome; therefore he gave orders that she should no longer be admitted into the palace, and enjoined the queen not to receive her visits for the future. The queen promised to obey his commands, but not without much unwillingness, because she loved this good fairy. It happened one day, when the king was upon a progress, that the fairy, desirous to instruct the queen in futurity, entered her apartment under the appearance of a young officer, and immediately declared in a whisper who she was; whereupon the queen embraced her with tenderness.

The

The king, who was there invisible, perceived it, and was instantly fired with jealousy. He drew his sword, and pierced the queen, who fell expiring in his arms. In that moment

the fairy resumed her true shape; whereupon the king knew her, and was convinced of the queen's innocence. Then he would have killed him-

himself; but the fairy withheld his hand, and strove to comfort him: when the queen, breathing her last words, said, "Though I die by your hand, I die wholly yours."

Too late now Allgood cursed his folly, that put him upon wresting a boon from the fairy which proved his misery. He returned the ring, and desired his wings might be taken from him. The remaining days of his life he past in bitterness and grief, knowing no other consolation but to weep perpetually over Clarinda's tomb.

A DIA-

A DIALOGUE

Between Master Billy, *and his Tutor Mr.* Aimwell.

A. PRAY how do you like the company your papa introduced you to yesterday?

B. Oh! mighty well, Sir.

A. They are gentlemen and ladies of exceeding good sense; but did you observe how fond they were of Master Meanwell?

B. Yes, Sir, and I wonder at it; for he is not a pretty boy, nor is his papa a rich man.

A. That is nothing to the purpose. Little boys and girls are not beloved for their beauty or riches, but for their

good

good nature, good manners, and *good sense.*

B. Pray, Sir, do you think he is a good-natured boy?

A. Yes, indeed; for he is never cross nor out of humour, but always cheerful, and ready to give an answer to any body that speaks to him. If you give him but an apple or an orange, he will part with any share of it to those that are with him, whether they are strangers or play-mates; for which reason he is greatly admired by all his acquaintance.

B. I should like to be taken notice of in this manner. But pray, Sir, is this good-nature, as you call it, and a readiness to run of an errand, or part with any thing, all that is necessary to make people love me?

A. No;

A. No; you muſt alſo behave with good manners, and do every thing with an eaſy genteel air; for it is graceful behaviour that diſtinguiſhes pretty young gentlemen from ignorant boys, who mind nothing but ſpinning of tops. You muſt alſo behave with becoming reſpect to all thoſe who are older, and ſuppoſed to be wiſer than yourſelf. When you are aſked any queſtion, you muſt not anſwer bluntly, Yes, or, No; but, Yes, or no, Sir; Yes, Madam, or, No, Madam; and look full in the the gentleman or lady's face when you ſpeak: for it is a mark of meanneſs to look ſhy; and that boy is always counted a booby who hangs down his head, and is aſhamed to be ſeen. When you want any thing, you muſt not ſay, Give me this; or,

I'll

I'll have that; but ask in this manner: Pray, Sir, give me that apple; Pray, Madam, oblige me with that orange; or, Pray do me the favour of that nut, that plum, that pear, &c.

B. Why, now I think on't, Master Meanwell always says so.

A. Yes, my dear boy; but Master Meanwell not only speaks in this pretty manner, but behaves as prettily also. When he enters the room, he addresses himself to the whole company with a graceful bow, and when he goes out, takes his leave with another bow.

At dinner he sits upright in his chair, and never asks for any thing, but receives what is given him with complaisance and thankfulness; and when

when he drinks, bows to the moſt moſt conſiderable perſon at the table, and afterwards to all the reſt of the company; and if at any time he is ſent out of the room, he takes care to pull the door ſoftly, ſo as not to give them any diſturbance. In ſhort, Maſter Meanwell comes when he is called; does as he is bid; and ſhuts

the

the door after him, and by that means he has gained the good-will of every body. Then he takes off his hat to all the people he meets; and while he is talking to a gentleman or lady, holds it under his arm.

B. Why, Sir, Master Dicky de Coverly don't do so.

A. That booby! No, he does nothing as he ought; but you are not to take example from such ill-bred naughty boys as he. Why, it was but the other day his father sent him with a message to Mr. Friendly, who, you know, is a polite gentleman, and he bolted into the parlour among all the company, without taking off his hat, or paying his respects to any of them. With that Mr. Friendly asked him where his hat was?

" *Why,*

"*Why, on my head,*" quoth Dick, and walked off without any more ceremony. When he came home, his father asked how Mr. Friendly did: "Why rarely well, father," quoth Dick; "but only I doubt he is blind." —"Blind! why dost think so?" says the father.—"Why, because when I came into the parlour," quoth Dick, "he asked me where my hat was? I told him upon my head; but thou'n I told'n so, he wou'dn't believe me; and I am sure if a hadn't been blind he might a seed'n plain enough."—This story hath made both father and son the jest of the whole country; and as Sir Roger de Coverly was so great a man, every body is surprised that his son and grandchild should turn out such blunderbusses.

B. But, Sir, you was saying just now, that *good sense* would make me agreeable to every body; pray what do you mean by *good sense?*

A. Why, I mean *judgment* or *understanding*. A boy who is endowed with good sense, will do nothing but what is honest, just, or right; and will distinguish between such things as are idle and trifling, and such as are of moment, and worth his knowing.

B. And pray, Sir, what must I do to get this judgment or understanding? for this seems to me harder to learn than good manners.

A. When you meet with any thing you do not understand, you must inquire of those who are older and wiser than yourself; you must also read such books as are most likely to improve

improve your mind; and lastly, how the better sort of people speak and behave; for by imitating other great men you will become a great man yourself.

B. A *great man!* ah! that I shall like indeed. But then, Sir, I must have a fine coach and horses, and money; for this good nature, good manners, and good sense, won't make me a great man, unless my papa gives me a great deal of money.

A. Your observation, my dear child, is not amiss, according to the idle notion the common people have of a great man. But you must know a man cannot be truly great unless he be truly good. A rich man may be a miser, and not make use of his money; or a fool, and know not how

to make use of it; and if a man has ever so many fine houses, coaches, or fine clothes, or servants, yet if he spends more than he is worth, and runs into debt with his tradesmen, without taking any care to pay them, he is so far from being a great man, that he is only a great knave, and deserves to be thrown into a jail, which is too often the consequence of living extravagantly.

B. If then neither riches, nor fine clothes, nor a great number of servants, are signs of a great man, I should be glad to know who is a great man?

A. He only is a great man, who, by his prudence and good conduct, gains the esteem and favour of all who know him. But if you want a living

living example of a great man, or, in other words, a wise man, turn your eyes on Mr. Friendly. That gentleman has, by his generosity and good management, made all the people happy who live round about him, and yet his estate is not half so large as Sir Timothy Trifle's.

B. How must I do to be as great a man as Mr. Friendly?

A. You must, as I told you before, be very good, and keep company with none but those who are admired for their good behaviour. You must not only read the books I recommend to you, but you must remember the good precepts and morals that are contained in them. When you read the life of any good man, you must endeavour to copy after all those

great qualities by which he became ſo famous. You muſt learn to write and read well, and endeavour to get a habit of ſpeaking with elegance and eaſe. But above all, you muſt love God, and be thankful to him for all the bleſſings he hath beſtowed upon you, and never forget to offer up your prayers to him morning and evening, not for yourſelf only, but alſo in behalf of your friends, relations, and all mankind. You muſt take the part of the poor and diſtreſſed, relieve thoſe who are in want, and make peace between thoſe who are at variance. You muſt alſo be employed in ſome buſineſs, ſo as to make yourſelf uſeful to the commonwealth; and be aſhamed of doing nothing but what your conſcience tells you is idle, wicked, or diſhoneſt.

THE

THE BENEFITS OF DISAPPOINTMENTS.

CHILDREN, let me advise you not to murmur at disappointments. Frequent occasions of discontent will unavoidably occur; but you must submit to be taught by your parents, to improve every circumstance that shall happen.

Mr. Nelson had a family of three sons and four daughters: both he and Mrs. Nelson took great pains, not only to form their understandings, but to regulate their tempers, and to improve their hearts. They were instructed to cultivate the tenderest dispositions, not only towards each other, but to every person whatever.

Every selfish inclination was carefully checked on its first appearance; and they were early taught, that by giving pleasure to others they increased their own happiness.

To give some instances of their behaviour will be an useful lesson to my little readers. A gentleman, who one day dined at Mr. Nelson's, and who took every opportunity to exercise the dispositions of children, made the following experiment on one of these little gentry. Mrs. Nelson had given an apple to her younger son: Mr. Felton (the gentleman abovementioned) who sat next him, snatched it out of his hand. The child looked rather confused for a few moments; but soon recovering himself, "Indeed, Sir," said he, "you did not

not take the apple in a very pretty manner. If you had asked me for it, you should have had it with all my heart."—"I had a mind to try your temper, William," answered the gentleman; "you are a good boy, I like you; and to be praised is a greater satisfaction than eating a sorry apple." —"The apple was a very good one, I believe, Sir; but you may have it if you please." He then went to play. The gentleman putting his hand into his pocket, "Well, my boy," said he, "as you have treated me so kindly, I will endeavour to be as civil to you. There is a fine peach for you." Master Nelson thanked him; and calling his brothers and sisters about him, distributed the fruit in equal shares between them and himself.

Ano-

Another time, when one of the young ladies was confined to her chamber by illness, Mrs. Nelson produced a box of curiosities, which

were never taken out but when she was present. Miss Nelson was much rejoiced at the sight of it, and, sitting down by her mamma, waited the opening of the box with great eagerness;

gerness; when, just as the key was put in, a chariot drove up to the door with unexpected company. Mrs. Nelson was vexed at the interruption, and looking at her daughter, "I am sorry for your disappointment, my dear," said she; "it is one to myself, that I cannot give you the intended pleasure."—"My dear Mamma," answered she, "how very good you are! I can see them another time, you know, when you are at leisure. I am sorry to lose your company too; but it cannot be avoided. My sister will be so kind as to come and read me a story." Mrs. Nelson kissed her, and left her with unwillingness.

Soon after Miss Nelson was recovered, her brothers were invited to go upon the water with a party on plea-

pleasure. They were very happy in the expectation: the morning appointed was very fine, and the two children were in readiness to go, when, on the arrival of the gentlemen who were to accompany Mr. Nelson, they found two more than were expected, and that there would not be room for the brothers. Mr. Nelson was much concerned; he then proposed taking the elder only, but was unwilling to part them; and the elder, on knowing his intention, said, he had rather stay at home, unless his brother could go with him, to which his father agreed. A little cloud of melancholy overspread their countenances for a few minutes; but not the least appearance of sullenness or ill-nature.

About two hours after the gentlemen's

men's departure, an unexpected storm arose; and, though its violence soon abated, yet a settled rain followed, to the entire destruction of the pleasure proposed in the voyage. Mrs. Nelson made use of this opportunity to read a lesson of instruction to her children. "How frequently, my loves," says she, "will you experience, that the disappointment of your wishes is a real blessing! You see, that, had you gone, you would have had no pleasure; you would even have been in some danger, and your dear papa would have been more distressed on your account."—"I hope Papa is in no danger," cried the elder boy; "I should not mind being wet if I could help Papa." Mrs. Nelson catched the child in her arms, and could

not

not forbear letting fall a tear. The gentlemen returned in safety the next day, but had an uncomfortable voyage, and rejoiced that the children had not been of the party, as they would have been alarmed for their safety. "Well, Papa," said the younger boy, "I was in hopes you would come to no hurt; for you know Mr. Selby's boat is called a pleasure-boat, and that it would not have proved such if any body had been lost in it." This remark drew a smile from the company; and the praises the two boys received for their manner of supporting a disappointment, gave them more satisfaction than they could have enjoyed from the most pleasant voyage.

When any of the young Nelsons

forgot themselves and transgressed their duty, it was their punishment to be excluded from the presence of their papa and mamma, and their good brothers and sisters. As they felt the utmost filial and fraternal love, they suffered greatly by this punishment; but it was very seldom that there was occasion to inflict it.

The children took it by turns to visit with their parents, and Miss Emily was dressed one afternoon to accompany her mamma; when, being at play in the nursery, she saw her doll in her little sister's hands. She ran eagerly to take it from her; but little Lucy holding it, said, "Nay, sister, you did not want it before; I will not hurt it; but you know Miss Clement broke mine, and I had a mind

mind to nurse this a little while." Miss Emily, however, was not disposed to be good; she skuffled, and endeavoured to pull it away in this manner.

Miss Lucy, in playfulness, detained it; when the former, angry on being opposed, gave her sister a slap on the hand. Miss Lucy, unused to such treatment, shrieked and cried aloud.

Mrs. Nelson, who was in her own room, which was adjoining, instantly entered the nursery, and desired to know the cause of this confusion. All were silent; the nursery-maid had gone down just before the affair happened; Mrs. Nelson therefore addressed herself to her eldest daughter, and insisted on her telling the cause of Miss Lucy's tears. Miss

Nelson

Nelson was visibly unwilling to speak; but her Mamma's commands were not to be disputed: "I am sorry, Madam, that I am obliged in truth to say, that my sister Emily has been to blame; but I dare say she is very sorry for her fault, and perhaps Lucy should not have taken it without leave." She then related all that had passed, and concluded with saying, it was the first time she ever knew her sister do such a thing, and she dared to answer for her, that she would do so no more.

Mrs. Nelson stood for a few moments silent: "You are a very good girl, Susannah," said she at last, "to be so concerned for your sister's fault. She is very naughty; go," continued she, "go, Emily, and stand in that

corner for an hour. Reflect on what you have done, and pray God to forgive, and enable you to be better. As you are not good enough to be my companion, it is Lucy's turn to visit with me; and remember, Emily, she loses the favour of her mother, who is unkind to her brothers and sisters." Mrs. Nelson then left the room, and Miss Lucy was dressed to attend her mamma; but her little heart was divided between joy for being permitted to pay a visit, and grief for her sister's punishment. She went to her, and taking her hand, "Indeed, Emily," said she, "I am sorry I did not give up the doll, and I wish you had not been angry; I thought you had been only in jest till you hit me." Mrs. Nelson that instant

stant called her, and she left her sisters with a smile dimpling her cheek, and a tear glistening in her eye.

As soon as the chariot drove from the door, Miss Nelson went to her sister, whom she found with her handkerchief up to her face, and sobbing most piteously. "Come, my dear Emily, do not cry any more," said she; "I find you are very sorry for your fault, and that was all mamma desired: you will ask hers and Lucy's pardon, and all will be well again."

Miss Emily's pride had prevented her for some time from feeling a proper sense of her fault.

A false shame made her unwilling to own she had done wrong, and to ask pardon; but her sister Lucy's forgiving temper, and the kindness of

Miss Nelson's expressions, convinced her of her offence. She could return no answer to her sister but sobs and tears; till, fearing Miss Nelson should mistake her silence for obstinacy, "You are too good to me, sister," said she; "I do not deserve your love; how kind poor Lucy was! how could I hit her, and I know I have vexed my dear mamma too! and then Mrs. Graves will ask the reason why I did not go, and will hear that I am naughty, and she will not love me. I am a sad naughty girl, and I am very, very sorry for my fault."

"Well, my dear, you can do no more than be concerned for your fault: ask God's pardon, and he will receive you to his favour. I am going

ing to take a little walk with Edward, and I will come to you again."

Whilst Miss Nelson was walking with her brother, a Miss Smyth, who was very intimate in the family, came in, and finding no one in the parlour, ran up stairs. On seeing Miss Emily, "Well, my dear," said she, "where is your mamma, and where are your brothers and sisters?" Miss Emily hid her face, and sobbing, "O! Madam," cried she, "pray do not take any notice of me: I am in disgrace, and you must not speak to a naughty girl."—"I am sure you are very good now," answers the lady; "but I will break through no rules. I shall tell your mamma how prettily you have behaved, and dare say I shall see you in favour again to-morrow."

Miss Nelson, after her walk, returned with impatience to her sister, and the clock striking as she entered, "Come, my dear," said she, "your time is out, and you have been so much concerned, that I am sure my mamma will not be offended if you now play with us."—"I thank you, sister," answered Emily, "but I am not good enough to play with you. I will sit down, and read some of the stories in Mrs. Teachum; those misses, especially Miss Jenny Peace, are good examples for me."

When Mrs. Nelson returned, her eldest daughter eagerly told her how well her sister had behaved, and Miss Emily made the most proper submissions to her mamma and sister Lucy. She then insisted that the latter should accept

accept of her doll, which Miss Lucy with great sweetness declined; but Emily was so concerned at her refusal, that Mrs. Nelson desired her to take it. "Now, my Emily," said the fond parent, "you are as dear to me as ever. You have been faulty, but your concern has been at least equal to your offence. Recover your spirits, for penitence restores us to the favour of Heaven." The account Miss Smyth gave of Emily confirmed her mamma's good opinion of her.

A strict conformity to reason and religion had been the foundation of their obedience in childhood; and these principles supported them through every season and condition of life. One of the sons, by the carelessness of his nurse, had received a

considerable hurt, which, by her imprudent concealment, passed unnoticed, till the effects appeared in the alteration of his shape. Though his health suffered by this deformity, his disposition was not warped. He made use of the misfortune in his own person to guard his brothers and sisters against inattention to their carriage. "Look at me," he would sometimes say, when he saw any of them stooping or careless in their gait: "would you wish to be distorted as I am? Mine is a misfortune. Be cautious, lest you suffer by your own fault. A personable figure is a great recommendation, and where it has pleased God to give a well-made form, surely it is very faulty to injure it by our neglect."

This

This young gentleman was one day walking with another, when a rude boy running past him, called out laughing, " My lord! my lord!

what shall I give you for the bunch at your back?" Master Watson, the companion of Master Nelson, was shocked. " You young knave," cried he, in the warmth of his resentment,

sentment, "I have a great mind to lay my stick upon your back!"—"You are very kind to me," said Master Nelson; "but let him alone: he does not hurt me by this speech—let him be merry; I only wish he had a more proper subject for his mirth."

This young gentleman was of a very benevolent disposition: he and his eldest sisters took great delight in teaching poor children to read. Miss Nelson also taught several girls to work, and frequently gave them some of her own linen, out of which she instructed them to make necessaries for themselves. Mr. Nelson's was a family of love and happiness. The latter was interrupted by a misfortune which happened to the third son, an exceeding promising youth. A humour

mour broke out at the corner of his mouth, which ſpread very faſt. The father, being adviſed by eminent ſurgeons to have part of the bone of the cheek taken away, as the only means of ſaving his life, determined on having the operation performed. He informed the child of the deſign, telling him that he hoped he would bear the pain like a good boy, as it was intended to prevent a ſtill greater, and would ſoon be over. The poor child looked at him earneſtly; he ſaw the grief and trouble his father laboured to conceal, and burſt into tears; but ſoon recovering himſelf, "I will be cut," ſaid he; "I will ſubmit to any thing you think ought to be done. I am ſure papa and mamma would not let

let me suffer any pain but what is for my good."

The father could not help weeping as he embraced him. However, he encouraged him to bear it with patience. The operation was performed, and the child, who was not ten years of age, behaved with uncommon resolution and patience. The effect was not conformable to their hopes. The disorder soon broke out again; it spread with greater rapidity, and the poor child was soon unable to receive sufficient sustenance.

As he lay languishing on his death-bed, his mother and sisters sat weeping by him. "Do not cry for me, Mamma," said he; "do not cry for William, sister: I do suffer a great deal;

deal; but I hope my pains will soon be over. I am loth to leave you and papa, and all my brothers and sisters; but I shall go to God Almighty, my best friend, and then I shall never cry any more, but be for ever happy, and I shall meet you all again in heaven."

He was soon released from a state of exquisite suffering; and though the loss of so excellent a child increased for a while a heart-piercing affliction, yet the consideration of his excellence became in time a source of consolation.

In every circumstance they looked up to Heaven with thankfulness or resignation; being convinced, that an all-wise and all-gracious Being could not mistake, nor withhold the means of securing the eternal happiness of his creatures.

ANDROCLES AND THE NUMIDIAN LION.

ANDROCLES was the slave of a noble Roman, who was proconsul of Africa. He had been guilty of a fault, for which his master would have put him to death, had not he found an opportunity to escape out of his hands, and fled into the deserts of Numidia. As he was wandering among the barren sands, and almost dead with heat and hunger, he saw a cave in the side of a rock; he went into it, and finding at the farther end of it a place to sit down upon, rested there for some time. At length, to his great surprise, a huge overgrown lion entered the cave, and seeing

seeing a man at the upper end of it, immediately made towards him. Androcles gave himself for gone; but the lion, instead of treating him as he expected, laid his paw upon his lap, and with a complaining kind of voice fell a licking his hand. Androcles, after having recovered himself a little from the fright he was in, observed the lion's paw exceedingly swelled by a large thorn that stuck in it. He immediately pulled it out, and by squeezing the paw very gently, made a great deal of corrupt matter run out of it, which probably freed the lion from the great anguish he had felt some time before. The lion left him upon receiving this good office from him, and soon after returned with a

fawn,

fawn, which he had just killed. This he laid down at the feet of his benefactor, and went off again in pursuit of his prey. Androcles, after having sodden the flesh of it by the sun, subsisted upon it till the lion had supplied him with another. He lived many days in this frightful solitude, the lion catering for him with great assiduity. Being at length tired of his savage society, he was resolved to deliver himself up to his master's hands, and suffer the worst effects of his displeasure, rather than be thus driven out from mankind. His master, as was customary for the proconsuls of Africa, was at that time getting together a present of all the largest lions that could be found in the country, in order to send them to Rome, that they

might furnish out a show for the Roman people. Upon his poor slave's surrendering himself into his hands, he ordered him to be carried away to Rome as soon as the lions were in readiness to be sent, and that for his crime he should be exposed to fight with one of the lions in the amphitheatre, as usual, for the diversion of the people. This was also performed accordingly. Androcles, after such a strange run of fortune, was now in the area of the theatre, amidst thousands of spectators, expecting every moment that his antagonist would come out upon him. At length a huge, monstrous lion leaped out from the place where he had been kept hungry for the show. He advanced with great rage towards the

man, but on a sudden, after having regarded him a little wistfully, he fell to the ground, and crept towards his feet with all the signs of blandishment and carefs. Androcles, after a short pause, discovered that it was his old Numidian friend, and immediately renewed his acquaintance with him. Their mutual congratulations were very surprising to the beholders, who, upon hearing the account of the whole matter from Androcles, ordered him to be pardoned, and the lion to be given up into his possession. Androcles returned at Rome the civilities which he had received from him in the deserts of Afric. Dion Cassius says, that he himself saw the man leading the lion about the streets of Rome, the people every where gathering

thering about them, and repeating to one another, "*Hic est leo hospes hominis; hic est homo medicus leonis.*—This is the lion who was the man's host; this is the man who was the lion's physician."

The grateful returns made by this animal to his benefactor, may serve as a lesson to many of the rational

part of the creation; who, though they boast of advantages far superior to instinct, yet are too often found wanting in the exercise of gratitude for benefits received.

THE HISTORY OF THE MERCOLIANS.

THE Mercolians, a people who possessed an island in the Lilliputian seas, had, by their industry, trade, and commerce, acquired immense riches. By their shipping they made the product of all nations their own; and the inhabitants of the neighbouring isles, and on the continent, were their slaves and dependants. Nothing, however, is so difficult

cult to manage as too much wealth; and a ſtate may be cruſhed under the weight of its own power, which was the fate of the Mercolians. They grew proud, inſolent, and idle. The only uſe they made of their riches was to purchaſe them new-invented pleaſures. They ſunk in down beds, and grew effeminate; exerciſe, which ſtrings the nerves, and preſerves health, was a ſtranger to them; they turned day into night, and night into day, and waſted their moſt valuable and precious time in routs and riotous aſſemblies; but ſee at once the force of human folly, and the end of human grandeur! They made a law to naturalize the ſlaves and refuſe of other nations; they took counſel of ſtrangers; they choſe their generals

and officers from a foreign people, and were at last plundered and dispossessed of their property by their own dependants. Such was the fate of the Mercolians; and may this be a warning to all future states!

In this confusion, some of the best families left Mercolia, and took possession of an island uninhabited in the same seas, but were followed by their enemies, who drew up in battle array to destroy them. At this instant of time, when no prospect of safety remained, and every man expected his fate, Master Turvolo, a lad of about fourteen years, arose, and thus addressed himself to the Mercolians: "Brethren, and you men of Mercolia! let not fear drive you to madness! You have lives, you have

have families; you have effects worth preserving, and the means are in your hands to do it. Let every man deliver to me his money, the only source and cause of his misfortune, and I will deliver you from these people,

who, from being your slaves and dependants, are now become your lords and dictators." He then took a large

heap of money, which he divided into three hundred bags; untied, and distributed those bags to the same number of men, to each man his bag, and placed them behind those of his friends who were armed; and when the pursuers came upon them, those men, as they were directed, scattered the money upon the ground, which diverted the soldiers from their duty, and set them to fighting among themselves; and the Mercolians stood at a distance, and beheld them destroying one another, till such time as their forces were sufficiently weakened, and then they turned upon them and overthrew them with great slaughter. After this Master Turvolo was placed at the head of the people, and made their king; and, in order to

to establish in them virtuous and good principles, he erected two temples, one whereof was called the temple of Fame, and built on the top of a high hill, fortified round with a strong wall and deep ditch; and the other was placed in the middle of the road leading to that on the hill, so that there was no coming through it; and this was called the temple of Virtue. The first portal of this temple was dignified with this inscription, namely, *The road to the Temple of Fame is through the Temple of Virtue.* And after passing through a spacious court, a beautiful portico presented itself, on which were written, in azure and gold, the following words: *Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul,*

people happy; for in a few years peace reigned in every breast, and plenty smiled in every valley; they had no ambition but of excelling in virtue, and no contentions but who should be most religious and most just. Locks, bolts, and bars they had no occasion for, since thieves there were none, nor did they need any of the dreadful instruments of war:—*For every man loved the Lord his God with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his strength, and his neighbour as himself.*

THE

THE AMERICAN MERCHANT.

A MERCHANT who settled in the West Indies, meeting with good success, in a few years acquired a handsome fortune, and two children, a boy and a girl; the son, whose name was John, was about four years old, and Molly a year younger. When they were about half way on their passage, a dreadful storm arose, and the pilot said they were in imminent danger of being lost. On hearing this, the merchant took a large plank, and fastened his wife and two children to it; but before he had time to fix himself to the same, the ship struck on a rock, and split to pieces.

The

The plank with the wife and two children kept the sea like a little boat, and the wind carried them to an island. The mother untied the cords with which they were fastened, and went up into the country, in hopes of discovering some houses, but she soon perceived that the island was uninhabited: she now began to be apprehensive that herself and her children must perish for hunger; but advancing farther into the island, she found several trees laden with fruit, and a number of birds nests with eggs in them. There being no probability of their ever getting off the island, she was resolved to submit to the Divine will, and do her best for the education of her children. She very fortunately had in her pocket a Bible,

by

by which she taught them to read, and instructed them in the knowledge of their Maker. At the end of two years the poor mother fell sick, and being aware she could not long survive, she called her children to her, and told them she was at the point of death, and must soon leave them, but bid them remember that they were not left alone, and God would see all; they must not forget to pray to him every night and morning, and must never quarrel nor fight, but live in love and amity with one another. The children observed punctually the directions they received from their dying mother; no day passed without putting up their morning and evening prayers to God, and they read their book over so often,

that

that they had it by heart. Jacky and Molly had now been eleven years on this island; as they were one day sitting on the sea-shore, they observed several black men coming towards them in a boat. The blacks were surprised to see these children of a different colour from themselves; they surrounded them and spoke to them, but Jacky and Molly understood nothing of their language: at length four black men showed them their boat, and desired them by signs to step in. Molly at first was afraid, but by the persuasion of her brother went into the boat, which carried them into an island not far off, inhabited by savages, who all received them very kindly. The king could not keep his eyes off Molly, and

and often put his hand to his breast to let her know he loved her: Molly and Jacky soon learned their language, and understood that they were at war with the people of some neighbouring islands, and that they ate their prisoners. The king was now resolved instantly to make Molly his queen, who told her brother she had rather die than marry him, because she thought him a very wicked man; for instead of forgiving his enemies, as their book instructed them, he put his prisoners to death, and devoured them. The savages were so exasperated at Molly's refusal to marry their king, that they tied her and her brother to piles of wood, and were preparing to set fire to them, when they heard that a great number of their

enemies were come ashore. They all ran to fight the invaders, and being overcome, the victorious enemy cut the chains of the victims destined to the flames, and carried them to their islands, where they became slaves to the king of the country. Those savages were also frequently engaged in wars, and, like their neighbours,

bours, devoured their prisoners. On a certain occasion they took a great number, and among the rest was a white man; the savages finding him very lean, determined to fatten him for their eating. He was kept chained in a hut, and Molly was charged with the care of bringing him food. The white man, who was surprised at the sight of a woman of the same colour as himself, was much more so when he heard her speak his own language, and pray to the same God. He asked her, who taught her to speak English, and instructed her in the knowledge of God? She replied, she did not know before the name of the language she spoke: that her mother spoke it and taught it her; that she had learned much about God out of a

book which her mother gave her, and prayed to him daily. The white man then asked to see the book, on opening which, and finding on the first leaf, "This book belongs to John Maurice;" he broke out in the following words: "Ah! my dear children! have I found you once more! Come and embrace your poor father, and give me some account of your mother." Jacky and Molly were so overjoyed at seeing their father again, that it was some time before they could speak; at last says Jacky, "My heart tells me you are my father, though I cannot conceive how it is possible, for my mother told me you went to the bottom of the sea."—"It is true," says the man; "I actually fell into the sea, but catching hold of a

plank,

plank, I came aſhore upon an iſland, and concluded you were loſt." Jacky then gave a particular account of all he could remember; the white man was much afflicted, when he heard that his poor wife was dead; "And, alas!" ſays he, "what avails it, my dear children, that we have met again, if in a few days I am to be ſlaughtered and devoured!" But Molly deſired him to leave that to her, for ſhe had thought of an infallible mean to ſave his life. She then left her father, and went and threw herſelf at the king's feet, telling him, ſhe had one requeſt to make, which ſhe hoped he would not deny; the king promiſed her he would not. She then told him, that the white man was Jacky's and her father; and as he had determined he ſhould be eaten,

her request was, that she might suffer in his stead. The king was so moved with Molly's dutiful affection for her father, that he not only promised her own and her father's life, but told her he expected a ship soon, which came with white men, and they should have his leave to depart. Molly returned the king her most grateful thanks for his kind compassion, and ran immediately to her father to acquaint him with the good news. The ship mentioned by the black king arriving a few days afterwards, they all went on board, and returned safe to England, where they spent the remainder of their days in great happiness, often reflecting with wonder on the mysterious and wise providence of God, who only permitted the daughter to be a slave as a mean to save her father's life.

THE

THE STORY OF FORTUNATUS.

THE island of Cyprus has long been renowned for many things, and particularly for giving birth to Fortunatus. He was the son of a wealthy merchant; but the family, by living too freely, were at length reduced. The young man imagining himself to be now but an incumbrance to his father, determined with himself to leave his home and seek his fortune. He had not travelled long before he lost his way in a wood; night came on, and he could not tell what to do. At midnight the wild beasts began to howl and roar about him, and for his security he was

forced to get up into a tree. At the dawn of the day a bear made towards him, and was mounting up the tree; but Fortunatus made so gallant a defence with his sword, that he cut off one of the bear's paws, so that it was impossible for him to keep his hold, and down he fell. But though Fortunatus rejoiced at the success of his adventure, new sorrows came now upon him; for though it was daylight, and he travelled on in tolerable safety, yet hunger and weariness overtook him.

But all of a sudden a lady, with a bandage upon her eyes, met him and accosted him; she held in her hand a purse, and offering it to him, told him her name was Fortune. "And this purse," says she, "which I give you, will

will never be empty; as often as you thrust your hand into it, you will be able to take out a handful of gold and silver."—He thanked her, and was doubtless extremely glad of this most noble present.

Getting into the high road, he came to a great city, where he bought himself

self fine clothes, horses, and servants, and lived like a prince; for he never put his hand into his purse, but he always found money enough to pay for what he wanted. He now took a fancy to travel over the world. To this end he furnished himself with every thing proper for that purpose in the most splendid manner imaginable, and thus he went to all the princes' courts in Europe. He came at last to the court of the Grand Turk at Constantinople, who paid him great respect, and showed him the rarities of his palace, which abounded with diamonds and rich things of all sorts. Last of all he drew him into a room, and said he could now show him the greatest curiosity in the world. "Where is it?" said Fortunatus; "for

"for my part I see nothing here but an old hat."—"That is the very thing," said the Grand Turk. "This," continued he, "is a wishing-hat, and I no sooner clap it on, but I am conveyed in a trice wherever I desire, let the distance be what it will, over hills, vallies, rivers, or oceans."—Fortunatus was surprised at the account of his hat. Lord! thinks he to himself, could I but get that hat to my purse, what man alive would be so happy as I? "Pray," said Fortunatus, "is not this same hat heavier than ordinary hats?"—"No," said the Grand Turk; "put it upon your head and try."—Fortunatus put it on, and presently wished himself at home in his own country, and in a moment flew out of the window, and left the Grand Turk in the utmost rage.

Who

Who was then so hapyy as Fortunatus? If he wanted money, it was only putting his hand into his purse, and he always found enough for his purpose: if he wanted to be conveyed any where, it was only clapping on his wishing-hat, and he was instantly there.

He now heard that the king of England had a beautiful daughter, and he determined to see her; so putting on his hat, he wished himself at London, and presently found himself there. He went to court, and his clothes, which were all embroidered with gold and diamonds, were the admiration of all the ladies; and what added to their astonishment was, that he appeared every day in a different dress, but all equally fine. He soon found

found an opportunity to declare his love to the king's daughter. She told him she would return his love if he would tell her how he came by his great riches. He could not deny her, and told her the secret of his purse. She then promised to admit him the following night into her chamber; but in the mean time she had procured a purse to be made perfectly like his, and contrived a sleepy potion, which she mixed with the wine he drank with her, which caused him to fall fast asleep. During this sleep she changed purses with him. Fortunatus waking, was ignorant of all that happened; but taking his leave, and wanting to make the servants a handsome present, he put his hand into his purse, but was terribly disappointed,

pointed, for he found nothing in it. Suspecting what had been done, he catched the princess in his arms, and wished himself in some solitary wilderness, with her alone, which immediately came to pass. The lady was sadly terrified and faint, both with her journey, and the horror of the wilderness; but looking up, and seeing some fruit on a tree, she begged of him to climb up and get her some. He, willing to oblige her, got up into the tree, but left his hat upon her head. As she sat musing, "Oh!" says she, "that I was but once more at home with my dear father!" The very instant she spoke this she was gone, and left poor Fortunatus deprived of both hat and purse.

Fortunatus descending from the tree

tree, knew not what he should do. He sat down very pensive and melancholy: at length beginning to eat one of the apples the princess had desired him to gather, he found a pair of great horns sprouting from his head; but an old hermit meeting him, informed him, that if he would only eat some apples of another tree, which grew near the place, his horns would drop off. He did so, and it fell out as the hermit said. A sudden thought now came into his head, that he would carry some of both these sorts of apples to court, and so manage matters that one of them should be left in the chamber of the king's daughter. This plot he executed with success; and when the princess entered her apartment, and beheld a

very

very fine apple lying on the table, she took and ate it, and immediately a pair of great horns sprung from her forehead. Help and advice were sent for from every quarter, but no physician was found able to remove these horns. Fortunatus now thought it was high time to play his game, and personating a physician, undertook the cure of the princess's strange disorder. The first thing he cast his eyes upon, after entering the princess's chamber, was his old wishing-hat; it hung there disregarded, and not a creature dreamt of the virtues of it. Now, thinks he, could I but be equally satisfied that she had the purse about her, I should know how to proceed. In order to try whether she had or no, he acquainted her that his fee

fee came to a thousand pounds. She was contented to give it him: he then pulled out of his pocket an apple of the tree the hermit had showed him, and bid her eat it; which she had no sooner done, than her horns dropped off. Rejoiced at the doctor's success, she took out her purse to satisfy his demand; but Fortunatus espying his purse, clapped on his hat, and clasping her in his arms, wished himself at home with her in the island of Cyprus; where when they arrived, he reproached her for her deceitful usage, and put her into a nunnery to spend the residue of her days. After this he began to think what vexation and trouble he had undergone by means of his hat and purse, and being thoroughly per-

 suaded

suaded in his own mind, that riches were a burden, and that enjoying our wishes is often the cause of much misery, he resolutely took both hat and purse and flung them into the fire, which soon consumed them; and ever after this he lived a quiet, happy, and contented life.

THE

THE HISTORY OF MR. ASHFIELD.

MR. SYLVANUS ASHFIELD was born in the county of Durham; at the age of twenty-one he became possessed of an easy fortune, and thought immediately of settling in the world. He married a lady of equal rank and fortune with himself, by whom he was blessed with three children; he was extremely fond of his little offspring, and whenever they were assembled around his knees, he thought himself happier than a king. He had a good library, and when he was not with his wife and children, his time was spent in study. Though he had a general taste for all sorts of

books, his inclination chiefly directed him to the poets, and particularly those of the dramatic kind. He had a strong passion for Shakspeare's tragedies; he read them over and over without ceasing; and sometimes he thought how happy the people in London must be, who had opportunities of going to the playhouses, where these excellent pieces were exhibited. This notion, which occurred frequently to his mind, grew up to a most violent desire. He might indeed have taken a journey to London, as nobody could have hindered him; but whenever he considered the matter seriously, reason opposed so absurd an excursion, and he was conscious that all his friends would blame him for taking a journey of upwards of

two hundred miles, merely for the pleasure of seeing a play. He continued two whole years in this distressed condition; and became melancholy and pensive.

Just at this time, however, he received a letter from town, with an account, that an aunt of his was dead there, who had appointed him her sole executor. It was therefore now become absolutely necessary that he should come up to London to settle her affairs. All his friends were surprised at the joy which he expressed on hearing this news, as he always had been esteemed a disinterested person. He was really uneasy that they began to think him covetous, but he could not bring himself to declare the true cause of his satisfaction. A

French author obſerves very judiciouſly, that we are more jealous of the opinion others form of our underſtanding, than we are with reſpect to what they think of our morals, and we chooſe rather to be thought immoral than ridiculous, or of a weak capacity: at leaſt he then acted upon this principle. He left all the world at liberty to think as they pleaſed, and his whole care was in haſtening every thing for his departure. He ſcarce allowed Mrs. Aſhfield time to put up a few ſhirts in a cloak-bag; and though he had the tendereſt love for his family, the tears they ſhed when he took horſe were by him totally diſregarded; his mind was wholly agitated by the pleaſures he hoped to find in the exhibition of a play. When he alighted at the inn, the firſt

queſ-

question he asked was, at what o'clock they opened the playhouse? and he was answered, about five. As the time grew nearer his impatience increased. When he came to the playhouse door it was exactly four o'clock. He was enraged at the porter, and believed he delayed opening the door for the purpose. However, it was set open at last, and in he rushed.

He surveyed with eagerness the place he had so long and so often wished to see, and at last seated himself. Meanwhile the company crowded in, and seemed to share with him in impatience; some by bawling, others by thumping their sticks upon the floor, and some by whistling. At last the long-wished-for moment comes, the curtain is drawn up, and, what do you think? A man of an enormous size comes in and seats himself just before our hero, and almost obstructed a sight of the stage. This inconvenience, however, he remedied by leaning on one side, till his back was almost broken. The actors at last appeared, and for a time he seemed to have lost his faculties.

He only came to himself again at the

the cloſe of the firſt act. He then began to conſider the pleaſure he had received by this novelty; it was really great, but far from anſwering his expectations. This diſappointment occaſioned a diſguſt; however, he was ſtill determined to examine the play, and to remark its defects; ſo that at laſt he found fault with the author, the players, the decorations, and even thought that every particular fell ſhort of that perfection to which they might have been carried to make the whole complete.

The farce, which was a pantomime, was ſtill more diſagreeable, being in itſelf extremely indecent and immoral. The exhibition at laſt was at an end, and he returned to the inn very penſive and diſcontent. While he

he was in this melancholy mood, he made the following pertinent reflections.

My case, said he to himself, is very common. A young lady at fourteen or fifteen, hears of what I may call the grand play or comedy of the world; she longs to be seen at this public spectacle, and endeavours to hasten the long-desired hour; at length she appears at the assemblies. What forecast! what care is had to be in a proper place to see and be seen in a manner the most likely to sooth and flatter her vanity! but when she has succeeded, and that she is fixed to her content, in comes a taller person, that is, a lady of greater beauty, a finer shape, more wit, and possessed of talents which she wants; she

she seizes and fixes every eye in the company, and eclipses the young person that thought herself so happy, and who, in order to catch a side glance, and some share in the admiration of the spectators, is forced to be upon the rack, and in the most uneasy posture, where this rival shines with superior endowments. Though the constraint is greatly troublesome, she keeps up her heart, and bears her present situation with the prospect of the pleasure she hopes to find in this meeting. How great is her surprise, and how affecting her concern, to see that the pleasure does not answer her expectation! She is frustrated; she does not meet with half, no not a quarter of that satisfaction she proposed to herself; she grieves, she begins

gins to loath the world, that requires so much and returns so little; but the disgust fails too often of bringing a love of retreat, and ends in being out of temper with the faults of the play, and the performers; that is, the incidents of life, the perfidiousness of indifferent persons, and the ingratitude of those who were thought friends. One is deceived on all sides, obliged to take a share in the trouble of this person, and to suffer the unjust proceedings of that other: this is not all. This comedy, or universal pantomime, which is not very entertaining, is very scandalous; what is heard and what is seen disposes generally to evil. Who has the holy fear of the Lord dreads being sullied with this filth; he must be ever on his

his guard, always resisting, and engaged in an endless struggle. Here the eyes and the ears must be constantly shut; the tongue must be almost under a perpetual restraint. What a pity! In fine, the play draws to an end; night, that is, old age, comes on. What remains, but very little pleasure, great uneasiness, unprofitable desires, and tormenting remorses! Happy those, who, like myself, disgusted with the first representation, take a handsome resolution, and follow my example.

THE

THE ADVICE OF A FATHER TO HIS CHILDREN.

THIS instant is thine; the next is in the womb of futurity, and thou knowest not what it may bring forth.

Whatsoever thou resolvest to do, do it quickly; defer not till the evening, what the morning may accomplish.

Idleness is the parent of want and pain; but the labour of virtue bringeth forth pleasure.

The hand of the diligent defeateth want; prosperity and success are the industrious man's attendants.

Who is he that hath acquired wealth, that hath risen to power, that hath clothed

clothed himſelf with honour, that is ſpoken of in the city with praiſe, and that ſtandeth before the king in his council? Even he that hath ſhut out idleneſs from his houſe, and that hath ſaid unto ſloth, Thou art mine enemy.

Boaſt not of thyſelf, for it will bring contempt upon thee; neither deride another, for it is dangerous.

From the experience of others, do thou learn wiſdom, and from their failings correct thine own faults.

It behoveth thee, O child of calamity! early to fortify thy mind with courage and patience, that thou mayeſt ſupport, with a becoming reſolution, thy allotted portion of human evil.

The neareſt approach thou canſt make to happineſs on this ſide of the grave, is to enjoy from heaven under-

ſtanding

standing and health. These blessings, if thou possessest, and wouldst preserve to old age, avoid the allurements of Voluptuousness, and fly from her temptations.

In all thy undertakings, let a reasonable assurance animate thy endeavours; if thou despairest of success, thou shalt not succeed.

Consider how few things are worthy of anger, and thou shalt wonder that any but fools should be wroth.

THE END.

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