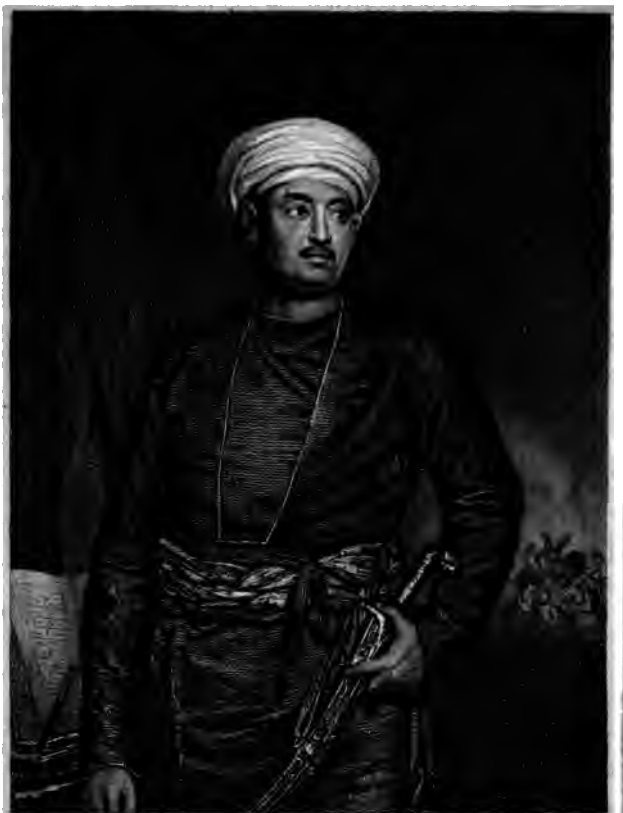

Painted by J. Northcote R.A. *Engraved by W. Ward*

MIRZA ABU TALEB KHAN.

Published May 1st 1810 by Mess. Stewart Hartford

TRAVELS

OF

MIRZA ABU TALEB KHAN

IN

ASIA, AFRICA, AND EUROPE,

DURING THE YEARS

1799, 1800, 1801, 1802, AND 1803.

Written by Himself in the Persian Language.

TRANSLATED BY

CHARLES STEWART, Esq. M.A.S.

PROFESSOR OF ORIENTAL LANGUAGES
IN THE HON. EAST-INDIA COMPANY'S COLLEGE, HERTS.

VOL. I.

SECOND EDITION, WITH ADDITIONS.

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1814.

TO THE MOST NOBLE

THE

MARCHIONESS *of* HERTFORD.

MADAM,

I FEAR *I shall be accused of presumption in dedicating to your Ladyship a Work which may, at first sight, appear to be possessed of little literary value. It is to be considered, however, that the original is the production of a Native of the East, unacquainted with the sciences of Europe, whose only object was to inform and improve his countrymen, by a candid and simple narrative of what he saw, heard, and thought, during his Travels.*

The remarks of such an observer, on the laws, manners, and customs of the different countries of Europe, particularly on those of our own, can never be without their interest and importance to

an enlightened mind: and I am therefore encouraged to hope, that your Ladyship, after making due allowance for the disadvantages of a translation, may be induced to honour them with your countenance and protection.

I have the honour to be,

Your Ladyship's most obedient

and devoted Servant,

CHARLES STEWART.

Hertford,
May 25th, 1810.

TRANSLATOR'S

PREFACE.

I WILL not trespass on the time of the Reader, by any apology for introducing to him the following Work. The free remarks of an intelligent Foreigner, and especially of an Asiatic, on our laws, customs, and manners, when they are ascertained to be genuine, must always be considered as an object of liberal curiosity.

The Author of these Travels was so well known in London, in the years 1800 and 1801, under the title of *The Persian Prince*, and has so clearly related the principal incidents of his life in the introduction and course of his narrative, that it is unnecessary to enter further into his per-

sonal history in this place; and it only remains for me to give some account of the Manuscript from which the Translation was made.

For several months after the Author's return to Bengal, he was without any employment; during which time he revised his Notes, and compiled his Narrative. He then employed several Katibs (writers) to transcribe a certain number of copies under his own inspection, which he distributed to his most intimate friends. One of these correct copies was presented by the Author to Captain Joseph Taylor, of the Bengal Artillery, who, in the year 1806, had a correct transcript taken of it at Allahabad, by Mirza Mohammed Sadik Moonshy; which copy he gave to Lieutenant-Colonel Lennon, who brought

it to England in the following year, and from whom it came into my hands.

The Manuscript consists of three small octavo volumes, written in a neat hand; which, for the satisfaction of any persons who may have doubts of its authenticity, will be deposited with Messrs. Longman & Co. Booksellers, for three months.

With respect to the Translation, I shall only say, that I have endeavoured to render it as literal as the different idioms of the two languages would admit: and, except in a very few instances, for which I trust I shall be pardoned by the Reader, I have not ventured to curtail or omit any part of the narrative.

In some places, I have been under the

necessity of transposing the Chapters, in order to preserve a connexion between the subjects; an object little attended to by Oriental writers in general.

We have several books of fictitious travels, ascribed to natives of the East; but I believe this is the first time the genuine opinions of an Asiatic, respecting the institutions of Europe, have appeared in the English language; and, as such, I trust they will be received with proportionate interest by the Public.

I take this opportunity of returning my public thanks to Mr. Northcote, for the readiness with which he lent the Portrait whence the Engraving of the Author has been taken.

Hertford, May 1810.

ADVERTISEMENT

TO THIS EDITION.

Some persons having entertained doubts of the authenticity of these Travels, the Translator has been induced to give in this Edition the names at full length, instead of the initials only; and has made such other additions as he trusts will completely satisfy the most incredulous reader.

He has also the satisfaction to state, that the Bengal Government, convinced of the policy of disseminating such a work among the Natives of the British Dominions in the East, ordered the Original in the Persian language to be printed. Forty Copies of the Book have arrived in

England; and it may be seen either in the East-India Company's Library in London, or at their College in Hertfordshire.

The Translator still sensible of his inability to do justice to the Poetical part of the Work, has omitted it also in this Edition. The printed Copy has enabled him to rectify a few trifling mistakes of the Original Manuscript.

TRAVELS

OF

MIRZA ABU TALEB KHAN.

In the Name of the Most-merciful God.

INTRODUCTION.

After Thanksgiving to God, and Praise of Mohammed, the Author details his reasons for publishing the account of his Travels.

GLORY be to God, the Lord of all worlds, who has conferred innumerable blessings on mankind, and accomplished all the laudable desires of his creatures. Praise be also to the Chosen of Mankind, the traveller over the whole expanse of the

heavens, (Mohammed), and benedictions without end on his descendants and companions.

The wanderer over the face of the earth, Abu Taleb the son of Mohammed of Ispahan, begs leave to inform the curious in biography, that, owing to several adverse circumstances, finding it inconvenient to remain at home, he was compelled to undertake many tedious journeys; during which, he associated with men of all nations, and beheld various wonders, both by sea and by land.

It therefore occurred to him, that if he were to write all the circumstances of his journey through Europe, to describe the curiosities and wonders which he saw, and to give some account of the manners and customs of the various nations he

visited, all of which are little known to Asiatics, it would afford a gratifying banquet to his countrymen.

He was also of opinion, that many of the customs, inventions, sciences, and ordinances of Europe, the good effects of which are apparent in those countries, might with great advantage be imitated by Mohammedans.

Impressed with these ideas, he, on his first setting out on his Travels, commenced a journal, in which he daily inserted every event, and committed to writing such reflections as occurred to him at the moment: and on his return to Calcutta, in the year of the Hejira 1218 (A.D. 1803), having revised and abridged his notes, he arranged them in the present form.

I* have named this work *Musier Taleby fy Bulad Affrenjy*—"The Travels of Taleb in the Regions of Europe;" but when I reflect on the want of energy and the indolent dispositions of my countrymen, and the many erroneous customs which exist in all Mohammedan countries and among all ranks of Mussulmans, I am fearful that my exertions will be thrown away. The great and the rich, intoxicated with pride and luxury, and puffed up with the vanity of their possessions, consider universal science as comprehended in the circle of their own scanty acquirements and limited knowledge; while the poor and common people, from the want of leisure, and overpowered by the difficulty

* A transition from the third to the first person is not uncommon in Persian writers. This exordium was not inserted in the First Edition, as not being thought interesting to European readers in general.

of procuring a livelihood, have not time to attend to their personal concerns, much less to form desires for the acquirement of information on new discoveries and inventions; although such a passion has been implanted by nature in every human breast, as an honour and an ornament to the species. I therefore despair of their reaping any fruit from my labours; being convinced that they will consider this book of no greater value than the volumes of Tales and Romances which they peruse merely to pass away their time, or are attracted thereto by the easiness of the style. It may consequently be concluded, that as they will find no pleasure in reading a work which contains a number of foreign names, treats on uncommon subjects, and alludes to other matters which cannot be understood at the first glance, but require a little time for consideration, they will,

under pretence of zeal for their religion, entirely abstain and refrain from perusing it.

I am however sensible, that my work is in many respects deficient, and that my inquiries have not had sufficient profundity, or that I have not been able satisfactorily to explain the result of them. I have also to regret that my poverty, and the want of rich patrons, have prevented my having drawings and plans made of the various machines lately invented, and of the edifices in which the Arts are cultivated in Europe: these would have elucidated my explanations, and rendered them easy to every comprehension; but, according to the Arabian Proverb, "We are not to abandon the "whole, because we cannot obtain the "whole." I am therefore hopeful that the enlightened reader, taking into con-

sideration these difficulties, will not be deterred by the number of harsh and uncouth names which occur in this book from giving it a deliberate and unprejudiced perusal: and let him be assured, that by reading this account of the state of the Arts and Sciences in Europe, he will considerably add to the stock of his own knowledge*.

* Besides this work, in which there are Odes on *every* subject, the Author wrote at the same time a *Poetical Description* of his Travels, which he named the *Mesnevy*, consisting of a thousand verses. This circumstance may account for the want of *climacterical warmth* complained of by some of his reviewers; and by others, that the descriptions are not sufficiently replete with Oriental imagery, or flights of fancy. On this subject it may however be remarked, that the generality of Persian works which have hitherto been translated into the languages of Europe have been either Poems or Romances, in which such imagery is peculiarly appropriate; but that the Orientals can and do write in every kind of style, and on

on every subject, can only be doubted by those who are ignorant of their language. In proof of this, the reader is referred to the "Descriptive Catalogue of Tippoo Sultan's Library;" and particularly to the Appendix of that work.

CHAP. I.

The Author gives an account of his origin, and of his family. His father becomes a favourite of Abul Munsur Khan Sufder Jung, Nabob of Oude—is appointed Deputy to the Nabob's Nephew. The Nabob dies—is succeeded by his son Shujaa ad Dowleh, who becomes jealous of his cousin, and arrests and puts him to death —suspicious of the adherents of the deceased—he attempts to seize the author's father, who flies to Bengal. The author's journey to join his father at Moorshedabad. His father dies. The Nabob Shujaa ad Dowleh dies—is succeeded by his son, Assuf ad Dowleh, whose minister invites the author to return to Lucknow, and bestows on him the appointment of Aumildar, or collector of the revenues. The minister dies—his successor inimical to the author, who is superseded, and retires to Lucknow—appointed an assistant to Colonel

Hannay, collector of Gorruckpore—is removed from his office, and returns to Lucknow.—Insurrections in Oude. The author consulted by the English on the state of affairs — is employed to reduce Rajah Bulbudder Sing—surprises the Rajah's camp. Enmity of the minister, Hyder Beg Khan. The author proceeds to Calcutta — is well received by the Governor-general—settles in Calcutta. Lord Cornwallis recommends the author to the British Resident, and to the Nabob, at Lucknow. Lord Cornwallis leaves India. The Nabob quarrels with the Resident, and dismisses the author, who returns to Calcutta—Being unhappy, is invited to make a voyage to Europe —agrees—takes his passage—the ship is burnt —he engages another vessel.

In commencing the account of my Travels, I think it requisite that the Reader should be informed of some circumstances which occurred antecedent to my setting out, and be made acquainted with the general outline of my history.

My father was named Hajy Mohammed Beg Khan, by descent a Turk, but born at Abbassabad Ispahan. Whilst a young man, dreading the tyranny of Nadir Shah, he fled from Persia; and, on his arrival in India, was admitted into the friendship of the *Nabob* Abul Munsur Khan Sufder Jung. Upon the death of Nowil Ray, deputy governor of Oude, Mohammed Culy Khan, nephew of the Nabob, was appointed to that important office, and my father was nominated one of his assistants. From this circumstance, such an intimacy and friendship took place between them, that my father was considered as one of his faithful adherents.

The Nabob Sufder Jung died in the year of the Hejira 1167 (A. D. 1753), and was succeeded by his son, Shujaa ad Dowleh; who becoming jealous of his cousin,

Mohammed Culy Khan, arrested him, and put him to death. The Nabob being also suspicious of the adherents of the deceased, attempted to seize my father, who, previous to this event, had settled his wife and family in the city of Lucknow. My father received intimation of the Nabob's intentions, and fled, with a few of his faithful servants, to Bengal; but so sudden was his departure, that he only carried with him his gold and jewels. The rest of his property, being left, was plundered by the soldiers.

My honoured parent passed a number of years in Bengal, beloved and respected; and died at Moorshedabad, in the year of the Christian æra 1768.

My mother's father was named Abul Hussen Beg. He was a religious and devout person; and being a townsman of

the Nabob Borhan Al Mulk Saadit Khan, great grandfather to the present sovereign of Oude, had such an affection for him, that, after the death of that nobleman, he abandoned all worldly affairs, and never more quitted his house.

I was born at Lucknow, in the year 1752: and although the Nabob Shujaa ad Dowleh was much displeased at my father's conduct, he nevertheless, recollecting the connexion between our families, supplied my mother with money for her expences, and gave her strict injunctions to let me have the very best education.

My father, having resolved to continue in Bengal, directed my mother to remove thither with all her family. We therefore left Lucknow in the year 1760, and proceeded by land as far as Patna, where

we embarked on board a boat for Moorshedabad. This was my first journey; but being then only fourteen years of age, and accompanied by my mother, it was free from anxiety.

A year and a half after our arrival at Moorshedabad, my father died; and the whole charge of his affairs, both public and private, devolved upon me. Previous to this unfortunate event, my worthy parents had betrothed me to the daughter of a near relation of Muzuffer Jung, Nabob of Bengal. In consequence of this connexion, I remained several years happy and contented in the service of that prince.

In the year 1775, Assuf ad Dowleh succeeded to the musnud of Oude. On this occasion, I received an invitation from his Prime-minister, Mokhtiar ad Dowleh,

to return to Lucknow; and was appointed Aumildar* of Etaya, and several other districts situated between the rivers Jumnah and Ganges. In this situation I continued for two years; the greater part of which time I lived in tents, being obliged, in enforcing the collection of the revenues, to make frequent excursions through the districts.

After the death of my patron, and the appointment of Hyder Beg Khan to his office, I was superseded; and repaired to Lucknow, where I resided for nearly a year. At the expiration of that period, Colonel Alexander Hannay, having been appointed collector of Gorruckpore, requested the

* This office, under the native governments, united the duties of our Lord-lieutenant and Receiver of the Taxes of the County: he had also a considerable military force under his command.

Nabob's permission to take me with him as an assistant. In that situation I continued for three years, living the whole of the time either in tents, or temporary houses composed of mats and bamboos. When the Colonel was removed from his office, I accompanied him to Lucknow, and remained at home for one year unemployed.

During this period, great dissensions existed between the minister, Hyder Beg Khan, and the representatives of the East-India Company, Messieurs Nathaniel Middleton and Richard Johnson; in consequence of which, and the clandestine intrigues of the former, the finances of the state were much deranged; and although the collectors extorted larger sums than usual from the Zemindars, the revenues annually decreased. The oppressions of the collectors were at length carried to

such an excess, that many of the Zemindars rebelled, the principal of whom was Raja Bulbudder Sing. He was lineally descended from the ancient Hindoo monarchs of Oude; and having 100,000 Rajpoots (the military tribe of Hindoos) at his command, considered himself as equal to the Nabob Vizier, whose authority he therefore disclaimed.

To reduce this Raja to obedience, an army was sent, composed partly of the Nabob's troops, and partly of the Company's Sepoys; but, owing to the intrigues of Hyder Beg Khan and the collectors, this measure failed of success.

Such was the deranged state of the Nabob's affairs, that Mr. Hastings (Governor-general) deemed it requisite to interfere. He, in consequence, ordered Mr.

Middleton to send for and consult me on the best mode of reducing the Raja, and of restoring the country to order.

As I was convinced that Hyder Beg Khan was the person who had contrived to throw the Nabob's affairs into confusion; and that, while he continued in office, every endeavour on my part would only serve to irritate him, and be the probable cause of my own ruin; I declined any interference: but the Resident persisting in his entreaties, and swearing to support and protect me against all enemies, I at length consented to be employed.

During two years, I frequently defeated and pursued Bulbudder Sing; and at length, having surprised his camp, he was killed in endeavouring to make his escape. By this servive, I rid the Nabob of an enemy

of his family for the last sixty years, and restored order and good government in the country.

But from that period I may date the ruin of myself and family; for shortly after, Mr. Middleton having been removed from Lucknow, and Governor Hastings having proceeded to Europe, I was left without any protection against the machinations of my enemies.

Hyder Beg Khan, having by his cunning and hypocrisy gained the favour of the new Governor-general, behaved to me for some years ostensibly with attention and kindness, and even wished to ensnare me to accept of an employment under him; but failing in this attempt, he quarrelled with me, and stopt the allowance of 6,000 rupees per annum which I received from the Nabob

for my support. I therefore found it impossible to remain at Lucknow, and resolved again to travel to Bengal.

In the year 1787, I embarked on the Ganges, and proceeded to Calcutta, where I stated my complaint to Lord Cornwallis. His lordship received me very politely, and made many promises of assistance; but being just then about to embark for Madras, and to take the command of the army against Tippoo Sultan, my business was delayed for four years. During this period, I sent for my family to Calcutta; and my friends, seeing no hope of my getting into office, dispersed themselves in various places.

The great expence which I had incurred by the removal of myself and family from such a distance, added to the building of a house in the vicinity of Calcutta for our

residence, quite overwhelmed me with debt. My distress and misery were further increased by the death of my son, a beautiful boy of four years old, who fell a sacrifice to the unhealthy climate, and ignorance of the (native) physicians of Calcutta.

When Lord Cornwallis returned to Bengal, he recollected his promise to me; and Hyder Beg Khan being then dead, he sent me, in the year 1792, with letters of recommendation to Mr. Cherry, the Resident of Lucknow, and to the Nabob Assuf ad Dowleh, with an assurance that they would speedily provide for me.

In consequence of these letters, I was most graciously received at Lucknow, both by the Nabob and his courtiers; and was in daily hopes of an appointment, when, unfortunately for me, Lord Cornwallis quit-

ted India, and all my expectations were blasted; for, shortly after, the Nabob quarrelled with Mr. Cherry, and got him removed from Lucknow. He also sent me orders to quit that city; and although I remonstrated against such injustice, my complaints were not listened to. I therefore left a part of my family at Lucknow; and having sent the remainder to Allahabad, I proceeded, in the year 1795, a third time to Calcutta.

Sir John Shore (now Lord Teignmouth), who was then Governor-general, received me kindly, and promised me assistance; but the Nabob Assuf ad Dowleh dying soon afterwards, the confusion created by Vizier Aly Khan, and the multiplicity of business caused by that event, did not leave him leisure to think of my affairs before he embarked for Europe.

During the three years of expectation which I passed in Calcutta, all my dependants and adherents, seeing my distress, left me; and even some of my children, and the domestics brought up in my father's family, abandoned me. In this situation I was quite overcome with grief and despondency; when one day my friend Captain David Richardson, a Scotchman, came to visit me. As this gentleman perfectly understands both the Persian and Hindoostany languages, we conversed on various subjects: and at length he informed me, that, as he found his health on the decline, he meant shortly to embark for Europe, in hopes that his native air might renovate his constitution; and that he should return to India in three years. He added, "As you "are without employment, and appear de-"pressed in mind, let me request you to "accompany me. The change of scene,

"and the curiosities you will meet with in "Europe, will disperse the gloom that now "hangs over you. I will undertake to "teach you English during the voyage, "and provide for all your wants." After having considered his proposal for some time, I reflected, that, as the journey was long and replete with danger, some accident might cause my death, by which I should be delivered from the anxieties of this world, and the ingratitude of mankind. I therefore accepted his friendly offer, and resolved to undertake the journey.

That no time might be lost, I went on the following day and agreed for my passage in the Charlotte, one of the East-India Company's ships; but in a few days afterwards, this vessel was unfortunately burned. Notwithstanding this unpropitious event, as Captain Richardson and I were determined

on the business, we went immediately and engaged a passage in the Christiana, Captain Nettleman, bound for Denmark.

CHAP. II.

The Author leaves Calcutta—arrives at Kedjeree—embarks on board a vessel bound to Denmark. Description of the ship—character of the captain and officers. The ship sails to the mouth of the river. Embargo—disagreeable state of suspense. An English vessel burned while at anchor—plundered by the Danish captain. The French frigate La Forte captured by an English frigate, both of which pass up the river. The embargo taken off. The author proceeds on his voyage.

On the 1st of Ramzan, A.H. 1213 (Feb. 7th, 1799), we took leave of our friends, and embarked at Calcutta, on board a *budgerow* (barge), in order to proceed to the ship. On the third day we arrived at Kedjeree, where we found the vessel at anchor. We shortly after went on board; and each of us

took possession of his cabin. We found the ship in the greatest disorder; the crew principally composed of indolent and inexperienced Bengal Lascars; and the cabins small, dark, and stinking, especially that allotted to me, the very recollection of which makes me melancholy. The fact was, that as Captain Richardson and myself were the last who took our passage, all the good apartments had been previously secured by our fellow passengers; but as we had paid our money in Calcutta, and it was impossible to get it returned, we were compelled to take what they chose to give us.

In the next cabin to mine, on one side was a Mr. Grand, a very passionate and delicate gentleman; and on the other side were three children, one of whom, a girl three years old, was very bad tempered, and cried night and day; in short, the

inconveniences and distresses which I suffered on board this ship were a great drawback from the pleasures I afterwards experienced in my travels.

Our agreement was, that the ship should be well supplied with water, liquors, and provisions; and that we were to be conveyed direct to Europe, without stopping any where on the way. On this account we looked forward to a speedy and pleasant voyage.

The first breach of promise we experienced from the captain, was his desiring us to go on board, stating that he would certainly follow us the next day; instead of which, he remained a fortnight longer in Calcutta, to finish his own business. It is unnecessary to say, how disagreeable such a delay was to us, who had nothing to

amuse our minds, and were anxious to proceed on our voyage. At the end of fifteen days, he arrived, and gave orders to unmoor the ship.

This captain was a proud self-sufficient fellow. His first officer, who was by birth an American, resembled an ill-tempered growling mastiff, but understood his duty very well. The second officer, and the other mates, were low people, not worthy of being spoken to, and quite ignorant of navigation.

On the 16th of the month we left Kedjeree, and proceeded towards the mouth of the river. During our passage down, we had several narrow escapes. Our vessel drew thirteen feet and a half of water; and we passed over several sands on which there were not six inches more water than

we drew. Had the ship touched the ground; as the tide was running out, we should have stuck there, and probably have been lost.

The next morning, when we were about to weigh anchor, a pilot sloop came alongside, and informed us, that a French frigate, called La Forte, was cruising at the Sand Heads, and had taken several vessels; that an embargo had in consequence been ordered; and that we must not depart till it was rescinded.

As it would have been attended with delay and danger to return up the river, it was resolved we should remain at anchor where we were, till the embargo should be taken off. During our stay at Kedjeree, we had been regularly supplied with fresh bread, butter, eggs, fish, and vegetables,

from the shore; but as the boats would not come down so far as where the ship now lay, we were reduced to eat biscuit and salt butter, and, in fact, to commence the consumption of our sea stores. We suffered another great inconvenience from flies, which, notwithstanding our distance from the shore, swarmed in such numbers on board, that we could not speak without holding our hands to our mouths, lest they should go down our throats.

We passed twenty days in this wretched state of suspense. One day we heard the sound of cannon at a distance, and concluded that some of the English ships of war stationed at Madras had been despatched to attack the Frenchman. Shortly after we saw three ships coming up with all sail crowded: this circumstance confirmed our conjectures; but when they arrived,

we learnt that they were three out of four English ships which had fallen in with the enemy's frigate, and had engaged her; that *they* had escaped, but the fourth was taken.

A few nights after, an English ship which was anchored near us, loaded chiefly with Bengal cloths, caught fire, and dreadfully alarmed us. The crew abandoned her, and she burnt to the water's edge. Our captain, who was bound to his own country, and not fearing to be called to account by the English, sent his boat on board her for several days successively, and brought away a number of chests of half-consumed cloth. He had occasion, however, to repent this conduct in the sequel.

Another day we saw several ships coming up, one of which appeared to have French colours suspended under the English: we

then concluded that the frigate had certainly been taken; but on their near approach, we discovered it was an Arab vessel, in which the Frenchman had sent up all his prisoners; and that those in company were only pilot schooners.

On the last day of the month, we received authentic intelligence that an English ship had arrived from Madras, and, after a severe contest, had captured the French frigate. Shortly after, Captain Cook, commander of La Sibylle, who had been severely wounded in the action, and died some days after his arrival in Calcutta, passed by us.

On the 3d of the month Shual (4th or 5th of March), the two ships cast anchor near us. La Sibylle was severely injured; but La Forte, which was much the largest

vessel, had not a mast standing, and was towed up the river by her conqueror. The English lost only twenty-five men during the engagement; whilst the French had their captain and 200 men killed or wounded. This circumstance was the cause of much astonishment to all of us. On the following day, fifteen sloops, each having on board a guard of soldiers, came down the river, for the conveyance of the prisoners to Calcutta.

Permission having been at length granted for the ships to proceed on their voyage, the pilot again came on board; and having, on the 8th of the month, carried us into the deep water, called, by the English, the Bay of Bengal, he took his leave.

CHAP. III.

Commencement of the voyage. The captain finds it requisite to go to the Nicobar Islands for water. Phænomena. Description of the Nicobar Islands—their produce, inhabitants, &c. Several of the Lascars, or Indian sailors, desert the ship, and conceal themselves in the woods—brought back by the natives—Infamous conduct of the captain on this occasion. The ship leaves the islands. Sun vertical. Calms. Polar star. Equinoctial line. Curious ceremony on passing the line. Shoal of flying-fish. Trade winds. The ship passes the longitudes of the islands of Mauritius and Madagascar. Gale of wind. Sufferings of the author. The coast of Africa in sight. Whales approach the vessel. We descry the Table Mountain of the Cape of Good Hope. The captain resolves to go into the port. The ship carried to the southward

by the current. Dreadful storm. The author's reflections. The vessel loses her reckoning—is in great distress—again discovers the land—anchors in False Bay.

We proceeded for several days on our voyage with a favourable wind; when one morning we discovered that the captain had altered the ship's course, from south to south-east. This circumstance created in the passengers much astonishment; but the explanation only added to our mortification: the fact was, our stock of water had been so much expended during our detention at the mouth of the river, that it now became requisite to bear away for the Nicobar Islands, in order to replenish that indispensable article.

These islands, which are about seventeen in number, are more or less inhabited, and are frequently resorted to by ships

in want of water or provisions. We attempted to reach the largest, which is called the *Carnicobar*, but were blown off. We were equally unsuccessful in attempting to gain the second; but with great efforts we anchored after midnight near the third.

In our approach to these islands, a circumstance occurred which was quite novel to me. When we came in sight of the land, I wished to behold it more distinctly, and for that purpose borrowed a telescope; but upon applying the instrument to my eye, I could not distinguish the land. Being astonished at this circumstance, I requested one of the most intelligent officers to explain to me the cause of it. He replied: "These islands are, in fact, still "below the horizon, being concealed from "our view by the spherical body of water "between us and them; and what we now

"behold is caused by the power of refrac-
"tion, which, in a dense atmosphere,
"apparently raises all bodies considerably
"above their real altitude." More plainly to elucidate this axiom, he threw a ring into a China bowl, and carried it to such a distance that I could no longer see the ring. He then filled the bowl with water, when, by the refractive power, the ring appeared to float on the top of the water. As this explanation, although interesting, does not solve the difficulty, it is probable the telescope was out of order, or that they played me some trick on this occasion.

After this digression, I return to my narrative. The island at which we anchored is named Tribiser, and is about forty-five miles in circumference: the two others in sight were called Rajoury and Bigou. Several of the inhabitants came off

to us from all the three islands, and brought with them abundance of delicious cocoa-nuts, pine-apples, plantains, limes, and other fruits, also ducks and fowls, all of which they readily exchanged for cloth, tobacco, and any kind of cutlery; but they did not appear to set much value upon gold or silver, these precious metals not being yet current among them.

Cocoa-nuts are here in such abundance, that ten of them were given for a tobacco *cheroot* or *sagar*, which costs less than a farthing in Bengal.

These islands being situated near the Equinoctial line, have two Springs and two Autumns; and as the sun had lately passed to the north of the line, we had incessant showers of rain.

The inhabitants are well made, and very muscular. They are of a lively disposition, and resemble the Peguers and Chinese in features, but are of a wheat colour, with scarcely any beard. Their clothing consists merely of a narrow bandage round the waist. Being allowed to go on shore for the purpose of shooting, we had frequent opportunities of seeing their children, many of whom I thought very handsome. Their houses are built of wood and bamboos, with thatched roofs, and are always circular, resembling a stack of corn. Several of them, however, consist of three stories; the ground floor being kept for the goats, poultry, &c. The middle story is appropriated to the men, and the upper story to the women. They are of the Mohammedan religion, and keep their women concealed, not permitting them to have any communication with strangers. They build very

neat boats, and have even constructed two or three ships in the European manner. I was so much captivated by the mildness of the climate, the beauty of the plains and rivulets, and with the kind of life and freedom which the men enjoyed, that I had nearly resolved to take up my abode among them.

Having replenished our stock of water, and received on board a considerable supply of provisions, our captain was about to depart, when a circumstance occurred which occasioned some delay, and much doubt whether we should have been able to proceed any further on our voyage. The fact was this: sixteen of our best Lascars (or Indian sailors), being much disgusted with the treatment they received on board this ship, deserted, and hid themselves in the woods; and it was discovered, that the

remainder of the crew only waited the approach of night to follow the example of their comrades. In this dilemma, some of the principal people of the island fortunately came on board; and dreading the imputation of being in collusion with the deserters, they voluntarily offered to bring them back; and the captain, who at this period considered himself in a very critical situation, bound himself, by the most sacred promises, to give them for their trouble a number of pieces of the cloth which he had plundered from the ship burned in the Ganges. Stimulated by these promises, and being well acquainted with the woods and mountains, they in a short time caught the deserters, and during the night brought them on board. The ungrateful wretch of a captain, however, repaid their exertions and kindness by the grossest treachery; for, pretending that he could not open the

hold while it was dark, to take out the cloth, he promised, that if they would then go away, and return in the morning, he would reward them liberally for their trouble; but as soon as the day broke, he weighed anchor, and, before the islanders were aware of his intention, the vessel had proceeded many miles to the southward.

We quitted these friendly islands on the 4th of April; and three days afterwards we had the sun vertical, in the seventh degree of northern latitude: the heat was consequently very great; and for a fortnight we had much rainy weather, attended with calms. Our progress was now very slow; and some days we had not above ten miles on our log-book. It is generally observed, that calms prevail in the vicinity of the Equinoctial line: this I suppose is caused by the influence of the sun.

On the night of the 16th, being then near the line, and the atmosphere perfectly clear, we observed the polar star with great attention. The constellations Ursa Major and Minor appeared to be elevated above the polar star, equal to the altitude which that star has in Calcutta; while the latter was sunk nearly to the margin of the horizon. I am therefore of opinion that the polar star is seldom seen nearer to the line than the fourth or fifth degree of northern latitude; and, in fact, we did not again see it till, after having doubled the Cape and re-crossed the line, we arrived a second time in the above latitudes.

On the 19th we crossed the Equinoctial line, in the 100th degree east longitude of London. For several days past we had seen a number of birds, some as large as a goose, and others about the size of a

pigeon. They live entirely upon fish, and rest on the water during the night. When they wish to propagate their species, they gain the coast by degrees, and remain on shore during the time of incubation. One of the smaller kind alighted during the night upon a mast of our vessel, and was caught by the sailors: it was probably unwell, for when it was turned loose next morning, it could with difficulty fly away.

On this day the sailors exhibited a ridiculous farce. Three of the principal ones dressed themselves in a strange manner, and, having daubed their faces with red and yellow paint, came upon the deck, their clothes and artificial hair dripping with water. One of them carried a book, and another a trumpet: the third was more extravagantly dressed, and appeared the superior. Chairs having been offered, they

seated themselves; when the trumpeter proclaimed, that *Neptune, god of the Sea,* had honoured the ship by a visit, on its approach to his residence. The mock deity then commanded, that all persons on board, who had not before crossed the Line, should be summoned to appear, and that they should be cleansed from all their former sins by immediate ablution. Many of the young men and boys, who had not before witnessed this ceremony, being alarmed, ran and hid themselves in different places, and some of them even climbed to the very top of the masts; but the secretary, opening his book, read over the name of every person who was liable to this discipline, and insisted upon his being brought to the presence. The culprit, having his eyes bound, was then forced to sit on a plank, which was laid across a tub, and several buckets of the sea water were poured

over his head; and the plank being at the same time drawn from under him, he was immersed in the tub. When it came to my turn, by the mediation of one of the officers, and a present of some bottles of brandy, I was excused this disagreeable ceremony; and the farce having terminated, Neptune and his companions returned, apparently, to their submarine abode.

On the 25th we saw a numerous shoal of flying fish. Many of these rose three or four yards high, and flew nearly the distance of 500 paces. The motion of their wings was exactly like that of a bird; and although I had frequently heard them described by travellers, I could not credit the report, but supposed their motion was that of leaping; but I am now perfectly convinced they may be classed among the flying animals. Many of them fell upon

the ship, and were served at table. I thought them good food, and fancied they had somewhat the flavour of a bird.

Having reached the fifth degree of south latitude, we perceived the weather get considerably cooler, although the sun was not yet twenty degrees from us. When we arrived in the twelfth degree, the atmosphere being remarkably clear, I sought in the heavens for some star which might point out the southern pole; but we could not even find any constellation corresponding either with the Ursa Major or Minor, much less a polar star.

On the 27th we entered the region of the trade winds. This being one of the phænomena of nature, it requires some explanation. The European navigators have, by experience, discovered, that be-

tween the 10th and 28th degrees of southern latitude the wind constantly blows from the south east, which is equally serviceable to ships coming to India or returning from it, and conveys them rapidly through eighty degrees of longitude. It is generally supposed, that if it was not for the intervening of the Cape of Good Hope and of South America, ships might circumnavigate the globe in these latitudes in a very short period. As these winds were first discovered by people employed in trade, and are very favourable to commerce, they have been named *Trade Winds*: but, except in the latitudes above mentioned, the course of the winds during the voyage is variable and uncertain.

During the first week of May, whilst we were sailing in the fifteenth degree of south latitude, the waves were so agitated

by the winds, that they rose as high as the ship, and frequently entered by the quarter-galleries and stern-windows. It was impossible to sleep for the noise, and we could not walk on deck without great difficulty.

Although we were then only thirty-one degrees from the sun, yet the cold was so severe that we were obliged to put on our warm clothing, and spread blankets and quilts on our beds. It appeared to me very extraordinary, that the month of May, being the hottest part of the year in Bengal, should be so extremely cold here. We passed the island of Mauritius, and the south end of Madagascar, at the distance of sixty or seventy leagues. The latter, I understand, is governed by a Mohammedan king, and the Arabic language is spoken in some parts of it.

As from our first setting out on this voyage we had great apprehensions of being captured by the French, who were then at war with the English, our fears were increased ten-fold whilst in the vicinity of their islands; and if by chance a ship was discovered by our glasses, we concluded it was an enemy, and were almost reduced to despair: we were however fortunate enough not to be molested by any of them.

About this time we had a dreadful storm, which lasted four days, during which period the sea ran mountains high; and the force of the waves striking against the ship was such as to preclude the possibility of standing; and even when seated, our heads were knocked with violence against the sides of the ship. During this scene, Mr. Grand, who was of an enormous size, and whose cabin was separated from mine

only by a canvas partition, fell with all his weight upon my breast, and hurt me excessively. What rendered this circumstance more provoking was, that if, by any accident, the smallest noise was made in my apartment, he would call out, with all that overbearing insolence which characterizes the vulgar part of the English in their conduct to Orientals, "What are you about? "you don't let me get a wink of sleep!" and such other rude expressions.

During the storm, it was with much difficulty we could get any provisions dressed; and these we were obliged to eat sitting in our beds. To add to our distress, the leaks of the ship, which at the commencement of the voyage were only trifling, now increased to such a degree, that the pumps were kept at work both day and night. This circumstance much alarmed many of

the passengers; but, for my part, I was so tired of life, that I became perfectly indifferent about our fate.

Notwithstanding the raging of the elements, we saw several birds whose form did not appear calculated to contend with storms. Their body was not larger than a kite's, but their wings extended nearly four yards.

On the 24th of May we had a view of part of the continent of Africa, about 200 miles to the north of the Cape of Good Hope; and although we had not the most distant intention of going on shore here, yet the sight of land brought tears into my eyes. While sailing along this coast, we had frequent opportunities of seeing one of the wonders of the deep. Several fishes called *whales* approached so close to the

ship, that we could view them distinctly. They were four times the size of the largest elephant, and had immense nostrils, whence they threw up the water to the height of fifteen yards. As these animals are obliged frequently to come to the top of the sea for the purpose of respiration, they are easily discovered, and are killed by the Europeans for the sake of their oil, spermaceti, and whalebone, all of which are articles of great value. The capture of them is however attended with much danger, and requires great dexterity.

During the remainder of the month, we had such dreadful weather, that for several days and nights we could not see either the sun or stars; and as the waves were constantly dashing over the ship, we were obliged to keep the hatches covered; thereby excluding all light, and compelling us

either to sit in darkness, or constantly to burn candles, of which there was a great scarcity on board. In short, we passed our time like dead bodies shut up in dark and confined cells: and had it not been for the incessant noise and jarring of the elements, we might have supposed ourselves inhabitants of the nether world. Often did I think of the verse of Hafiz:

"Dark is the night, and dreadful the noise of the waves and whirlpool.

"Little do they know of our situation, who are travelling merrily on the shore."

On the 4th of June we came in sight of the high land of the Cape, called Table Mountain; and shortly after had a view of Table Bay, at the bottom of which is situated the Cape Town. It was now made known, that our water and provisions being nearly expended, it was requisite we

should go into the port for a fresh supply. Although this was contrary to our agreement with the captain, and the measure would probably be attended with much delay and expence to the passengers, yet, as there was no other remedy, we were obliged to consent. As but a few hours of the day remained, and it was thought dangerous, on account of the rocks, to enter the bay in the dark, it was determined that the ship should stand off and on during the night, and proceed in early next morning. It so happened, that throughout the night the wind was extremely favourable, and we might have been all landed without any trouble or expence at Cape Town; but, contrary to our hopes, the second officer, having gone to sleep during his watch, allowed the ship to run so far to the southward, that during the whole of the next day we could not regain the land.

A second night was therefore passed in tacking backward and forward; and on the following morning, when we were about to enter the bay, a sudden storm, accompanied by thunder and lightning, came on, which carried us, before it ceased, five degrees to the southward. The ship was also struck by the lightning, three of the crew were killed, and two others severely burned.

For the benefit of my countrymen who may be inclined to travel, I shall here relate a few of the hardships and mortifications which I endured on board this ship, in hopes that they will take warning by my sufferings, and derive some advantage from my experience. In the first place, I must advise them never to embark in any but an *English vessel;* and if they are not possessed of sufficient wealth to

provide themselves with a number of articles, not to undertake the voyage.

I shall comprise the miseries of this ship under four classes:

The first is that to which every ship is liable; viz. the want of good bread, butter, milk, fruit, and vegetables; to which are to be added, drinking stinking water, and washing the mouth with salt water; also the impurity of being shut up with dogs and hogs, and the difficulty of getting to and from the quarter-gallery, with the danger of being wet, or drowned, while there. To these I should add, the state of suspense and agitation to which a person is constantly exposed, the confinement in one place, and the sickness caused by the motion of the ship.

The second class arose from want of wealth; viz. a small and dark cabin, and the consequent deprivation of air and light; the neglect of servants; the want of a ship cot, on account of the deficiency of room; and the tyranny or rudeness of my neighbours, who ever studied their own convenience at my expence.

The third class is confined to foreigners, by which, I mean persons who are not Europeans; viz. the difficulty of shaving oneself; the cutting of one's own beard and nails; not having any private place for ablution; the necessity of eating with a knife and fork; and the impossibility of purification. From the latter I suffered much inconvenience; for as it was only customary on board to draw up water in buckets early in the morning, at which time all the crew washed themselves and what-

ever else they required, I was frequently under the necessity of drawing it up when I wanted it, in one of my own copper vessels; but during the rough weather many of these were lost in the attempt, and I was at last reduced to one ewer. I therefore relinquished the practice of purification, and was consequently incapacitated from the other duties of our religion.

The fourth class is confined to ships *not* belonging to the *English*; viz. noise and tumult when any business is done; the abusive language made use of while heaving the anchor; the quantity of bilge-water allowed to remain in the ship; and the unnecessary destruction of every thing on board. To these may be added, the quantity of stinking salt fish and putrid eggs of which the sea store is composed, and the absurd custom of the crew lying on the wet decks; with a total want of

discipline in the sailors, and science in the officers.

It was from a thorough knowledge of all these circumstances, that my good friend Mr. Augustus Brooke of Calcutta strongly advised me not to embark in any but an English ship; but finding I was determined to go in the Dane, he repeatedly desired I would carry on board a number of dried fruits, preserves, biscuits, &c. and also take with me a plentiful supply of warm clothing. Not content with this advice alone, he sent me a present of all these things: and fortunate it was for me that I had such a friend, as without these articles I should either have died of hunger, or perished with the cold.

The gale abated on the 13th of the month, but our condition was not much

improved thereby; as, in consequence of our not seeing the sun for several days, and not having a correct Ephemeris on board, together with the want of skill in the officers, we had completely lost our reckoning; and not a person in the ship could tell where we were, or how we ought to steer. To add to our distresses, it was now discovered that we had only water for a few days remaining. Thus we were nearly reduced to despair; and had it not been for the mercy of God, we must have perished. During this dreadful state of suspense, and at a time when all the officers supposed we were far to the west of the Cape, and nearly half way to St. Helena, it happened that the steward of the ship, who possessed a keen sight, and who had made several voyages to India, came on the poop to ascertain the quantity of poultry remaining. Having cast his eyes

stern of the ship, he exclaimed, "There is the land! You are leaving it behind you." On hearing this joyful news, some of the officers went to the mast head, and with their spy-glasses clearly discerned the land, but even then could not say what place it was: they however put the ship about and stood towards it, and in the course of a few hours ascertained it to be the Table Mountain and Sugar-loaf Hill of the Cape*. This intelligence roused the drooping spirits of the crew, and every exertion was made to gain the wished-for port.

On the 21st we we were opposite the entrance of Table Bay; but the monsoon having changed, it became requisite that we

* Two mountains so called from their resembling those articles.

should now go to False Bay; no vessel being permitted to enter the former after a certain period, when the wind, coming to the south west, renders it, for four months in the year, a very unsafe anchorage. On this account the Governor has positive orders not to allow any ship to enter the port, and even to fire cannon at them if they refuse to obey the signal.

On the evening of the 23d of July we with some difficulty entered False Bay; but as it soon became dark, we were obliged to cast anchor, lest the ship should run on the rocks. On the following morning we again got under weigh, and at noon anchored opposite the town.

This town is situated at the bottom of a verdant mountain, clothed with a variety

f flowers and odoriferous herbs. It consists of about thirty houses only: these are, however, very regular and well built, and ach of them contains a pipe of running ater: it is therefore peculiarly well adapted s a place of refreshment for ships during ne south-west monsoon. We accordingly ound sixteen vessels lying here, two of hich were men of war, stationed to rotect the harbour against the French. s a long time had elapsed since I had seen he habitations of men, I was much struck ith the appearance of this town, and the eauties of its port; nor did I ever before xperience such pleasing sensations as hen I landed there.

On the 24th, all the passengers, except yself, went on shore; for as I had very ttle money with me, I dreaded the expence, nd remained on board. My situation

was however rendered more comfortable by the supplies of fresh provisions, fruit, &c. which were daily received from the shore.

CHAP. IV.

The author disembarks, and hires lodgings at False Bay—description of his landlord and family—is hospitably received by the Commandant of the British troops—marked attention of the officers of the Royal navy—improper conduct of his landlord—he determines on proceeding to Cape Town—account of his journey. Description of the town, and remarks occasioned thereby. Character of the Dutch inhabitants, and their conduct to slaves. Description of the climate, and of the country in the vicinity of the Cape; also of the fruits, vegetables, animals, and other productions. People of various nations settled at the Cape. The author meets with several Mohammedans. Panegyric on General Dundas and the British officers. The author sells his slave and some other property,

in order to support his expences. The Danish ship brought from False Bay to Table Bay —her captain prosecuted for plundering the vessel in the river Ganges, and his ship thereby prevented from proceeding on her voyage. The other passengers prosecute the captain, and recover half the sum they had paid. The author takes his passage for England.

After some days, I learned that all the passengers, being disgusted with the bad conduct of the captain, had resolved not to return on board again, but to proceed to the Cape Town, and wait there the arrival of some English vessel, in which they might embark for Europe. I was therefore under the necessity either of abandoning my companions, or of incurring a heavy expence by quitting this disgusting ship: and having resolved upon the latter, I went on shore, and took up my residence

at the house where the other passengers were staying.

Our landlord, who was called Barnet, was a very smooth speaker, and appeared very polite. He said he was by descent a Scotchman, though born and bred amongst the Dutch. With this person I agreed for my board and lodging, at the rate of five rupees a day. His family consisted of his wife, two children, and five slaves; and notwithstanding there were fifteen of us, including servants, who lodged in the house, they attended minutely to all our wants, and even anticipated our wishes, without any noise, bustle, or confusion.

Some time previous to our arrival at the Cape, it had been taken possession of by the English, and was garrisoned by about 5000 European soldiers, under the

command of General Dundas (a nephew of the celebrated Mr. Dundas, one of the principal Ministers of the British Empire), who also acted as Governor during the absence of Lord Macartney. The troops at False Bay were commanded by Captain Collins, on whom I waited, and was received with great attention and politeness. He returned my visit on the following day, and invited me to dine with him. We found a large company assembled, and were entertained in a very sumptuous manner. Although I then understood English but imperfectly, yet the marked attention of Captain and Mrs. Collins and their friends was so flattering, that I never spent a more agreeable day in my life. On taking leave, they requested me to drink tea with them every evening I was disengaged, during my stay at False Bay. From the commanders of the ships of war, Captains Lee and

Gouch, I also received the greatest attention. They invited me twice to entertainments on board, and sent their own barges to convey me. Upon entering and leaving the ship, I was saluted by the discharge of a number of pieces of cannon, and was treated in every respect as a person of consequence.

After a short residence with Mr. Barnet, I experienced a very great change in his behaviour. Our table became daily worse supplied, and his conduct was sometimes rude. He one day came and desired I would change my apartment for a smaller one, as he expected more guests, and could put up two or three beds in *my* room. After I had removed my luggage to another, he then told me *that* room was pre-engaged, and that I must remove to a third, in which I found a gentleman's trunks, who

was gone to Cape Town, and might possibly return during the night. I was much irritated at such conduct, and asked him what he meant. He replied, that he had let me have my lodgings too cheap; and that if I wished to remain there, I must pay him ten rupees (£.1. 5*s.*) a day. I observed that his behaviour was that of a *blackguard Dutchman*, and that I should quit his house the next day. I accordingly made my preparations for proceeding to Cape Town; and although I left his house before sun-rise, he insisted on my paying him for the whole of that day. He also charged very extravagantly for my washing, and other matters wherein I had employed him. But I was still more provoked at the behaviour of his wife, to whom, on the day of my arrival, I had presented a bag of fine Bengal rice, worth at the Cape forty or fifty rupees: she was in conse-

quence very polite for three or four days, but afterwards totally changed her conduct.

On the 2d of July I set out for Cape Town, in a coach drawn by eight horses, all of which were driven by one man, and with such dexterity as I have never witnessed. Part of the road was through water up to the horses' bellies; in another place the wheels sank nearly up to the axle-trees in sand; and although we climbed and descended very steep mountains, we were seldom out of a gallop. When we approached within four or five miles of the town, we found the road broad and even, lined on each side with hedges; the country was also well cultivated, and adorned by groves and gardens, with here and there windmills and farm-houses, which much ornamented the scenery. On this road

the English and the genteel Dutch families take the air, either on horseback or in carriages, every day from noon till four o'clock.

At the distance of three miles, the town appears very beautiful and superb, and much delights the beholder. The distance from False Bay to Cape Town is a day's journey; but as there are houses for the entertainment of travellers on the road, we had a comfortable breakfast and dinner at the proper hours.

It was nearly dark when we entered the town; and lodgings having been secured for me by one of my ship-mates, I drove directly to Mr. Clark's, the best house of that description in the place.

Two sides of the town are surrounded

[illegible]

The [illegible] of the Law [illegible] in parties of pasture in the [illegible] of the Holy Land: and although several parts the year are so [illegible] that the [illegible] succeeded without the aid of [illegible] which indeed are so accommodated to [illegible] scripture, that they [illegible] to on these occasions.

On another side of the town is Table Bay; on the shore of which are erected very formidable batteries, sufficient to prevent any enemy from entering it. Some batteries have also been constructed on the land side. In short, the fortifications of this place were so strong, that when the English came to attack the Cape, they found it expedient to proceed to False Bay, and effect their debarkation at that point: they thence proceeded by land, and having with great difficulty clambered over the mountains, made their attack on that side, and thus compelled the Hollanders to capitulate.

The town is about six miles in circumference. A few of the houses are built of stone, but the generality of them are only brick and mortar. The streets are very broad and straight, and paved on each side

with large bricks or flag stones. Each street is also provided with one or two channels for carrying off the water, so that even in winter there is scarcely any mud or dirt to be seen. Each side of the street is also planted with a row of trees, which afford an agreeable shade; and along the front of every house is erected a seat of masonry, about a yard high, for the inhabitants to sit on and smoke their pipes in the summer evenings. This custom, which is, I believe, peculiar to the Hollanders, appeared to me excellent.

The furniture of some of the houses is very elegant, consisting of mirrors, pictures, girandoles, lustres, and a great quantity of plate. The walls of the rooms were covered with variegated paper, and hung with handsome window curtains, some of chintz, others of velvet; in short, the

splendour of this town quite obliterated from my mind all the magnificence of Calcutta, which I had previously considered as superior to any thing to be found between India and Europe. In the sequel I changed my opinion respecting the Cape; and indeed I may say, that from my first setting out on this journey, till my arrival in England, I ascended the pinnacle of magnificence and luxury; the several degrees or stages of which were, Calcutta, the Cape, Cork, Dublin, and London; the beauty and grandeur of each city effacing that of the former. On my return towards India every thing was reversed, the last place being always inferior to that I had quitted. Thus, after a long residence in London, Paris appeared to me much inferior; for although the latter contains more superb buildings, it is neither so regular, kept so clean, nor so well lighted at night

as the former; nor does it possess so many squares or gardens in its vicinity; in short, I thought I had fallen from Paradise into Hell. But when I arrived in Italy, I was made sensible of the beauty of Paris. The cities of Italy rose in my estimation when I arrived at Constantinople; and the latter is a perfect Paradise, compared to Bagdad, Mousul, and other towns in the territory of the *Faithful*. All these places I shall describe more particularly in the course of my Travels.

Nearly in the centre of Cape Town is a large handsome square, two miles in circumference, in which the troops are exercised. Two sides of the square are inclosed with streets of lofty houses, a third is bounded by the Fort, and the fourth faces the sea. The Fort is regular, and much resembles that of Calcutta, but smaller.

The *bazars* are well built, and well supplied with every requisite.

Having said so much of the place, I will now take the liberty of describing the inhabitants. All the *European* Dutch women whom I saw, were very fat, gross, and insipid; but the girls born at the Cape are well made, handsome, and sprightly; they are also good natured, but require costly presents. Even the married women are suspected; and each of the Englishmen of rank had his particular lady, whom he visited without any interruption from the husband, who generally walked out when the admirer entered the house. The consequence was, that the English spent all the money they got; while the Hollanders became rich, and more affluent than when under their own government.

The generality of the Dutchmen are low-minded and inhospitable, neither do they fear the imputation of a bad name, and are more oppressive to their slaves than any other people in the world. If a slave understands any trade, they permit him to work for other people, but oblige him to pay from one to four dollars a day, according to his abilities, for such indulgence. The daughters of these slaves who are handsome they keep for their own use, but the ugly ones are either sold, or obliged to work with their fathers. Should a slave perchance save money sufficient to purchase his freedom, they cause him to pay a great price for it, and throw many other obstacles in his way.

I saw a tailor, who was married, and had four children; he was then forty years of age, and had, by great industry and

œconomy, purchased the freedom of himself and wife; but the children still continued as slaves. One of them, a fine youth, was sold to another master, and carried away to some distant land: the eldest girl was in the service of her master; and the two youngest were suffered to remain with their parents till they should gain sufficient strength to be employed.

As the female slaves are employed in making the beds, and looking after the rooms of the lodgers, they frequently have opportunities of getting money; great part of which they are, however, obliged to pay to their avaricious owners.

During my stay at the Cape, I suffered great inconvenience from the filthiness and stench of their privies, which they take no pains to keep clean. Neither have they any

baths, either hot or cold, in the town; and ablution is quite unknown to the inhabitants.

Although I was ignorant of the Dutch language, and could not converse with the young women, yet in dancing they made use of so many wanton airs, and threw such significant looks towards me, that I was often put to the blush, and obliged to retire to the other side of the room. A party of these girls once attacked me: one of them, who was the handsomest and most forward, snatched away my handkerchief, and offered it to another girl of her own age; upon which they all began to laugh aloud: but as the young lady did not seem inclined to accept the handkerchief, I withdrew it, and said I would only part with it to the *handsomest*. As this circumstance was an allusion to a practice among the rich Turks

of Constantinople, who throw their handkerchief to the lady with whom they wish to pass the night, the laugh was turned against my fair antagonist, who blushed, and retreated to some distance.

I continued to reside with Mr. Clark till the 15th of July, during which time I formed several acquaintances, and found that a number of Mohammedans dwelt at the Cape. My landlord in a short time proving himself to be a true Dutchman, by the exorbitance of his charges, and various impositions, I quarrelled with him; upon which he was very abusive, and threatened to summon me before the court of justice. I thereon complained to my ship-mate, Captain Williamson; but he, having formed an attachment to one of the females in the house, took my adversary's part, and insisted upon my paying all his demands. He had

occasion, in the sequel, to repent his conduct; for the girl having been detected, was severely punished, and compelled to pay to her oppressive master all the money the captain had given her, who thereupon quitted the house, and apologized to me for his conduct.

In consequence of my dispute with Mr. Clark, I hired lodgings in the house of a worthy Mussulman, who behaved to me with the greatest attention and kindness; and as I had constant invitations from the English officers, I passed my time very pleasantly, and lived at a small expence.

Although it was now winter at the Cape, the trees were all in full verdure, and the gardens were replete with flowers of every kind: the fruits were also delicious, and in such variety, that we found here the produce

of both the torrid and frigid zones. At a short distance from the town is situated a celebrated garden, called Constantia, the grapes of which are superior to any I have ever tasted, and from which they make an excellent sweet wine, that is much admired, and carried to all parts of the world.

The markets are well supplied with good beef, mutton, and goat. The sheep are of the large-tailed species, and afford a great quantity of grease and tallow. The vegetables here are also very good, and in great variety; but their wheat and rice are indifferent. Fresh butter is with difficulty procured: and notwithstanding there appeared a great abundance of every thing else, the prices were high. Meat was seven-pence halfpenny a pound; bread three-pence a pound; and eggs three-pence each. Washing is also very dear.

The horses of the Cape are very strong and active, and under excellent command: they have probably some of the Arab blood in them. Here are also very good mules, which are principally used for carriages: the waggons are drawn by oxen. Ostriches are found in this part of Africa; and they shewed me a particular species of dogs and cats, both of which run wild in the woods.

Besides the Dutch, there are to be found at the Cape people of many other nations; and at least seven or eight languages are spoken here. The common people are principally Malays and Negroes. Most of these were originally slaves, who have either purchased their freedom, or have been manumitted by their masters. Among them I met with many pious good Mussulmans, several of whom possessed consider-

able property. I had the pleasure of forming an acquaintance with Shaikh Abdulla, the son of Abd al Aziz, a native of Mecca, who having come to the Cape on some commercial adventure, married the daughter of one of the Malays, and settled there. He was very civil, introduced me to all his friends, and anticipated all my wishes.

From Mr. Bomgard, a Dutch gentleman, who had resided twenty years in Bengal, and had been for some time governor of Chinsura, I experienced much kindness. His wife was a very agreeable and clever woman, and spoke seven languages.

Were I to relate all the civilities I received from General Dundas and the other British officers, they would fill a volume. I cannot however refrain men-

tioning the many delightful evenings I passed at the house of Lady Anne Barnet, who was generally called the Princess of the Cape, and every week gave an entertainment to all her acquaintances, and constantly did me the honour to number me among her guests. Lady Anne is the daughter of an English nobleman, and has all the dignified manners of a person of quality. At her house I frequently met with a Mrs. Crawford, a young Irishwoman, who was exceedingly beautiful, but spoke little, and was rather reserved: in short, she had quite the elegant behaviour of our Indian princesses, and completely won my heart. These were the only two English women of rank whose husbands were at the Cape. The rest of the officers were obliged to amuse themselves with the Dutch ladies, several of whom, in consequence, got well married.

Although I lived with the greatest possible œconomy during our long stay at this place, I could not have borne the expence, but for the sale of some articles. Of these, the most valuable was a Negro slave, whose manners and disposition had been so much corrupted on board ship, that I found it requisite to part with him, and disposed of him for 500 dollars. I also sold a talisman and some pieces of muslin for 200 dollars more. By these means I was enabled to live without incurring any debts, till an opportunity offered of proceeding on our voyage.

During our stay at the Cape, the monsoon having changed, Captain Nettleman was enabled to bring his ship, the Christiana, from False Bay to Table Bay: but immediately on his arrival, he was accused by Mr. Pringle, the East-India Company's

agent, with having plundered the burnt ship in the river Ganges; and a prosecution was filed against him in the court of justice. The fact was easily proved, and he was sentenced to pay £.2000 damages. During the prosecution, the ship was laid under sequestration; and the crew having dispersed themselves in various situations, Captain Nettleman found it impossible to proceed on his voyage. He was however, I believe, not sorry for the event; for he shortly after married a Dutch lady, and settled at the Cape. His passengers thereon prosecuted him for the amount of their passage money, and compelled him to repay them half the sum they had given him. I very imprudently declined joining in the prosecution, for two reasons; in the first place, I was afraid of the chicanery of Dutch lawyers; and, secondly, Captain Nettleman assured me, that if the cause was decided against

him, he would repay me in proportion to the others. This agreement he afterwards denied, and I lost my money. Glad, however, to get rid of such a wretch, and an opportunity offering at this time of proceeding to England, I engaged a passage, for forty guineas, on board the Britannia, a South-Sea whaler, bound to London.

CHAP. V.

The Author quits the Cape, and embarks on board the Britannia. Description of the ship, and character of the captain. Discover St. Helena—anchor in the port—description of the island, town, and fortifications—hospitable and friendly conduct of the Governor. Leave St. Helena. Pass the island of Ascension—some account thereof. Recross the equinoctial line. Anecdote related by the captain. Fall in with an American and an Hamburgh vessel. Again see the polar star—pass a fleet of outward-bound Indiamen—pass the Canaries and the entrance to the Mediterranean Sea. Arrive at the mouth of the English Channel—contrary wind—obliged to bear away for the Irish or St. George's Channel. Fall in with an overset vessel. Cold and disagreeable weather. The captain determines to enter the Cove of Cork.

On the 29th of September, my friend Captain Richardson and I embarked on board the Britannia, and were soon under weigh. This was one of the vessels employed in catching whales, and was loaded with the oil of that fish. She had also a *Letter of Marque*, and was therefore well equipped for war; and had been fortunate enough to capture a Spanish prize on her way out, which sold for a large sum of money. The crew consisted of between thirty and forty men; but as they were all able seamen, and kept under the same discipline as on board a ship of war, the duty was performed with great alacrity, and without any noise or confusion. Although our accommodations were rather confined, every thing was so well arranged, and the guns, arms, &c. so well secured, that we felt none of the inconveniences which we had suffered in the Dane.

The Britannia sailed very fast; and during the voyage we pursued several ships, but did not succeed in making any captures. The captain was named Clark: he was an excellent navigator; and whenever we approached any land, he predicted to an hour when we should arrive at it. Soon after leaving the Cape, we were again favoured by the trade winds, and in two days ran 400 miles.

On the morning of the 13th of October we discovered the Island of St. Helena, and at noon cast anchor in the port. I soon after landed, and was honoured by Governor Brooke with an invitation to dinner. This gentleman, having served thirteen years as an officer in India, some part of which period he resided at the court of the Emperor Shāh Aalum, spoke Hindoostany with great fluency, and conversed with me a long time on Indian politics.

St. Helena is an island in the midst of the Great Western Ocean, situated many hundred miles from any other land, in the sixteenth degree of south latitude, and is about twenty-eight miles in circumference. The cliffs from the sea appear black and burnt up; but, in the interior, some of the valleys are clothed with delightful verdure: the hills are also adorned with a variety of beautiful shrubs, and every spot fit for culture is laid out in picturesque gardens. The inhabitants have with great labour formed zigzag roads up the hills, fit for two horses to ride abreast; but on account of the steepness of the ascent, carriages are seldom made use of. The most elevated of the mountains is said to be about a mile high; from some of the crevices in which a smoke and strong smell of sulphur are often emitted. There are only two considerable streams of water in the island;

and as the vegetation is therefore entirely dependent on the rain, it often happens, that, from a want of moisture, the grass for the cattle and the produce of the gardens are destroyed, which causes much distress to the inhabitants. In favourable seasons, the quantity of apples and other fruits produced in some of the gardens is astonishing. A garden belonging to an officer yielded in *one* year a clear profit of £.1250. As this island does not produce any grain, it is principally supplied with flour and other articles of food from Europe. Beef, mutton, and poultry, are procurable, but at very high prices. Milk is not in plenty, but so rich, that it produces cream twice. Here you meet with the trees and fruits both of Europe and Asia, and perhaps some of the most romantic spots in the world. Whilst walking in Colonel Robertson's garden with his beautiful daughters, the contrast between

my then situation, and the confined cabin of a ship, made me fancy, for some moments, that I had suddenly been transported into Paradise.* But the most surprising thing about this island is, that thunder and lightning are never heard nor seen.

The only town on the island is situated in a narrow valley, which seems to have been formed by torrents from the mountains: this valley is about two miles in length, and from twenty to a hundred yards in breadth. The town was founded by the English, about forty years after they had obtained settlements in India. It contains some good buildings formed of stone, but the roofs of the houses are thatched or tiled. Here are several good shops, in which both Indian and European commodities are sold; and also a tavern and coffee-house. In the

* Mohammed's Paradise is of course meant.

broadest part of the valley there is a small square, used as a parade for the troops: towards the sea there are several very heavy batteries erected; and on the tops of two of the hills are two strong forts, which could with ease sink any enemy's ship that should venture to anchor in the Roads. Some little way in the interior there is a remarkable strong tower, built entirely of stone, the walls of which are fifteen feet thick. The engineer told me it was impregnable; that it was as solid as the rock on which it is built; and that he hoped it would be as durable.

The only place at which ships can anchor is opposite the town: and the water is here so deep, that they lie within a hundred yards of the shore.

I was told, that when the English first

settled here, the island was overrun by wild goats; and that these animals, in bounding from rock to rock, frequently threw down large stones, which falling on the roofs of the houses built under the precipice, occasioned much damage; that a reward was in consequence set upon their heads; and every person who brought the skin of one of them to a particular office, received a sum of money for it; by which means the goats were gradually extirpated.

The lower class of people here are of a tawny colour, being a mixture of European, Indian, and Negro extraction. Of the two latter denominations there are still a number of slaves on the island.

Governor Brooke, whose hospitality and liberality were extended to every person who visited the island, having requested

me to live with him during my stay, supplied me with a horse, and directed his son to attend me into the country; by which means I visited the Governor's and Deputy Governor's gardens, and every other place worth seeing. When we were about to embark, he sent on board a large stock of fruit and vegetables for my use.

On the evening of the 15th, after having dined with the worthy Governor, we repaired on board. The anchor was immediately weighed, and in a short time we quitted this romantic scene.

On the 20th we passed by the Island of Ascension, at the distance of only two miles. This island, like St. Helena, is also a rock, situated in the great Western Ocean, in the eighth degree of south latitude; but as it does not possess any springs

of fresh water, it is not a place of rendezvous for ships; they however often stop here to catch turtle, for the number and goodness of which this place is celebrated. These animals come on shore during the night to deposit their eggs, and the people employed to catch them then turn them on their backs, and carry them off at their leisure during the day. A few goats are also to be seen here, which probably find rain water deposited in the cavities of the rocks, or in some stagnant pools, which enables them to subsist. On this day we again had the sun vertical; and although we were only eight degrees from the equinoctial line, we found the necessity of putting on our warm clothing.

On the 25th we re-crossed the line, the weather still continuing uncommonly cold. In this latitude we caught great numbers of fish: we were also followed by a number of

birds resembling swallows. It is said that these birds never go to the land, but form nests of weeds and the scum of the sea, which constantly float on the water, in which they lay their eggs and bring forth their young; but this story appears very improbable.

I was however told a circumstance which is more extraordinary than the above. Captain Clark, who was not addicted to fiction, related to me, that once he went on shore on the coast of Africa, with two boats, to procure water forthe ship; that while he was there, nearly 300 animals, of a size between a horse and an ass, which they call sea-horses (probably seals) came out of the sea, and went above a mile on land, leaving very deep impressions of their feet in the sand. When they were returning, he (the captain) fired his musket at, and killed one of them; that the others,

in order to revenge the slaughter of their companion, instantly pursued him; and that he and some of his companions only escaped by hiding themselves among the rocks. Some of the party got on board one of the boats, and pushed off to the ship; but the other boat was broken to pieces by the enraged animals.

On the 26th, at noon, we saw a ship at a distance, which the captain believing to be a French vessel, cleared his own for action. As we were then in the track between Europe and America, and most of the kings of Europe were at war with each other, these latitudes are considered to be more replete with danger than any other part of the ocean; it being the practice of Europe, that whenever the ships of two enemies meet at sea, the most powerful carries his adversary with him into one of

his own ports, and there sells both ship and cargo for his own advantage.

After a run of some hours, we discovered that it was an American ship; and although the English were not at war with that nation, Captain Clark ordered the master to bring to, and to come on board with his papers. The poor fellow, being much frightened, came on board, and brought with him his Journal and certificates. During the whole of the day he was kept as a prisoner, but in the evening obtained liberty to proceed on his voyage.

On the following day we fell in with another vessel, from Hamburgh, laden with salt provisions for the Island of Mauritius. This was a fine large three-masted ship; but the captain, upon being ordered to stop, immediately complied, and came on board

with his papers: he also brought us a present of some fresh cheeses, which were very acceptable; and he was permitted shortly to depart.

On the night of the 27th, being then in the fifth degree of north latitude, we had again the pleasure of beholding the constellations Ursa Major and Minor, and the polar star. About this time we had a great deal of rain; and the captain assured me that he had constantly experienced wet weather in these latitudes.

On the 7th of November we a third time entered the region of the trade winds, for these also prevail between the tenth and twenty-seventh degrees of north latitude; which carried us on with such rapidity, that sometimes the ship went ten miles in the hour; the waves were in consequence

much agitated, and the sea ran nearly as high as off the Cape; but, as the ship was well secured and well managed, we did not suffer those inconveniences which had been experienced on board the Dane.

On the 11th we passed within a mile of six English Indiamen, under convoy of a ship of war. We shewed our colours to each other, and passed on. During this part of the voyage we also passed by the islands, called, by the English, *The West Indies;* but did not see any of them, as they lie far west of the track we pursued.

On the 14th we were opposite the Canaries, or Fortunate Isles, whence the Mohammedans commence their longitude. These islands are in the thirty-third degree of north latitude: we however passed far to the westward of them. We shortly after

passed the entrance of the Mediterranean Sea, which runs east as far as Aleppo.

From the 19th to the 27th we had contrary winds, and the sea ran very high; but we suffered no other inconvenience than the want of food and sleep. On the 29th we were opposite the entrance of the channel which runs between England and France, but which takes its name from the former; and expected to have cast anchor in two days at Portsmouth, one of the most celebrated ports of England; but a strong easterly wind continuing to blow right against us, we were unable to enter it, and were obliged to bear away for the coast of Ireland.

It becomes in this place requisite to explain (to my countrymen) the signification of several English terms, in order

that they may more fully comprehend my meaning.

A *Channel* means a narrow part of the sea, confined between two lands, but open at both ends.

A *Bay* extends far into the land, is of a circular form, and open only on one side.

A *Sea* (sometimes called a *Gulf*) is a large extent of the ocean, but nearly surrounded by land; as the Mediterranean Sea, the Gulf of Persia, the Red Sea, &c.

As the English Channel runs nearly east and west, it is impossible to enter it if the wind blows from the former quarter: when therefore a ship arrives at this place, if the wind be easterly, she is obliged to beat about till it changes. This was precisely our situation; and for two days we continued to tack from one side to the other, without gaining any advantage.

Thus situated, and our captain seeing no prospect of a change of wind, and being also apprehensive of falling in with some of the French cruizers, resolved to go into the channel which runs between Ireland and England, called St. George's Channel, as being a much more safe place, and out of the track of the enemy.

In consequence of this determination, we changed our course, and during the day fell in with a two-masted vessel, which had overset in the late gale, and been abandoned by her crew; but which, being laden with buoyant articles, floated on the water like *a half-drowned animal.* Captain Clark ordered out his boat, and went on board her; and with the assistance of his men, who were good divers, he got out several chests of excellent wine, and a quantity of delicious fruits and sweetmeats. As we

were now near the land, and the weather was excessively cold, we were permitted to have a fire in the cabin, over which we enjoyed these good things; and were thus in some measure compensated for the want of a favourable wind, though at the expence of our fellow-creatures, who had lost or rather abandoned their property.

After cruizing for several days in the Irish Channel, and the wind still continuing adverse, the captain resolved, instead of wasting his time in contending with the elements, to go into the *Cove of Cork*, and pass some days there.

CHAP. VI.

The ship enters the Cove, and casts anhcor. Description of the bay. The author lands at the town, and is hospitably treated—visits the city of Cork, which he describes—returns to the ship, and determines on visiting Lord Cornwallis at Dublin—quits the ship, and sets out for Cork, where he visits Captain Baker. Description of that gentleman's house and family. The author sets out for Dublin—account of his journey.

On the 6th of December we had a view of the land in the vicinity of the Cove of Cork: it consisted of a range of hills, approaching the sea with a gentle slope, and divided by inclosures into numerous fields. We soon after entered the mouth of the Cove, between two forts, which have

been erected to prevent the ships of an enemy from entering the harbour. After proceeding some distance, we came to another fort, built with stone, upon a rock in the middle of the bay, which is thereby divided into two channels. Having passed the fort, we in a short time came opposite the town of Cove, and cast anchor.

We found here not less than forty or fifty vessels of different sizes, three of which were ships of war. The bay resembles a round basin, sixteen miles in circumference. On its eastern shore is situated the town, which is built in the form of a crescent, and defended at each end by small forts. On one side of the bay, a large river, resembling the Ganges, disembogues itself: this river extends a great way inland, and passes by the city of Cork. The circular form of this ex-

tensive sheet of water, the verdure of the hills, the comfortable appearance of the town on one side, and the number of elegant houses and romantic cottages on the other, with the formidable aspect of the forts, and so many large ships lying securely in the harbour, conveyed to my mind such sensations as I had never before experienced: and although, in the course of my travels, I had an opportunity of seeing the Bay of Genoa, and the Straits of Constantinople, I do not think either of them is to be compared with this.

In the afternoon we landed at the town, but found that its interior did not correspond with its exterior appearance. It does not contain any handsome buildings, and is, in fact, merely the anchoring place for ships engaged in the commerce of the city of Cork. It consists only of

one street, little more than half a mile long: in the shops, however, were abundance of apples, pears, and grapes; also a variety of dried fruits. Having satisfied our curiosity, we went to the post-office, to despatch our letters. The mistress of the house being of a hospitable disposition, insisted upon our staying to dinner, and, assisted by her sons and daughters, waited upon us at table. Our meal consisted of fish, beef, butter, potatoes and other vegetables, all of so excellent a quality, that in my whole life I never tasted any equal to them. Cork is celebrated for all these articles; and ships are sent here, *all the way* from London, to procure them for that market. When we were about to return to our ship, we wished to pay for our dinner, as is the custom in Europe, but our hostess would not accept a farthing, and strongly advised us to come to her

in the morning, and proceed to the city, which she assured us was well worth seeing. We agreed, and early next day went to her house. She furnished us with horses; and ordered her son, a fine youth of fifteen years of age, to accompany us. The conduct and appearance of this amiable woman astonished me: she had been the mother of twenty-one children, eighteen of whom were then living, and most of them present in the house; notwithstanding which she had not the appearance of old age, and I should not have supposed her more than thirty.

After travelling about three miles, we came to the bank of the river (Lee), in which we found a number of small ships at anchor. At this place there is a good ferry; and our horses being very quiet, we easily got them into the boat, and in a

short time crossed over. From hence to the city was nine miles, the whole of which extent is highly cultivated, and adorned with country-houses, groves, gardens, &c.

We arrived at the city about noon, and put up at an excellent hotel, the apartments of which we found elegant, and the servants attentive. After a short time we walked out to see the town; but it being the winter season, and the streets very dirty, we did not derive so much satisfaction as we otherwise should. The part of the town we visited consists of houses built of brick and mortar, very regular, and four stories high, with handsome doors and glazed windows, and fitted up in the interior with great elegance. The shops were handsome, and filled with every requisite, either for use or luxury; but as this city has been erected for the purposes of com-

merce, more pains have been taken to facilitate the importation and exportation of goods, than to preserve uniformity and regularity: it has therefore no extensive squares, and is intersected by canals lined with stone, by which vessels can either approach the warehouses of the merchants, or may be hauled into dock, to be repaired. Over these canals are thrown draw-bridges, which can be opened and shut at pleasure; but, owing to the stagnant water, and the filth which is thrown into them, disagreeable smells frequently arise, which are not only nauseous, but must be unwholesome. The situation of the city is also so low, that you scarcely discover it till you come close to it.

Having made a hearty dinner at the hotel, and the captain being in expectation of a change of wind, we deemed it im-

prudent to remain any longer: we therefore mounted our horses, and returned by the same road we came, to the Cove, and slept on board our ship.

During my visit to Cork, I learned that Lord Cornwallis (late Governor of India), who was the representative of the King in this island, having quelled the rebellion which had disturbed this country for several years, was settled in Dublin. As this city was only three days' journey from Cork, and it had always been my intention, after seeing England, to pay my respects to his lordship, it now occurred to me, that it would be better, as chance had thrown me in his vicinity, to anticipate my intentions, and to take this opportunity of waiting on him. I was further induced to this determination by the beauty of the country, and from having learnt that two ships had lately

been lost in the English Channel. I therefore resolved to quit the ship at this place, and, after first visiting Dublin, proceed thence to London. Having communicated my intentions to my friend, Captain Richardson, he resolved to acccompany me: we therefore left our heavy luggage ano servants on board the ship, and, having landed with a small trunk of clothes, again set out for Cork. This time we proceeded by water, in an open boat, and took up our lodgings at the hotel where we had formerly dined.

On the day after our arrival, we were agreeably surprised by a visit from Captain Baker, an old friend of Captain Richardson, and a gentleman with whom I had formed an acquaintance in Rohilcund, during the war with Ghoolam Mohammed Khan. He had heard of our arrival, and

came to see us. After the usual inquiries respecting our health, &c. he insisted that we should accompany him to his house, which was situated a few miles in the country; to which we agreed, and were most hospitably entertained. I was delighted with the beauty of his park and gardens, and the regularity and good arrangement of all his apartments and offices. I was particularly pleased with his cook-room, it being the first regular kitchen I had seen: the dressers for holding china, the racks for depositing the dishes after they were washed, the pipes of cold and boilers of hot water, which, merely by turning a cock, were supplied in any quantity that could be required, with the machinery for roasting meat, which was turned by smoke, all excited my admiration. At Cove I saw a spit for roasting meat turned by a dog. The poor animal was put into

a hollow wheel, and, being impatient at his confinement, endeavoured to clamber up the wheel: by this exertion he gave the machine a rotatory motion, which was communicated by a chain to the spit, and thus regularly turned every part of the meat towards the fire. I was told that the dog had been thus employed, for two or three hours every day, for fifteen years.

Captain Baker informed me that he had purchased this estate, which was situated on the bank of the river, and only four miles from Cork, for 20,000 rupees (£.2,500). Part of it was arable land, some of it meadow, and the rest, except the garden, was laid out in pasture for sheep and cows. He told me that it supplied him with more corn, straw, and hay, than he could use, also with abundance of milk, fruit, potatoes, and other vegetables;

that he reared his own sheep and poultry; and was only obliged to go to market for beef, groceries, and wine: in short, he lived on this little estate with more comfort and plenty than an English gentleman could in India upon an annual income of a lac of rupees (£.12,500).

This gentleman's family consisted, in all, of twelve persons, two of whom were his nieces. One of these ladies was witty and agreeable; the other handsome, but reserved. Several of the young men of Cork had made them offers of marriage; but they were so impressed with their own powerful attractions, that they were difficult to please, and would not yield their liberty to any of their admirers. These ladies, during dinner, honoured me with the most marked attention; and as I had never before experienced so much courtesy from

beauties, I was lost in admiration. After dinner these angels made tea for us; and one of them having asked me if it was sweet enough, I replied, that, having been made by such hands, it could not but be sweet. On hearing this, all the company laughed, and my fair one blushed like a rose of Damascus.

Another remarkable person in this family was named Deen Mohammed*. He was a native of Moorshedabad in Bengal, and had been brought up from his childhood by an elder brother of Captain Baker's, who, on his return to Europe, brought this lad with him, and sent him to school in Cork, to learn to read and write English. At the school he became acquainted with a

* This person lately kept the Hookah Club-House in George Street, Manchester Square.

pretty girl, the daughter of respectable parents, and persuaded her to elope with him. They went to another town, where they were married, and then returned to Cork. They had several fine children; and he has published a book, giving some account of himself, and of the customs of India.

On the 8th of December, having previously engaged places for Dublin, at the rate of three guineas each, we set out in the mail coach. As this carriage has the privilege of conveying the letters from the post-office, and the roads were not yet quite secure, we were escorted by three dragoons, who were regularly relieved whenever we stopped to change horses. For the above reason we also stopped during the night. On this road we found ample supplies of every thing requisite. We

breakfasted the first day at a small newly-built town, called Fermoy, and dined and slept at Clonmell. The people of the inns, on hearing the sound of the coachman's horn, had every thing prepared, so that there was never the smallest delay. We however could not either eat or sleep comfortably for the hurry of the coachman, who threatened, if we were not ready on the blowing of his horn, that he would leave us behind; in which case we should not only have lost our passage, but probably our luggage; and at all events have been separated from our companions. The second day we breakfasted at Kilkenny: this city is celebrated throughout Ireland for the purity of its air, the fineness of its water, the healthiness of its situation, and the beauty and urbanity of its inhabitants. I was so delighted with the transient view I had of it, that I would not sit down to

breakfast, but, having taken a piece of bread in my hand, walked to the river: this I found came rolling down a verdant hill at some distance, but was in its progress interrupted by a fall, which added much to the beauty of the scenery. On the opposite side of the river, the ground was laid out in gardens and orchards, resembling a terrestrial paradise; in short, I am at a loss for words to express the delight I felt on beholding this charming place. During the night, we slept at the town of Carlow, and on the following evening entered Dublin.

This three days' journey was through a hilly country, so that we were constantly ascending and descending; we did not however meet with any very steep mountains. The villages in this country much resemble those of India. The roofs of the houses are thatched with straw, and bound

down with osiers; but in some instances they are covered with sods, which have the grass growing out of them a span high. Few villages contain more than a dozen houses. The poverty of the peasants, or common people, in this country, is such, that the peasants of India are rich when compared to them. This poverty arises from two causes; first, the high price of provisions; and, secondly, the quantity of clothes and fuel requisite to keep them warm in so cold a climate. Notwithstanding the sharp stones over which they are obliged to travel, and the excessive cold of the climate, they never wear a shoe, but during the whole year go about with bare legs and bare arms; in consequence of which, these parts of them are as red as the feet of a Hindoo woman who has been embellishing herself with *Mendee* (the leaves of the *Sphæranthus Indicus*).

I was informed, that many of these people never taste meat during their lives, but subsist entirely upon potatoes; and that, in the farm-houses, the goats, pigs, dogs, men, women, and children, lie all together. Whilst on our journey, the boys frequently ran for miles with the coach, in hopes of obtaining a piece of bread.

Notwithstanding the poverty of the peasants, the country is well cultivated, and very fertile; it produces great quantities of wheat, barley, peas, turnips, and, above all, potatoes. Rice, both of Bengal and America, is procurable every where, though at a high price. Wherever I dined, a plate of this grain was always boiled, and brought to table for my exclusive use; my host and his other guests contenting themselves with bread and vegetables. The horses and cows are fed during winter, while the

ground is covered with snow, on dry grass and grain, and the sheep on turnips.

Here is found a kind of earth, called *Turf*, which is unfit for tillage, but makes tolerable fuel: it is however not equal to the other kind of fuel used in these countries, called *Coal*, which is a species of black stone, dug out of mines, and affords a great heat*. Turf is nevertheless better than the composition of cow dung, used by the poor in India.

* In a Persian work entitled the "Wonders of the Creation," a long description is given of *Coal*; but it is not generally known in India, although it is to be found in the Ramghur Hills.

CHAP. VII.

The Author arrives at Dublin, and hires lodgings. Description of the city, and of the interior of the houses. Lighting of the streets at night. Squares. Infatuation of Europeans respecting Statues. Account of Phœnix Park —the Light-house and Pier—the river, and canals. Description of the College—Parliament House—Custom House, and Exchange —Churches—Barracks, and Hospitals. The Author visits the Theatre—his account of an Harlequin entertainment, and other public exhibitions.

UPON our arrival in Dublin, we found the inn, at which the coach stopped, quite full: we were therefore obliged to go to an hotel frequented only by lords and dukes, and where, of course, the charges were very high. But, by the advice of a gentleman who

came in the coach with us from Cork, I went next day and hired a lodging in English Street, near the College, at the house of a Mrs. Ball, a widow lady of an amiable disposition, who had several very fine children. In this country it is not customary to take lodgings by the month, but only by the week: I therefore engaged two rooms, at a guinea a week. I always breakfasted at home, the servants of the house purchasing for me excellent tea, sugar, bread, and butter.

During the first week of my residence in Dublin, I daily accompanied Captain Richardson to some of the coffee-houses, where we dined at about five shillings expence; but in a short time I had so many invitations, that I was seldom disengaged. Every gentleman who wished to invite me to his house, first called, and then sent a

note, to request I would dine with him on such a day. Sometimes they brought the note with them, and, if I happened to be absent from home, left their names written on a card, together with the invitation.

Captain Richardson, having paid his respects to the Lord Lieutenant, and seen every thing he deemed worthy of observation in Dublin, determined to proceed immediately to London: but, as I had no particular object in view, and was highly gratified by the attention and hospitality of the Irish, I resolved to continue some time longer in this country, even at the risk of parting with my friend, and trusting myself entirely among strangers. Of this, however, I had no cause to repent; for my acquaintances, finding that after the departure of Captain Richardson I was left without a companion, redoubled their attentions

to me: and I found, that by not having any person to interpret for me, I made much more progress in acquiring the English language.

As my principal object in undertaking the journey to Dublin was to pay my respects to Marquis Cornwallis, the second day after my arrival I sent my compliments to his lordship, and, if agreeable, I would wait upon him: in reply to which, I received a polite message from his lordship, expressive of his happiness at my safe arrival, and desiring to see me at a certain hour on the following day. I accordingly waited upon his lordship, by whom I was most graciously received. He directed his secretary to provide me with whatever I required, and depute some person to shew me all the curiosities of the place. He further requested that I would favour him frequently

with my company at the Castle. During my stay in Dublin, I paid my respects to his lordship every week, and was each time honoured with fresh proofs of his kindness and friendship.

I shall here endeavour to give my Readers some description of this city, certainly the most magnificent I had hitherto seen.

Dublin is the capital of Ireland: it is situated within a few miles of the sea, and is about twelve miles in circumference. Many of the houses are built of stone, and do not appear as if any mortar was used in their construction, the stones fitting so exactly into each other. The generality of the houses are, however, built of brick and mortar, neatly laid together: the bricks are of a large size, and the mortar appears as a white border round their edges. All

the houses in a street are of the same height, which gives an uniformity of appearance that is very pleasing: in the inside they are generally painted white, or of different colours, and have all glazed windows. Most of them consist of four stories, one of which is under ground; in this they have apartments fitted up for cooking, washing, and keeping coals, wine, &c. The ground floor is appropriated to shops or offices, and eating rooms. The next story is the most elegantly ornamented, and is used for the reception of company: the one above that is divided into bed rooms, for the master and mistress, or their visitors: and the upper story of all, the windows of which rise above the roof of the house, and where the ceilings are low, is allotted as sleeping apartments for the servants. The roofs of the houses are covered with thin blue stones, which are

closely fitted, and nailed on narrow slips of board, and are much handsomer and more durable than tiles.

The apartments are in general fitted up with great elegance. The window curtains are either of beautiful chintz, silk, or velvet. The rest of the furniture consists of mirrors, girandoles, pictures, mahogany tables, chairs, couches, &c. In every apartment there is a place for a fire, the machine for holding which is composed of steel and brass, very highly polished, and ornamented. The front of the fire-place is adorned by marble slabs, one of which is laid horizontally, upon which, in the summer, they place bouquets of flowers, and, in the winter, various ornaments of china, spars, &c. Nothing in their houses attracted my admiration so much as what I have just described, utility and ornament being therein

happily blended. The walls of the rooms are covered with variegated paper, with which the pattern of the carpets in general correspond. The entrance to the house is by a door on the eating floor, on which the number of the house and the name of the master are either painted, or engraved on a brass plate. On every door there is fixed a knocker, by striking of which you give notice to the servants, when you wish to enter; but in some houses they have bells fixed for this purpose. In the room below stairs, where the servants assemble, there are several bells fixed, which communicate by wires with the different apartments; and being all numbered, upon the ringing of any bell the servants immediately know where their presence is required.

The streets of this city are in general wide, and are divided into three portions:

the two sides, which are flagged, are appropriated to foot passengers; and the middle part, which is paved with stones, is used for horses and carriages. In front of the houses of noblemen and gentlemen there is an iron railing which projects some yards into the street, by which light and air are admitted into the lower floor, and heavy or dirty articles can be taken out or in through a door in the railing, without defiling the house.

Many of the best streets are entirely occupied by shops: these have all large glazed windows, in which the articles are exhibited to attract purchasers. They have also over the doors a plank painted black, on which is inscribed, in gold letters, the name and profession of the owner. These shops are at night brilliantly lighted up, and have a handsome effect. In them is

to be found whatever is curious or valuable in the world. My attention was particularly attracted by the jewellers' and milliners' repositories; nor were the fruiterers or pastrycooks' shops without their attractions. I generally spent an hour between breakfast and dinner in some one of these places.

At night, both sides of the street are lighted up, by lamps suspended in glass vases at the height of ten or twelve feet from the ground; which, with the addition of the numerous candles in the shop windows, render it as light as day. One of the streets thus lighted up, in which were several chemists' shops containing glass vases filled with different coloured liquids, put me in mind of the *Imam Bâreh* (Mausoleum) at Lucknow, when illuminated, during the reign of the late Nabob Assuf ad Dowleh. This being the first town I had seen well lighted

at night, it impressed me with a great idea of its grandeur, nor did it afterwards suffer in my estimation with a comparison with London.

The crowd of people who are constantly walking the streets is astonishing; and they have acquired such dexterity by habit, that they never run against each other. I could not help admiring some girls, who, either from the coldness of the weather or their natural high flow of spirits, disdained to walk deliberately, but bounded through the crowd, without touching any one, as if they had been going down a dance.

In this, and all the other cities of Europe, there are so many carriages of different kinds, that I may safely aver, from the day I arrived in Dublin, till I quitted

Paris, the sound of coach wheels was never out of my ears. There are seven hundred registered coaches here, which never go out of the town, but merely carry passengers from one street to another. Besides these, every nobleman and gentleman of fortune keeps his own carriage, some of which are drawn by two horses, others by four or six. The horses are of a large breed peculiar to these kingdoms; and they are used for all kinds of work, even for ploughing the ground. The only use made of bullocks in this country is to *eat* them. The sheep here have not large tails, but are very delicious food. The fowls are also very fine, of the size of geese, and give very large eggs.

In this city there are several extensive and beautiful squares: in the centre of each is generally a fountain, over which a cupola

is erected, to shelter it from the sun: the water issues from the heads of lions, or some other animal, carved in stone; but, to prevent the water being wasted, every pipe has a screw to it, which, when the person has filled his buckets, he turns, and the water ceases to flow. In some of the squares there is a stone platform erected, on which is placed the equestrian statue of one of their kings; and when seen from a distance, it appears as if the horse was curvetting in the air. These fountains and statues have an iron railing round them; and at night, lamps are affixed thereto, to prevent people from hurting themselves by running against them.

In this country, and all through Europe, but especially in France and in Italy, statues of stone and marble are held in high estimation, approaching to idolatry.

Once in my presence, in London, a figure which had lost its head, arms, and legs, and of which, in short, nothing but the trunk remained, was sold for 40,000 rupees (£.5000). It is really astonishing that people possessing so much knowledge and good sense, and who reproach the nobility of Hindoostan with wearing gold and silver ornaments like women, should be thus tempted by Satan to throw away their money upon useless blocks. There is a great variety of these figures, and they seem to have appropriate statues for every situation: thus, at the doors or gates, they have huge janitors; in the interior they have figures of women dancing with tambourines and other musical instruments; over the chimney-pieces they place some of the heathen deities of Greece; in the burying grounds they have the statues of the deceased; and in the gardens they put

up devils, tigers, or wolves in pursuit of a fox, in hopes that animals, on beholding these figures, will be frightened, and not come into the garden.

The centre part of some of the squares is laid out in handsome gardens, where the genteel inhabitants walk every morning and evening, and from which the common people are excluded. Bands of wandering musicians also come here, and play for a small reward *.

Besides the squares, they have in Europe other places of recreation for the inhabitants, called *Parks:* these are an extent of ground inclosed with a wall, containing rows of shady trees, verdant

* In the original, the plan of the square is delineated.

pastures, and brooks of water, over which are thrown ornamental arches, either of stone or marble. Cattle and sheep are permitted to graze in these parks; and deer are frequently allowed to run wild in them, and increase their numbers. The flesh of the last-mentioned animals is highly prized; and when one of them is required for the table, a good marksman is employed to kill him with a musket. In some of the parks there are handsome buildings and delightful gardens, to which the inhabitants of the city resort in great numbers on Sundays.

The country all round Dublin is very picturesque, and in that respect it far surpasses London. At the distance of a few miles from the city, there is a great variety of hamlets and country-houses, where the people of opulence reside during the summer.

The most charming place I have ever beheld is Phœnix Park. Besides the beauties which I have described as belonging to parks in general, it contains several buildings of hewn stone; and the Dublin river runs through the middle of it, the banks of which are sloped, and formed into verdant lawns; and over the stream are erected two elegant stone bridges: it also contains several rising grounds or hills, on the shaded sides of which, during the winter, snow is sometimes to be seen, while the other parts retain their verdure: this forms an agreeable contrast, and renders the whole of the scenery peculiarly interesting. On viewing this delightful spot, I was made sensible of the just sentiments of the English gentlemen in India, who, notwithstanding their high rank and great incomes, consider that country as merely a place of temporary sojourn, and have their thoughts

always bent upon returning to their native land.

Another captivating scene near Dublin is the sea-side, the prospect from which is beautiful, and enlivened by the view of many hundred ships at anchor. All along the shore, for several miles, they have wooden houses placed upon wheels, for the convenience of private bathing. These machines are drawn by horses into the proper depth of water: a door then opens towards the sea, and a person may perform his ablutions with the greatest privacy, and benefit to his health.

The greatest curiosity of this city is a tower which is built in the sea, at the distance of two miles, and is united to the shore by a wall or pier forty yards in breadth. On this tower they every night

light up an immense lantern with a great number of lamps; by seeing which, the people on board ships bound for this harbour, steer their course, and avoid the shoals and rocks which obstruct the free navigation of this port. Besides the advantage of a safe communication with the Light-house, the Pier is useful, to prevent the sea from encroaching on the city.

The river which runs through Dublin is called the Liffy, and is as large as the Goompty (of Lucknow), when full: both banks of it are lined with stone; and there are six handsome bridges over it. The sides of these bridges are defended by iron railings, to which are affixed a number of the glass vases I have before described, for holding lamps; and at night, when these are lighted up, they have quite the appearance of illuminations made by the

nobility of Hindoostan, on a marriage, or some other rejoicing. In this country there are numerous canals, for the conveyance of coals and other heavy goods from one part of the kingdom to another. There is one which runs from Dublin to Limerick, upon which are several covered boats resembling our budgerows: but some of these are much larger, and will carry a great number of passengers. These boats are drawn by horses, which proceed along a level road formed on the bank of the canal, which is generally shaded by rows of trees. By the contrivance of gates or locks*, a sufficient quantity of water is always retained in the canals; and in case of its overflowing, it can be let off into other channels. In the vicinity of this city are

* In the original a drawing of the lock is given.

also several docks for building ships, the construction of which is very curious.

Of the public buildings, the College is the most celebrated. The entrance to this is through a lofty arched gateway; opposite to which is a building five stories high, containing the apartments of the students, of whom there have been, some years, as many as twelve hundred at the same time. The Library is a very elegant room, one hundred yards in length, and twenty in breadth: the walls are all fitted up with shelves, which contain above 40,000 volumes, in various languages, and every branch of science. I was much pleased to find here several Persian books; among which were two very elegant manuscript copies of the *Shahnameh* (an heroic poem on the ancient history of Persia), and the Five Poems of Nizamy. The Museum is also

a fine room: it contains a great number of curiosities, principally collected from foreign countries: one of these was a human body wrapt up in cloths and gum, which had been brought from the pyramids of Egypt. At the back of the College is an extensive meadow, divided into walks, and shaded by trees, which serves as a place of recreation for the students.

At the time of my visit to the College, the chief or head of the University was Provost Guerney. He first honoured me with an invitation to inspect the College, and afterwards requested I would favour him with my company to dinner. He, and his lady, a very sensible and intelligent woman, behaved to me with the most marked attention and politeness. At his table I had the pleasure of meeting with Dr. Brown, a member of Parliament, and

a great favourite of the people of Ireland; also a Dr. Hall; both of whom afterwards honoured me with their friendship. I was so much pleased with the wit and agreeable conversation of Mrs. Brown, that I wrote a poem in her praise, and sent it to her from London.

Next in rank among the public buildings, is the Parliament House. This is divided into two large apartments, and several offices. In one of the apartments the Lords meet; and in the other, the Commons, or representatives of the people, assemble. These rooms are hung round with *tapestry*, on which are depicted the representations of battles, and other events that occur in their history. At first I thought they were paintings, but, upon examination, discovered, to my great astonishment, that the figures were all worked on the cloth.

I next visited the Custom House, and the Exchange: these are both noble buildings. In the former, the duties upon all goods exported or imported are received; and in the latter the merchants assemble to negotiate their concerns. One of the greatest curiosities I observed here was a *wind clock:* it had a dial resembling a common clock, with two hands, which indicated the exact point whence the wind blew. I afterwards proceeded to the Courts of Law, and then to a superb dome called the *Rotunda.* This latter place was built for a public music-room, and will hold 4000 persons, but is now used by Government as a barrack for soldiers.

The five buildings I have mentioned are constructed of beautiful hewn stone; and the four latter have, in the centre of each, a lofty dome, whence, through large

glazed windows, the light is communicated to the interior: they are also adorned in front by arcades of lofty pillars.

In this city there are a great number of places of public worship, several of which I visited. The most celebrated of them is called Christ Church: it is very large, and above 600 years old. In it, they never permit the men and women to sit together, which appears to me an excellent regulation. The barracks of Dublin are very extensive; and there are two handsome parades, well paved and flagged, for the exercise of troops in rainy weather.

The public hospitals of this city are numerous, and are admirable institutions. One of these is for the delivery of poor pregnant women; another for the reception and education of orphans; and a third for

the maintenance of wounded or worn-out soldiers.

In these countries it is common for persons, when dying, to bequeath estates, or large sums of money, to endow hospitals, or for other charitable purposes. This custom is truly praise-worthy, and should be accepted as an excuse for those who, during their existence in this world, hoard up their riches, and often deny themselves the enjoyments of life.

In this city there are but two hot baths, the roofs of which resemble large ovens. They are not properly fitted up; and are so small, that with difficulty they hold one person; and even then the water does not rise above his middle. Being a case of necessity, I bathed in one of them; but there were not any attendants to assist me;

and instead of a rubber, I was obliged to use a brush, made (*I hope*) of horse's hair*, such as they clean shoes with. The fact is, that in winter the people of Dublin never bathe, and in summer they go into the sea or river: these baths are therefore entirely designed for invalids or convalescents.

Dublin can boast but of two public Theatres or Play-houses, each of which will contain about 1500 persons. The half of the building which is appropriated to the audience is divided into three parts, denominated, the Boxes, Pit, and Gallery†: the first of these is intended for the nobility and gentry, the second for the tradesmen, and the third for the lower classes of people. The prices of admittance are, five shillings,

* Hog's bristles are an abomination to Mohammedans.

† In the original, the plan of the Playhouse is given.

three shillings, and one shilling. The other half of the building is occupied by the stage, on which the actors exhibit: this is subdivided by a number of curtains and scenes, upon which are painted cities, castles, gardens, forests, &c. The whole of the house is well lighted, by candles placed in chandeliers, lustres, &c.

In the exhibition which afforded me the greatest amusement, the actors spoke in some barbarous language. One of them represented an Ethiopian magician, called *Harlequin*, with whom the daughter of a nobleman falls desperately in love: the magician in consequence conveys her, while asleep in her bed, to his own country. Here she is visited by the Queen of the Fairies, and several of her attendants, all of whom descend on the stage in flying thrones: they reproach her for her partiality

to such a wretch, and advise her to discard him: she, after shewing evident proofs of her attachment to the magician, yields to their advice, and requests they will assist her to return home. The queen orders one of the attendants to accompany the young lady, and to remain with her as a protection against the power of the magician, and to assist her father and her intended husband. Harlequin, however, contrives to visit his mistress; and the lovers being soon reconciled, they attempt at one time to escape in a coach, at another in a ship, but are always brought back. At length, in one of the affrays, the father is wounded, and confined to his bed: here he is visited by the Angel of Death, represented by the skeleton of a man with a dart in his hand, who tells him he must either marry his daughter to Harlequin, or accompany him. The father consents to the marriage, which

is celebrated with great rejoicings; and thus ends the farce. Another of their exhibitions was named *The Taking of Seringapatam:* all the scenes in this, were taken from a book recently published, containing an account of the late war in Mysore, and the fall of Tippoo Sultan. The representation was so correct, that every thing appeared natural; and the conclusion was very affecting.

I was much entertained by an exhibition of *Horsemanship*, by Mr. Astley and his company. They have an established house in London, but come over to Dublin for four or five months in every year, to gratify the Irish, by displaying their skill in this science, which far surpasses any thing I ever saw in India.

I was also much astonished on seeing

a new invention of the Europeans, called a *Panorama*. The scene was Gibraltar, a celebrated fort belonging to the English, at the entrance of the Mediterranean Sea, on the coast of Spain. I was led by a dark entrance into the middle of a large room, round which a picture of this famed fortress was hung; but, by some contrivance, the light was so directed, that every object appeared as natural as life. They also exhibited an engagement between an English and a French fleet, in which not only the noise of cannon was distinctly heard, but also the balls flew about, and carried away the masts and sails of the adversaries' ships.

CHAP. VIII.

Character of the Irish. Caricatures. Troublesome curiosity of the common people. Heavy fall of snow. Severe cold. Climate of Ireland—advantages thereof. Skaiting. Account of the author's particular friends or patrons. Mode of living of the Irish. The author leaves Dublin—his passage to England—he lands at Holyhead. Description of Wales, and of the city of Chester. The author arrives in London.

I SHALL here endeavour to sketch the character of the Irish. The greater number of them are Roman-Catholics, or followers of the religion of the Pope; only a small proportion of them being of the religion of the English, whom the former call

Dissenters or Philosophers (*i.e.* Deists or Atheists).

They are not so intolerant as the English, neither have they the austerity and bigotry of the Scotch. In bravery and determination, hospitality, and prodigality, freedom of speech and open-heartedness, they surpass the English and Scotch, but are deficient in prudence and sound judgment: they are nevertheless witty, and quick of comprehension. Thus my landlady and her children soon comprehended my broken English; and what I could not explain by language, they understood by signs: nay, before I had been a fortnight in their house, they could even understand my disfigured translations of Persian poetry. When I was about to leave them, and proceed on my journey, many of my friends appeared much affected, and said: "With

"your little knowledge of the language, you "will suffer much distress in England; for "the people there will not give themselves "any trouble to comprehend your meaning, "or to make themselves useful to you." In fact, after I had resided for a whole year in England, and could speak the language a hundred times better than on my first arrival, I found much more difficulty in obtaining what I wanted, than I did in Ireland.

In Dublin, if I happened to lose my way, and inquired it of any person, he would, immediately on perceiving I was a foreigner, quit his work, and accompany me to the place where I wished to go. One night, as I was going to pay a visit at a considerable distance, I asked a man, which was the road. He instantly accompanied me; and when we arrived at a particular spot, I knew where we were, and, having thanked him

for the trouble he had taken, said I was now perfectly acquainted with the remainder of the road, and begged he would return home. He would not consent; but, after we had gone some distance further, I insisted upon his leaving me, otherwise I should relinquish my visit. He apparently complied; but I could perceive, that, from his great care of me, he still followed. Being arrived at the door of my friend's house, I waited for some time, that I might again have an opportunity of thanking him; but as soon as he saw that I had reached a place of security, he turned round, and went towards home.

The Irish, by reason of their liberality and prodigality, seldom have it in their power to assist their friends in pecuniary matters: they are generally in straitened circumstances themselves, and therefore

cannot, or do not aim at the comforts and elegance of the English: neither do they take pains to acquire riches and honours like the Scotch, by limiting their expences when in the receipt of good incomes, and paying attention to the Great. In consequence of this want of prudence, they seldom attain to high dignities, and but few of them, comparatively, make much progress in science.

Their great national defect, however, is excess in drinking. The rich expend a vast deal in wine; and the common people consume immense quantities of a fiery spirit, called *whiskey*, which is the peculiar manufacture of this country and part of Scotland.

One evening that I dined in a large company we sat down to table at six

o'clock: the master of the house immediately commenced asking us to drink wine, and, under various pretences, replenished our glasses; but perceiving that I was backward in emptying mine, he called for two water glasses, and, having filled them with claret, insisted upon my taking one of them. After the table-cloth was removed, he first drank the health of the King, then of the Queen; after which he toasted a number of beautiful young ladies with whom I was acquainted, none of which I dared to refuse. Thus the time passed till two o'clock in the morning; and we had been sitting for eight hours: he then called to his servants to bring a fresh supply of wine. Although I was so much intoxicated that I could scarcely walk, yet on hearing this order, I was so frightened, that I arose, and requested permission to retire. He said he was sorry I should

think of going away *so soon;* that he wished I would stay till the wine was finished, after which he would call for tea and coffee. I had heard from Englishmen, that the Irish, after they get drunk at table, quarrel, and kill each other in duels; but I must declare, that I never saw them guilty of any rudeness, or of the smallest impropriety.

. . .

The painters of these countries sometimes draw ridiculous figures, called *Caricatures,* which it is impossible to behold without laughing. They, in general, are intended to exhibit the defects or follies of the Ministers or other great men, and sometimes to turn into ridicule the prevailing passion or vice of the people at large. These pictures are sold in sets, and consist of several pieces. One of them which was shewn to me contained a caricature of each of these nations. The first

exhibited a Scotchman, quitting his country to seek his fortune: and the itch being a very common complaint in Scotland, this poor fellow is drawn, rubbing his back against a mile-stone, on the road to London. In the next page he is shewn in the habit of a postman, carrying a bag of letters from one village to another. In the third page, he becomes a gentleman's steward: in this situation, by his industry, and attention to the wishes of his master, he acquires some money, which he lends out at interest to his master, and thus becomes rich. In the fourth page, he gets acquainted with an opulent English widow, whom he marries, and thereby acquires some degree of importance. In the fifth page, he is represented as an attendant on the minister, with whom, by his assiduity and flattery, he becomes a favourite, and obtains a post under Government. In the last page, he is seated in

the chair of the Vizier, having, by industry and perseverance, thus raised himself, from the most abject state of poverty, to the highest situation which can be held by a subject.

The Irishman's career is not so long, nor so varied. He enlists as a soldier, and, having distinguished himself by his bravery, is promoted by degrees to the rank of General. He then quarrels at table with another officer; they fight, and he is killed in the duel.

The Englishman is represented as a fat bull (therefore named *John Bull*); and as that animal is remarkable for eating a great deal, and for excessive courage and obstinacy, so the English seem to consider eating and drinking as their chief happiness, are frequently blunt and uncouth in their man-

ners, and often run blindly into danger and unnecessary expence.

The Irish *women* have not such elegance of manners, nor the handsome eyes and hair of the English; neither are they as tall nor so good figures as the Scotch; but they have much finer complexions, are warm in their affections, lively, and agreeable.

For some time after my arrival in Dublin, I was greatly incommoded by the common people crowding round me, whenever I went out. They were all very curious to see me, but had no intention of offending me. Some said I must be the Russian General, who had been for some time expected; others affirmed I was either a German or Spanish nobleman; but the greater part agreed that I was a Persian

Prince. One day, a great crowd having assembled about me, a shopkeeper advised me to walk into his house, and to sit down till they should disperse. I accepted his kind invitation, and went into the shop, where I amused myself by looking at some penknives, scissars, &c. The people however thronged so about his windows, that several of the panes were broken; and the crowd being very great, it was in vain to ask who had done it.

About a fortnight after my arrival, there fell a very heavy shower of snow. As I had never before seen any thing of the kind, I was much delighted by it. The roofs of the houses and tops of the walls were soon covered with it, and in two or three days the fields and mountains, as far as the eye could reach, became a white surface. During the time it continued to snow, the

cold was not very great; but when it ceased, notwithstanding I had all my doors and windows shut, and had three blankets on my bed, I felt the frost pierce through me like an arrow. The fire had scarcely any effect on me; for while I warmed one side, I was frozen on the other; and I frequently burned my fingers before I was aware of the heat. At length I discovered, that the best remedy was walking; and during the continuation of the frost, I walked every day seven or eight miles. I was apprehensive that my health would have suffered from the severity of the climate; but, on the contrary, I had a keen appetite, and found myself every day get stronger and more active.

I recollect that in India, when I only wore a single vest of Dacca muslin, if I walked a mile I was completely tired; but

here, when my clothes would have been a heavy load for an ass, I could have run for miles without feeling the smallest fatigue. In India, I slept daily seven or eight hours, at different times, without feeling refreshed; but during the two months I remained in Ireland, I never slept more than four hours any night, and yet I never felt an inclination to lie down in the day time.

The coldness of the climate in these islands is, I am convinced, very beneficial, and attended with many advantages to the inhabitants. In the first place, it renders the men vigorous both in mind and body, and the women fair and handsome. Secondly, it obliges them to take exercise, which hardens and invigorates the constitution, and inspires them with that valour, by which they are enabled to encounter the greatest hardships, and to

acquire *immortal fame*. During my residence in Ireland and England, I have frequently received contusions without being sensible of them at the time, the tenth part of which would in India have laid me upon the bed of sickness. Thirdly, it renders them open-hearted and sincere, steady in the pursuit of knowledge, and not led away by the flights of fancy or sallies of imagination. I have frequently seen both men and women of *twenty* years of age, who possessed not an idea that could interfere with their acquirement of science or the useful arts. The excessive cold prevents their sitting idle; and the mind being therefore engaged, is prevented from wandering to, or dwelling on things that are improper. Boys and girls of fifteen years of age are, here, as innocent as the children of India of five or six, and have no wish beyond the amusement of playthings, or the produce

of a pastry-cook's shop. I have even seen grown-up persons, who had acquired reputation in their own line of business, and many of them had accumulated fortunes, but who were as ignorant of the world as boys in the East. Another great advantage of the coldness of the atmosphere, is their being accustomed to wear a number of tight-made clothes, which are troublesome to take off, and are very inconvenient for lying down: thus they are prevented from indulging in indolent habits during the day; and their nights are passed in harmless sleep, contrary to the custom of India, where the day is frequently devoted to sensuality and repose, and the night to business or conviviality.

What I am now about to relate will, I fear, not be credited (by my countrymen), but is, nevertheless, an absolute fact. In

these countries it frequently happens that the ponds and rivers are frozen over; and the ice, being of sufficient strength to bear a great weight, numbers of people assemble thereon, and amuse themselves in *skating*. For this purpose it is requisite to be provided with a kind of wooden shoes, having pieces of iron fixed to the soles. At first this appears a very difficult operation, and many get severe falls; but, after some months' practice, they can slide along the ice with the rapidity of a horse on a fine road, and turn, in all directions, quicker than the best-trained charger. I have even seen them engrave the name of a lady on the ice with the heel of their skate. In England and Ireland this art is only practised for amusement; but in Holland, I have been informed, the women will carry a basket of eggs or butter, in this manner, twenty miles to market, and return home to dinner.

I remained forty-four days in Dublin; and, in the course of my whole life, never spent my time so agreeably. Were I to mention the name of every person from whom I experienced hospitality and civility, I should tire my readers. I shall therefore only enumerate a few of my particular friends. The principal of these were Sir George and Lady Shee. He had resided for many years in India, and was for some time paymaster at Ferrokhabad. He was at this time employed by the Government of Ireland, was a great favourite with Lord Cornwallis, and did me the honour of being my interpreter with his Lordship. Lady Shee was remarkable for mildness of disposition, elegance of manners, skill in music, and sweetness of voice.

From Lord and Lady Carleton I experienced much attention and politeness; their

house was a repository of every thing that was grand or curious. Many of the articles attracted my wonder and astonishment; but they were so numerous and extraordinary as to exceed the powers of description. His lordship held the honourable office of Chief Justice of Ireland.

The Duke of Leinster, the first of the nobles of this kingdom, honoured me with an invitation: his house is the most superb of any in Dublin, and contains a very numerous and valuable collection of statues and paintings. His grace is distinguished for the dignity of his manners, and the urbanity of his disposition. He is blessed with several angelic daughters.

I here had the good fortune to meet with Colonel Wombell, a gentleman I had long known in India, from whom I experi-

enced many acts of friendship, and with whom I daily spent some happy hours. This gentleman was much attached to the natives of India, and spoke their language fluently. He was, at this period, Colonel of the Norfolk Volunteer Militia, and asked me several times to dine at the regimental mess, where he introduced me to some of the finest-looking young men I ever saw in my life. Norfolk is celebrated above all the countries in England for fine poultry, abundance of game, and handsome women.

I here had the pleasure of forming an acquaintance with General Vallancy, an officer of artillery, who, although of a remarkable short stature, had a most expanded heart: he was a great adept in acquiring languages, and was much delighted with the Hebrew, Arabic, and Persian dialects: he informed me, that there was a consi-

derable analogy between the Hindoostany and Irish languages. To Lords Shannon and Newcomen, Mr. White, Mr. Irving, and Mrs. Humphries, I feel grateful for their attention and hospitality.

The various acts of kindness and hospitality I received from Mrs. Fleming are innumerable. This lady having been informed that I had become acquainted with her husband at the house of our mutual friend, Mr. W. A. Brooke, in Calcutta, immediately sent a gentleman to request I would call on her. She afterwards gave me many invitations to her house, and introduced me to a numerous circle of her acquaintance. This lady one day asked me, if her husband spent his time pleasantly in Calcutta. I replied, "How is it possible he can be happy while separated from so charming a companion as you." She smiled, and said she believed I only flattered her.

Two of her daughters had accompanied their father to India, but there still remained at home three girls, beautiful as the *Houries* of Paradise.

Having hitherto omitted giving any description of the mode of living of the Irish, I shall here state, that the breakfast is generally confined to the family. At dinner, they meet at each other's houses, in large parties: this meal is divided into three parts, at the end of each of which, a table-cloth is removed. After dinner the gentlemen continue to drink wine for one or two hours: they then join the ladies, and drink tea or coffee: and at night they again sit down to what is called *supper*. This last meal I enjoyed more than any other, as there is less ceremony observed at it than at dinner: the servants are soon dismissed, and the guests help themselves.

The mode of paying *complimentary* visits here is very easy; they merely knock at each other's doors, and give their names, written on a square piece of pasteboard, called a *card*, to the *servant*; but if they wish to see the master of the house, they go in, and sit with him half an hour*.

Nothing pleased me more in Europe than the attendance of servants being dispensed with. In India, they remain constantly in the room; but here they retire as soon as dinner is over, and remain till summoned by the bell.

I was also much pleased to observe, that in European society, when a person is speaking, the others never interrupt him, and the conversation is carried on in a

* The natives of India always send a message before, to ask whether the visit will be convenient.

gentle tone of voice. One evening, while I was engaged in conversation with the lady of the house, the servant entered with a large tray of costly china; and his foot catching the edge of the carpet, he fell, and broke the whole to pieces: the lady, however, never noticed the circumstance, but continued her conversation with me in the most undisturbed manner.

It affords me much satisfaction thus to record the amiable qualities of the Irish; as, previous to my landing, I had conceived strong prejudices against them, in consequence of the misrepresentation of some of the passengers on board our ship, who had described them as rude, irascible, and savage.

Captain Williamson, one of the passengers on board the Christiana, (who was of a sarcastic disposition) used constantly to

frighten me, with accounts of the uncivil treatment I should meet with in England: thus one day at dinner, when, for want of employment, I had laid a piece of bread on the table-cloth, and was cutting it with great caution, he called out to me, "If in England you cut your bread in that manner, the ladies, alarmed for their table-cloths, will never invite you to their houses a second time; nor will you ever find any person there who will assist you to carve your meat as we do here." If ever I chanced to spill the gravy or soup on the cloth, or my own garments, he used to look at me with aversion, and say, "If you do so in London, nobody will sit at table with you." Notwithstanding this, both in Dublin and in London, wherever I was invited, the master and mistress of the house not only excused my awkwardness, but pressed me to eat in my own country manner; and when I refused,

always cut the meat for me. Another time he told me, that in London no person would assist another with sixpence; and that without a bribe they would not even let me pass along the street, much less point out the road. In contradiction to this, often under pretence of inviting me to take a walk, my acquaintances have carried me to see various places, which cost them at least four or five shillings. Numberless also were the presents forced upon me, of books, pen-knives, spectacles, watches, and other English curiosities; and I was even frequently solicited to accept the loan of 1000 or 2000 guineas. I have been induced to relate these anecdotes, that the difference between the dispositions of the English in India, and the genuine unsophisticated English, may be known.

On the 16th of January, 1800, having

taken leave of all my friends, I embarked on board one of the vessels called *Packets*, which convey the letters and passengers from one island to another. About the middle of the night we quitted the Irish shore; and the wind being very favourable, we cast anchor early next morning at Holyhead. We were soon after landed, and went to the best inn in the town, kept by a person named Jackson. This man, seeing that I was a foreigner, thought that he could reap some advantage by detaining me at his house: he therefore endeavoured to persuade me to remain a short time at Holyhead; but two Irish gentlemen, who, accompanied by a beautiful young woman, were then at the inn, perceiving his intention, abused him for it, invited me to dine with them, and in the evening put me into the mail coach, which was setting out for Chester.

Holyhead is a small and dirty town, and only known as being the port opposite Dublin: it is situated in a small island, separated from Wales by an arm of the sea almost as broad as the river Ganges at Calcutta. Wales is one of the three divisions which, with England and Scotland, constitute Great Britain. The Heir Apparent, or eldest son of the King, takes his title from this province, and is called *Prince of Wales*.

After travelling twenty-five miles, we arrived at the arm of the sea above mentioned, and in a short time were ferried to the opposite side, where there is a town called Bangor Ferry. Here we were refreshed by an excellent breakfast, and immediately after proceeded on our journey. Our next stage was to Aber-Conway, a very ancient city, situated between lofty mountains, on the banks of a fine river, which

joins the sea a little below the town. This place was formerly fortified, and several of the walls are still standing, which much resemble those of *Allahabad*. After dinner we again entered the coach, and at midnight arrived, without any accident, at Chester. Our route during this journey was over lofty hills, so that we were frequently obliged to alight from the coach, and walk up the steepest of them. Although Wales is a very mountainous country, it nevertheless contains a great quantity of arable land and excellent pastures for cattle.

Chester, being the principal town of the county, where all the public business is transacted, is large and populous, and is said to be more ancient than London. In several particulars it differs from any other place I have seen. Some of the streets have colonnades, running from one end to

the other of them, under which the foot passengers can walk perfectly dry, at all seasons of the year. The middle of the streets is paved, and contains ample space for the carriages and horsemen. Many of the houses have handsome porticoes in front, supported by stone pillars, which give them a magnificent appearance. These islands produce great abundance of fine stone, and even the common walls of the gardens and yards are built of this material.

As several of my Irish friends had recommended me to gentlemen in Chester, the latter had been for some time in expectation of my arrival. I was in consequence, early next morning, waited upon by a Mr. Fleming, and three or four other persons, who loaded me with invitations, and accompanied me to look at the city. At the hour for dinner, a large party,

consisting of some of the principal inhabitants of the town, assembled; and in the evening we were most agreeably entertained with music and dancing. When we broke up, many of these hospitable people requested that I would stop for some time at Chester, and favour them with my company: but, as I was very anxious to get to London, I declined their polite invitations.

By the advice of my friends, I agreed with the owner of the stage coach, that, instead of continuing the journey to London without intermission, I should sleep one night on the road. It was between one and two in the morning when we quitted Chester; and after a journey of forty-nine miles we breakfasted at Stafford. It was midnight before we reached Northampton, where I stopped for the remainder of the night, and felt truly grateful to my friends

for their good advice, as I thereby enjoyed a comfortable supper, and a refreshing sleep, after the fatigue of a long day's journey. On the following morning I again set out in the coach; and on the 25th of Shaban, corresponding to the 21st of January 1800, arrived safe in London, being five days short of a Lunar year from the period of my leaving Calcutta.

CHAP. IX.

The Author hires lodgings in London. Interview with the President of the Board of Controul. Is introduced at Court—Attention of the Princes, and of the Nobility. Public amusements. The Author's original view in coming to England—disappointment—compensated by the kindness of his friends. He visits Windsor—arrives at Oxford—account of the University—proceeds to Blenheim—description of the park and house—visits Colonel Cox. Mode of sporting in England. The Author proceeds to the house of Mr. Hastings—Returns to London. Ode to London.

PREVIOUS to my departure from Dublin, I had taken the precaution of writing to my friend and shipmate, Captain Richardson, to hire apartments for me in the same house where he resided; and immediately

on my arrival, I proceeded to Margaret Street, where I had the pleasure of finding him: but as the lodgings he had provided for me were up two pairs of stairs, I thought them inconvenient, and, after remaining there a week, removed to others in the same street. Being dissatisfied with these, I went to Ibbetson's Hotel, in Vere Street: this situation was very agreeable, but the expences were beyond my means: I therefore again removed to a house in that neighbourhood, where there were both hot and cold baths, and where I enjoyed the luxury of daily ablution. I continued in this residence for seven months; at the end of which time, having a dispute with the master of the house, I hired apartments in Upper Berkeley Street. The mistress of this house was an Irish woman, and was employed - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

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Although I was much gratified by seeing a number of beautiful women, who frequently visited at the house, I could not agree with the temper of my landlady, and once more changed my residence, removing to Rathbone Place.

A few days after I was settled in my new lodgings, some of my friends called, to remonstrate with me on having taken up my abode in a street, one half of the houses of which were inhabited by courtezans. They assured me that no ladies, or even gentlemen of character, would visit me in such a place: however, as I found my house very comfortable, and the situation was in many respects convenient, I determined to remain where I was; and as my reputation in the minds of the English was as deeply impressed as the carving on a stone, my friends had the condescension and

goodness to overlook this indiscretion; and not only was I visited there by the first characters in London, but even ladies of rank, who had never in their lives before passed through this street, used to call in their carriages at my door, and either send up their compliments, or leave their names written on cards. After a residence of fourteen months, I removed thence to Wardour Street, and afterwards to Berwick Street.

Shortly after my arrival in London, I sent a note to Mr. Dundas, then one of the principal Ministers of the Empire, to solicit an interview: he immediately appointed a day, and, when I waited on him, received me with the greatest attention and kindness. He afterwards invited me to his country-house at Wimbledon, where I was entertained in the most agreeable and courteous

manner, by Lady Jane Dundas, one of the most charming and sensible women in England.

A few weeks subsequent to my visit to Mr. Dundas, I had the honour of being introduced to the King; and on the following day was presented to her most gracious Majesty Queen Charlotte. Both of these illustrious personages received me in the most condescending manner, and, after having honoured me with some conversation, commanded me to come frequently to court. After this introduction, I received invitations from all the Princes; and the Nobility vied with each other in their attention to me. Hospitality is one of the most esteemed virtues of the English; and I experienced it to such a degree, that I was seldom disengaged. In these parties I enjoyed every luxury my heart could

desire. Their viands were delicious, and wines exquisite. The beauty of the women, and their grace in dancing, delighted my imagination; while the variety and melody of their music charmed all my senses.

I may perhaps be accused of personal vanity by saying, that my society was courted, and that my wit and repartees, with some *impromptu* applications of Oriental poetry, were the subject of conversation in the politest circles. I freely confess, that, during my residence in England, I was so exhilarated by the coolness of the climate, and so devoid of all care, that I followed the advice of our immortal poet Hafiz, and gave myself up to love and gaiety.

I often visited all the public places of amusement in London; and frequently had so many Opera tickets sent me by ladies

of quality, that I had an opportunity of obliging many young Englishmen, by transferring the tickets to them. My amusements were not however confined to the metropolis; I had many invitations to the distance of forty, fifty, or eighty miles from it; on which occasions my friends were so obliging as to take me down in their own carriages, so that I thereby did not incur any expence.

When I first arrived in London, it had been my determination to have opened a Public Academy to be patronized by Government, for instructing such of the English as were destined to fill important situations in the East, in the Hindoostany, Persian, and Arabic languages. The plan I proposed was, that I should commence with a limited number of pupils, selected for the purpose, who were not to go abroad; but, each of these to instruct a number

of others: thus as one candle may light a thousand, so I hoped to have spread the cultivation of the Persian language all over the kingdom. By these means I expected to have passed my time in England in a rational and advantageous manner; beneficial both to myself, and to the nation I came to visit. I therefore took an early opportunity of mentioning the subject to the Ministers of the Empire: but whether it was owing to their having too many other affairs to attend to, or that they did not give my plan that consideration which, from its obvious utility, it deserved, I met with no encouragement. What rendered their indifference on this subject very provoking, was: many individuals were so desirous of learning the Oriental languages, that they attended *self-taught masters*, ignorant of every principle of the science, and paid them half-a-guinea a lesson.

A short time before I left England, the Ministers, having become sensible of the advantages likely to arise from such an institution, made me an offer of 6000 rupees (£.750) annually, with liberty to reside either in Oxford or London, to superintend it; but as I had then resolved to return to India, and was disgusted with their former apathy on the subject, I politely excused myself. I, however, promised that if I should return to England, I would then accept it, and give my aid in establishing so laudable and requisite an institution.

I have already stated, that the marks of attention, and proofs of friendship, which I received in London, from various persons in all ranks, were innumerable: in justice, however, to my most particular friends, I shall take the liberty of reciting a few of their names. Among the foremost of

these, was Mr. Charles Cockerell. Had I been his brother, he could not have behaved with more kindness. He liberally supplied me with money for my drafts on Calcutta, and offered to advance any other sums I required: he also escorted me to all the places of public amusement, and invited me once every week to dine at his table, where I had an opportunity of meeting some of the handsomest women and the most agreeable company in England. I was present at one entertainment he gave, where seven hundred persons of rank and consequence sat down to a supper, at which were served up all the choicest fruits and rarities procurable in London: many of these were produced by artificial heat; for the English, not content with the fruits of their own climate, contrive, by the assistance of glass and fire, to cultivate those of the torrid zone; and, as a contrast to these,

they form *ice* into the shape of peaches, &c. which frequently deceive the beholder. This gentleman resided many years in India, and there acquired a large fortune in the most honourable manner.

It is customary for gentlemen of fortune to quit London during the summer months, and to amuse themselves by travelling about the country. In one of these tours, Mr. Cockerell did me the favour to take me with him. We travelled in a *barouche* or open carriage, drawn by four beautiful horses. Our first day's journey was to Windsor, the country residence of the King. The Palace, or Fort, is situated in an extensive and beautiful park, and contains a number of elegant apartments. These are ornamented with a great variety of pictures, principally of the ancient Kings, Queens, and Princesses of England. One of these

rooms contained the portraits of twenty-four celebrated Beauties, who gave brilliancy to the court of one of their Sovereigns. They were painted from life, by command of the monarch, and are the most charming countenances I ever saw. The chapel belonging to the palace is an ancient building, and fitted up in a very peculiar style. In it are deposited the crown, the throne, and complete armour of each of the former Kings, all of which may be considered as very great curiosities.

The following day we proceeded to the house of Mr. Addington, the prime minister, who possesses very extensive gardens, and where I had an opportunity of seeing a large collection of exotics. During the summer, these trees are exposed in the open air; but in winter they are shut up in rooms covered with glass. Our next stage

was to the house of Mr. Goolding, where we were most hospitably entertained; and in the evening, were amused by music, and the singing of the young ladies. On the fourth day, soon after noon, we entered Oxford, and took up our residence at the Star Inn.

Oxford is a very ancient city, and the most celebrated *Seat of Learning* of the Empire. All the public buildings are constructed of hewn stone, and much resemble in form some of the Hindoo temples. The streets are very wide and regular, and several of them are planted on each side with trees. In this place are assembled the most learned men of the nation, and students come here from all parts.

There are twenty-three different colleges, each containing an extensive library. In

one of these libraries I saw nearly 10,000 Arabic and Persian manuscripts. The collective name of these twenty-three colleges is *The University*, meaning an assemblage of all the sciences. For the use of the University, a very magnificent *Observatory* has been erected, with much philosophical and astronomical skill. It contains a great variety of instruments, and some very large telescopes.

There is here, also, a large building for the sole use of anatomy. One of the Professors did me the favour to shew me every part of this edifice, and to explain many of the mysteries of this useful science, which afforded me very great satisfaction. In the hall, were suspended the skeletons not only of men, women, and children, but also of all species of animals. In another apartment was an exact representation of all the

veins, arteries, and muscles of the human body, filled with red and yellow wax, minutely imitating Nature. The Professor particularly pointed out to me the great nerve, which, commencing at the head, runs down the back-bone, where it divides it into four great branches, one of which extends down each arm, and leg, to the ends of the fingers and toes. In another room were, preserved in spirits, several bodies of children, who had something peculiar in their conformation. One of these *lusus Naturæ* had two heads and four feet, but only one body. The mother having died in the act of parturition, the womb, with the children, was cut out, and preserved entire.

In one of the lower apartments appropriated to dissection, I saw some students at work on a dead body. They also shewed

me some candles which they said were made of human tallow, and a great number of other curiosities.

As Europeans are much more experienced than we are in the science of anatomy, I shall here explain some of their opinions, which are in opposition to ours.

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[*N.B.* Although this dissertation evinces that the Author lost no opportunity to acquire knowledge, yet, as the subject is not a pleasing one, and can be interesting only to few, the Translator has thought it better to omit it.]

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Having seen every thing that was curious in Oxford, we proceeded to Blenheim, the seat of the Duke of Marlborough. This

place is, without comparison, superior to any thing I ever beheld. The beauties of Windsor Park faded before it; and every other place I had visited was effaced from my recollection, on viewing its magnificence. The park is fourteen miles in circumference, planted with large and shady trees. The house, or rather palace, is lofty and superb, and, with its various offices, covers half a mile of ground. Many rivulets of clear water run through the park; and over the largest of these are erected several handsome bridges. In the middle of the park stands a stone pillar, seventy yards high, on the top of which is sculptured, in marble, a statue of the great Duke, as large as life. This illustrious person was the Generalissimo of Anne, one of the most celebrated Queens of England; and, in return for his eminent services, was rewarded with this mansion, and a pension of 50,000

rupees annually. The trees in the park are said to have been planted to resemble an army drawn up in battle array; and on the tapestry of the large rooms, the plans of his most celebrated battles are faithfully delineated in needle-work.

After looking at the house and gardens, we drove round the park, and thence proceeded to the house of Mr. Molony, a friend of Mr. Cockerell's. Here we found a party invited to meet us; and I had the pleasure of being introduced to Mrs. Cox, the sister of Mrs. Pringle of Lucknow, under the care of whose worthy husband I left my fortune and family when I quitted that city. I was much rejoiced by this unexpected pleasure; and Colonel Cox having invited us to visit them at Sandford Park, we went there the following day, and were most hospitably entertained by that gentleman and his

charming wife, with whose conversation and affability I was quite delighted.

Our next visit was to Mr. Stratton, a very engaging young man, who possesses an estate of 4000 acres in that neighbourhood. This gentleman is a great sportsman, and keeps a number of horses, dogs, &c. As I was anxious to see the mode of sporting in England, he kindly offered me the use of one of his horses, and a gun. We set out early in the morning, accompanied by two servants, to lead our horses and carry the game. We were out for nearly ten hours, sometimes walking, and at others riding, and returned with twenty partridges and five hares.

No country in the world produces a greater variety of sporting dogs than England. They have them trained for every

species of game. They have greyhounds for coursing, and other hounds for killing deer, foxes, &c.: these hunt together, in packs of fifty or sixty. They have also two distinct species of dogs for the gun. Those which accompanied us, were of the kind that, as soon as they smell the game, stop until the sportsman comes close up, when, at his command, they move gently forward and rouse the game. I was much delighted at the sagacity of these animals; for, although there were several beating about us on all sides, whenever one of them stopped, the others followed his example, and became immoveable. I was told an anecdote of one of these pointers, which is very surprising. While in the act of jumping over a wall, he perceived a hare on the opposite side; when, by a great effort, he stopped himself on the wall, and waited there till his master came up and shot the hare.

In England, game is considered as private property; and if any person kill it on the land of another, he is liable to a severe penalty. There is, however, an exception to this rule: When deer, foxes, or hares, are hunted by *hounds*, in that case the hunters pursue them over the country, sometimes to the distance of forty or fifty miles: and should the game even swim across a river, both dogs and horsemen follow. If the fox runs into a hole, they send in a small kind of dog, called a *terrier*, who drives him out. The horses that are trained to this sport will leap over walls two yards high, and rivulets or ditches six yards wide, without moving an experienced rider from his seat.

After having changed our clothes, and refreshed ourselves from the fatigues of the field, we sat down to dinner. Here our

society was again enlivened by the presence of Mrs. Cox and some other ladies: and our host entertained us with some of his own-fed mutton, which was superior to any I had ever eaten, and a great variety of game, fruits, wines, &c.

Early next morning we pursued our journey: we breakfasted at Chipping Norton, and dined at Stowe; after which we proceeded to Seisincot, the house of Mr. Cockerell. This estate had been purchased by the late Colonel Cockerell, who built thereon a new house, and, at his death, bequeathed the whole to his brother. We spent two days in this delightful spot, and then proceeded to the residence of Mr. Hastings, the late worthy Governor-general of India.

As I had promised Mr. Hastings, while

in London, that, if ever I visited Oxfordshire, I should pass a week with him, he therefore now claimed the fulfilment of my promise. I was much rejoiced to find this great man released from all the toils and anxieties of a public life, amusing himself in rural occupations, and enjoying that happiness in his domestic society which is unattainable by the monarchs of the world.

I was much pleased with viewing his grounds and gardens, which were laid out with great taste and judgment; but I was particularly struck with the arrangement and economy of his farm-yard and dairy. As the latter surpasses any thing of the kind I have seen, and is an office unknown in a gentleman's family in the East, I shall attempt a description of it.

A *dairy* is a large room for preserving

milk, butter, and cheese. The one I now speak of, was well shaded from the sun, and had large glass windows on the four sides, which were opened or shut at pleasure. Within each window stood a frame of netted wire, which admitted the air, but obstructed the entrance of flies, or other insects. Around the room were placed a number of vessels, made of white marble, for holding the milk. There were also several marble slabs for pressing and shaping the cheese on; and even the floors and seats were composed of the same delicate and costly material.

As Mr. Hastings prefers living in the country to London, he has spared no expence in fitting up this residence; in which elegance and utility are so happily blended, that it resembles more the work of a *Genii*, than of human art.

During my stay at this delightful abode, Mr. Hastings treated me with the utmost attention and kindness; and when I was about to depart, he offered to supply me with money as long as I should remain in England. I returned him my acknowledgments for his kindness; but not being in want of assistance, I declined his friendly offer.

Mr. Cockerell having some business which would require his staying a fortnight at Seisincot, wished me much to return thither, and pass that time with him: but as, previous to my leaving London, Cupid had planted one of his arrows in my bosom, I found it impossible to resist the desire of returning to the presence of my fair one; and therefore, on leaving Mr. Hastings's, we separated.

On my way to town, I had an opportunity of seeing Henley. It is advantageously situated on the river Thames, and said to be one of the handsomest towns in England. I did not think it superior, however, either to Richmond or Kilkenny.

A few days after my arrival in London, I composed the following Ode, in imitation of Hafiz.

ODE TO LONDON.

Henceforward we will devote our lives to London,
and its heart-alluring Damsels:
Our hearts are satiated with viewing fields,
gardens, rivers, and palaces.

We have no longing for the Toba, Sudreh, or
other trees of Paradise:
We are content to rest under the shade of these
terrestrial Cypresses.

If the Shaikh of Mecca is displeased at our conversion, who cares?
May the Temple which has conferred such blessings on us, and its Priests, flourish!

Fill the goblet with wine! If by this I am prevented from returning
To my old religion, I care not; nay, I am the better pleased.

If the prime of my life has been spent in the service of an Indian Cupid,
It matters not: I am now rewarded by the smiles of the British Fair.

Adorable creatures! whose flowing tresses, whether of flaxen or of jetty hue,
Or auburn gay, delight my soul, and ravish all my senses!

Whose ruby lips would animate the torpid clay, or marble statue!
Had I a renewal of life, I would, with rapture, devote it to your service!

These wounds of Cupid, on your heart, Taleba,
are not accidental:
They were engendered by Nature, like the
streaks on the leaf of a tulip.

See Appendix (A).

CHAP. X.

Character of the Author's friends in London. His mode of passing the time. He visits Greenwich, and other places in the vicinity of the metropolis. Account of the Freemasons. British Museum. The Irish Giant. Chimney-Sweepers. King's Library. Pictures. Hindoostany Ladies. Panegyric on Mr. Swinton, one of his pupils.

After I was again settled in the metropolis, I paid my respects to my friends, and was again introduced into the best societies. I generally spent one evening every week at the house of Mr. Plowden. This gentleman resided many years in India, at the court of Lucknow; where his services were so much approved, that he has since been

chosen one of the Directors of the Company. Mrs. Plowden is a most charming lively woman, and the delight of all her acquaintance: she is blessed with a numerous family of beautiful children, several of whom are grown up, and possess the amiable qualities of their parents. As the whole family are admirers of music, their parties were always enlivened by dancing or singing; and I had frequent opportunities of meeting the first connoisseurs in that delightful science, at their house. I also there had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with some of the most beautiful and charming ladies I have ever met with in my travels. Two of these were Miss Hyde and Mrs. Anstruther: their singing and playing were, in my opinion, superior to either Mrs. Billington or Madame Banti, although the first of these actresses was esteemed the best singer at the Theatre, and

the latter the most admired at the Opera house; notwithstanding the performers of the last-mentioned institution are all natives of Italy, a country which is considered by Europeans as the *Treasury of the Science of Music*; and in fact the melody of Italy approaches nearer to the soft tones of Hindoostan than any other I have ever heard.

To Sir T. and Lady Metcalfe I was much obliged for the many agreeable parties I met at their house. One summer evening that I spent with them at their country residence near Windsor, the company drank tea under the shade of a large tree: among the female visitors were two young beautiful ladies, a Miss Taylor, and a Miss Hosea: the latter was the daughter of Dr. Hosea, who was lost when returning from India in the ship Grosvenor, on the coast of Africa;

and she being an orphan, Sir Theophilus had afforded her an asylum in his house. During an interval in the conversation, Lady Metcalfe observed, that trees of the species under which we were seated generally extended their branches to a great distance, but were seldom high; that this was an exception to the general rule, being not only of a great circumference, but also very tall. I immediately replied, it was by no means astonishing; as had I the honour of being so often the companion of Miss Hosea as it had, my head would proudly exalt itself still higher than the tree. They all laughed heartily at this speech, and applauded my warmth in the cause of beauty.

. . . . . .

At the house of Sir T. Metcalfe I often had the pleasure of meeting Miss——. As it is impossible for simple prose to do

justice to her angelic qualities, I have attempted to describe them in the following Ode.

[The Translator acknowledges himself unable here to follow the Author.]

Sometime before I quitted England, this Miss—— married an old man on account of his wealth: on which event a number of the young ladies who were envious of my attachment to her, whenever they had an opportunity, ran to condole with me on my misfortune, saying, "Do you know that your Miss—— is married?" and then attempted to make some sarcastic remark on the object of her choice. This I would not permit them to do: but answered them in such a manner as made them laugh, by saying, "It "is a long time since my attachment to her "ceased; she therefore, being in despair, "has prudently taken to herself a husband."

To my friend Mrs. Rickets I shall ever be grateful for her civilities. She is the granddaughter of *Begum* Johnson, well known in Calcutta.

I had the good fortune to form an intimacy with Mr. Ferary, an Italian gentleman, so well skilled in music, that many of his compositions were introduced at the Opera. He was also well versed in chess, which gave me an opportunity of improving myself in that game. He one evening took me to visit a countryman of his, who played three games of chess at the same time, without looking at any of the boards, and beat all his adversaries.

At the house of Sir J. Macpherson, late Governor of Bengal, I had frequent opportunities of meeting the Princes; who all

behaved to me with the greatest condescension and kindness.

Among the literary characters with whom I had the honour of being acquainted, were Sir Frederic Eden, Sir John Sinclair, and Sir Joseph Banks. The first of these has written several treatises on different subjects. The second is well skilled in husbandry and agriculture, and has therefore been placed by the King at the head of a Society for the encouragement of these useful arts. This gentleman paid me much attention, and frequently took me with him ten or twenty miles into the country to look at various objects of curiosity. One evening, when we were returning from visiting his son, who was at the school of Sunbury, (with the inspection of which I was much delighted,) and were

arrived at his door, he ordered the coachman to drive on to my house, and first put me down. I represented to him, that although my house was still two miles further of, as I was in the constant habit of walking the streets, I should prefer going home on foot, and would not either trouble his servants to carry me so far, or encroach upon his time by carrying him so much out of his way. He however refused either to put me down or get out himself: and when I pressed him to explain the motives of his conduct, he replied: "In this world we are all liable "to accidents; and if it should by chance "happen, that you this night met with any "misfortune, I should never forgive myself." At the house of Sir John I frequently had the pleasure of meeting some of the most respectable characters in England. He did me the honour of introducing me to

Lord Sheffield, by whom I was most sumptuously entertained.

The third is one of those persons who sailed round the world with Captain Cook; is esteemed the greatest Philosopher of the age; and is President of the Royal Society. From each of these gentlemen I received the most pointed marks of regard and esteem.

At the house of the latter gentleman, I became acquainted with some of the most celebrated painters in England, several of whom requested me to sit for my portrait. Thus, during my residence in London, no less than six pictures were taken of me, the greater number of which were said to be very good likenesses. The following are the names of the persons who did me this honour: Mr. Edridge, also celebrated as

an engraver, Mr. Devis, Mr. Jesit, Mr. Drummond, Mr. Ridley, and Mr. Northcote. I thought Mr. Edridge's was the best likeness; but Mr. Northcote's was esteemed the finest picture. The merits and celebrity of all these gentlemen are far beyond my feeble panegyric; but some of the portraits of the last appeared as if starting from the canvas. His picture of my lovely friend Miss Burrell afforded me the highest gratification; and, with the recollection of the original, will ever remain deeply impressed on my memory.

At Sir J. Banks's weekly meetings, to which I was first introduced by Colonel Symes, I had frequent opportunities of conversing with Mr. Wilkins. This gentleman resided many years in India; and, besides acquiring a knowledge of the Persian language, has the merit of being one of the

first Englishmen who made any progress in Sanscrit lore. He has even translated a poem, called the *Bhagvunt Geeta*, from that abstruse language.

In the same manner I became acquainted with Sir W. Ouseley. This gentleman, being possessed of a great taste for Oriental literature, has by uncommon perseverance acquired such a knowledge of Persian, as to be able to translate freely from that language; and has published one or two books to facilitate the study of it. He did me the honour of frequently calling on me; and I received much pleasure from his acquaintance.

From General Wilkinson, Dr. Neal, and Sir John Talbot, I received the most marked attention, and many proofs of hospitality.

Another of my most particular friends was Lady Elford; to do justice to whose merit far exceeds the powers of my feeble pen. She is distinguished by a dignified deportment, ease and elegance of manners, affability and politeness of conversation. She is also imbued with so much piety, and endued with so great a share of sensibility, that she never heard of any instance of God's mercy, the loss of any friend, or any act of cruelty, but the tears flowed from her compassionate eyes: notwithstanding this softness of temper, she possesses a ready wit, great soundness of judgment, and an excellent taste for poetry. She made a large collection of my Odes*: and although the idiom of our languages is so very different, she readily understood my meaning, and was much pleased with my

* See APPENDIX (B).

performances. One day she took me to see a new invention, which was exposed for view in her neighbourhood; it was the representation of things in coloured *cork*, and in fidelity of representation far exceeded many pictures I had seen, whether delineated by the pencil or worked with the needle. While we were viewing the different articles, the owner of the exhibition came up, and presented Lady Elford with a free-admission ticket: which surprising me much, I asked her to explain the reason of his conduct: she informed me, that it was customary at these exhibitions, if any persons had been there frequently, to present them with a ticket of that kind, in order to induce them to continue their visits, and to bring their friends. Her Ladyship also did me the favour to take me with her to Ranelagh; a particular description of which place I have given in

my *Poetical Tour*; also to see the barracks of the worn-out soldiers at Chelsea; and to Sir Ashton Lever's Museum, and various other places of amusement. Her husband, Sir William Elford, is a colonel in the army and a member of Parliament, and celebrated for his wisdom and integrity. He also possesses an ample knowledge of the Arts and Sciences. May God Almighty preserve Lady Elford, and her two angelic daughters, Betsy and Jessy! whose transcendant qualities I have attempted to describe in the following Ode.

[Here the Translator has again to lament his want of poetical talents.]

In short, the delight I experienced in the society of Lady Elford and her amiable daughters will never be obliterated from my memory. When I was about to quit England, and went to take my leave,

each of them gave me some curiosity, as a token of remembrance; and made me promise to write to them frequently. Her Ladyship was so overpowered by her feelings, that she could not bid me adieu.

In London I had the happiness of again meeting my friend Mr. R. Johnson. We had been many years acquainted in India; and it was at his suggestion that I printed in Calcutta an edition of the poet Hafiz. He was my banker during my residence in England; and I had a general invitation to his table, where I often had the honour of meeting some of the most respectable characters in London. It was rather a curious circumstance, that, in the persons of my London bankers, Mr. N. Middleton, and Mr. R. Johnson, I should meet the two gentlemen who were the representatives of the East-India Company at the Court of

Lucknow during a very eventful period; and who originally marred my fortune, by forcing me to accept of an employment under that government.

Mrs. Johnson is an amiable and accomplished woman, and frequently had musical parties in the evening. It was at her house that I first had the pleasure of hearing Lady Hamilton sing. Her ladyship has, without doubt, one of the finest voices in Europe, and possesses great skill in music.

To Lady Burrell, and her amiable daughter, I shall ever feel grateful for their hospitality and kindness; and to the latest hour of my life I shall recollect with pleasure the many happy days I passed in their society. In my poetical work, entitled *The Mesnevy**, I have dedicated three Odes

* See Note to the Introduction.

to Miss Burrell: these, however, but faintly express my admiration of her wonderful perfections; in her person are united the beauty and accomplishments of Europe, with the grace and modesty of India. The eyes of the heavens never beheld more loveliness, nor did the inhabitants of Paradise ever hear more delightful melody than issues from the harp when touched by her angelic fingers.

But, above all my friends, I shall ever regret my separation from Colonel Symes. He was a man of the strictest honour and integrity, and had passed several years in India. During the government of Sir John Shore (now Lord Teignmouth) he was sent ambassador to Ava, and conducted himself in that situation much to his own credit, and to the advantage of the British nation. On his return from thence, he

wrote a book, describing all the curiosities of that country, and the peculiar customs of its inhabitants; which was universally read and admired. From this gentleman I received many proofs of friendship; and, in fact, he behaved to me as if I had been his brother. When I had the honour of being introduced to his Majesty, he acted as my interpreter; and he took me to see all the places in London where any information or knowledge could be acquired. He also introduced me to a number of his acquaintances, and frequently pressed me to accept of money for my expences. He agreed with me, that we should return to India together, and share in each other's fortunes. He literally performed his promise; but just as I was about to take my passage on board the ship he had engaged, Lord Pelham, one of his Majesty's Ministers, prevailed upon me to forego my

intention, and we took leave of each other with tears in our eyes*.

The principal person to whom I was introduced by Colonel Symes was Lord Carhampton. He is a nobleman of high dignity, and was the deputy of Lord Cornwallis during the period he was Lord-lieutenant of Ireland: he did me the honour of inviting me twice to his house, and entertained me in a very superb style.

To the introduction of Colonel Symes I was also indebted for my acquaintance with Sir James Earle. He is one of the King's Physicians, and of a most amiable and liberal disposition. He frequently took me with him ten or twelve miles from London, to see various gardens,

* See APPENDIX (C).

and other places of curiosity. He often asked me to dine with him: and I had numerous invitations from Lady Earle to her routs and evening parties; where I met a number of beautiful young ladies, and heard exquisite music and singing. The most accomplished of these *Houries of Paradise* was Miss Marian. Her beauty transcends all praise; and from the first moment I saw her, her image has never been effaced from my mind.

At Sir James Earle's I had the pleasure of forming an acquaintance with Lady Charlotte, the sister of Lord Carbury; who frequently invited me to her routs, where I met some of the first company in England.

By the means before mentioned, I was introduced to Mr. Nepean, Secretary to the

Admiralty: he is a sensible well-informed man; and during the summer gave me several invitations to his country-house, in the village of Fulham; and in the winter I attended Lady Nepean's routs in London.

From Sir John and Colonel Murray, both of whom had held high official situations in Bengal, I experienced much kindness; but as their place of residence was Scotland, and they only came occasionally to London, I did not see so much of them as I wished.

It would be the height of ingratitude to omit the name of Mr. Debrett from the list of my friends; for although a bookseller, he is a person of elevated sentiments and noble mind: his house used to be the rendezvous of all the members of Parliament who opposed Mr. Pitt. His wife is

also a person of a very good family, and of a very hospitable disposition. From my first arrival in London till the day I left it, I experienced from this worthy couple much attention, and many acts of friendship.

I had also the pleasure of being acquainted with Mr. Sewell, another bookseller, who has a very large shop in the city. He was very anxious to promote the study of Persian in England; and invited me frequently to his house. He took me into the country, to see Colonel Alexander Robert's Observatory and Green-houses; both of which are well worth visiting, and proved that the proprietor's philosophy and knowledge comprehended the objects of the heavens and the productions of the earth.

From Mr. Rousseau, a celebrated printer,

I received numberless marks of attention; and in the preface to many of his books he inserted my name by way of remembrance.

Lady Winifred Constable, a venerable Scotch lady, but whose mind still retained all the vigour of youth, and who every week, during the winter, invited all her acquaintance twice to her house, did me the honour, without any introduction, of sending me a card for her rout; and I was so much taken with her affability and elegance of manners, that I became her constant visitor: I also received much delight from the agreeable society that frequented her house. This good lady's principal residence was in Edinburgh, the chief city of Scotland; and when she was about to depart for that place, she told me it would be a great pity if I should return to India

without having seen Scotland: she therefore urged me to accompany and spend some time with her; but being then in the same predicament as when I visited Oxford, I wished to decline her kind invitation: she however would accept of no excuse; and on the day she was setting off, stopped her coach at my door, and pressed me to go along with her. I was quite overcome by this uncommon act of kindness and attention, and promised, nay swore, that I would certainly follow her in two months, and put up at her house. With this declaration she was at length satisfied, and bade me farewell. At the end of the prescribed period, I made preparations for my journey, and was about setting out, when I received the melancholy tidings of her death. I was sincerely affected by this intelligence, as she was an excellent woman, and the most benevolent and obliging person of her

nation that I ever met with: for be it known, that of my European friends, many more of them were Scotch than English; more particularly Mr. G. Johnstone, who had resided long at Lucknow, and with whom I had been intimate for twelve years; and Dr. Blane, who was formerly at Gorruckpore with Colonel Hannay, and whom I had known for thirty years: from both of these gentlemen I naturally expected much civility, and an invitation to pass some time with them in *Scotland*; but they totally neglected the right of friendship and hospitality, while this amiable lady, to whom I was a perfect stranger, offered me the means of visiting a very interesting and distant part of the kingdom.

To Colonel Brathwaite, and his charming wife, I was under many obligations, for their hospitality, and shewing me many

of the public places in London, particularly the Tower and the British Museum. The Colonel had served long in India, and was much pleased with the society of Natives of that country. I consider the Colonel as one of the most fortunate men in this world; for although a single glance from his wife is worth £100,000, he received a marriage portion with her of ten lacks of rupees, upon the easy condition of taking her name, she having been the daughter of General Brathwaite, commander in chief of Madras. Such was her affection for her husband, that she always wore his picture suspended round her neck.

In the house of Mrs. Gordon, and the society of her charming family, which consisted of her amiable daughter, her grandson who studied Persian under me, and her nephew Captain Losack, an officer in

the Royal Navy who had highly distinguished himself during the war by attacking and bringing away a French ship which was under the protection of a heavy battery, I spent many delightful evenings: the amusements of which were sometimes varied by the pleasure of playing at chess with General Money; and of seeing and hearing the beautiful Miss Latour, whose praises far exceed my powers of description, and is one of those *belles* who has left a scar on my heart.

Mrs. Gordon did me the favour to introduce me to Mr. Hankey, Colonel Peach, and Mr. Macpherson; from each of whom I experienced much attention.

At the table of Earl Spenser I had the honour of being introduced to Lord Macartney. This celebrated nobleman has

been employed by the King on the most difficult missions. He was for some years Ambassador in Russia; where he is said, by his manly figure and accomplishments, to have gained the affections of the Empress. He was sent many years afterwards to China, where he acquitted himself much to the satisfaction of his Court. During the war with Hyder Aly, he was Governor of Madras; and had the offer of succeeding to the government of Bengal, but declined it. Although seventy years of age, he had the appearance of a handsome man of forty-five. His lordship frequently did me the favour of calling on me; and entertained me several times in a very superb manner.

I had also the honour of forming an acquaintance with Lord Hardwicke, a nobleman of very ancient family, and who succeeded Lord Cornwallis as Governor of

Ireland. As his Lordship was married to the sister of Lady Ann Barnet, whom I had the pleasure of knowing at the Cape of Good Hope, and by whom I was recommended to his lordship, he in consequence called on me, and invited me to spend some time with him at his country-house, forty miles distant from London. As this event occurred a short time before he went to Ireland, he urged me to return thither, to pass a month or two with him; but I had so many engagements on my hands, that I was obliged to decline the honour.

At the house of Lord Hardwicke I had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Montague, the daughter-in-law of the lady whose superb mansion adjoins Portman Square; and of whom I shall hereafter relate an extraordinary anecdote. His Lordship also did me the honour of introducing me to

Mr. Hope, one of the most celebrated commercial men in Europe. Notwithstanding he is said to have lost half his property by the French Revolution, he is still considered as the wealthiest merchant in London. The variety of wines, and the richness of the plate, at his banquets, exceeded any entertainment I have ever seen.

I was much indebted to Sir Charles Rouse Boughton for many acts of kindness and friendship. This gentleman had resided many years in India, and perfectly understood the Persian language. The first time I met him was at Court; where, by command of his Majesty, he officiated as interpreter, and stood between me and the King.

I have also to acknowledge my obligations to the Marquis of Townshend, to

Colonel Neville, and to Dr. Carshore, for their numberless civilities.

The Honourable Mr. Bruce, brother of Lord Elgin, did me the favour to introduce me to his mother, who held the high and honourable office of Governess to the Princess Charlotte of Wales (who, after her father, is likely to succeed to the throne of England, in preference to her uncles, such being the law of this country). When Mr. Bruce was returning to India, he resolved to proceed thither by the route of Constantinople, in order to visit his brother, who was then Ambassador at the Turkish Court; and was very solicitous that I should accompany him: but, as I was not then satiated with London, I declined his kind offer.

I often visited at the house of General Charles Morgan, in Portland Place. This

officer commanded the East-India Company's army in the field at the period that Zeman Shah, the Abdally, threatened to invade their northern provinces; and had acquired a large fortune in India in the most honourable manner. I was quite enraptured with his daughter, who has since married Mr. Lushington; and have therefore dedicated one of my Odes to her.

To Mr. Biddulph I was extremely obliged for his attention. He is one of the most extensive merchants in London; is a person of excellent manners, and sound sense: he frequently executes commissions for the Prince of Wales: and it was by his introduction that I viewed Carlton House, the apartments of the Princess Charlotte, and many other places in London.

From Dr. Macdonald, the son of my *old* friend Colonel Macdonald of Bengal,

received the most marked civility and friendship, and had a general invitation to dine with him whenever I was disengaged.

Colonel Mackenzie, who had long resided in India, and who spoke Persian with great fluency, often called upon me; frequently entertained me at his house; and kept up a constant intercourse with me till I quitted England.

Mr. Christie the Auctioneer also paid me much attention, and gratified me highly, by shewing me the articles he had for sale. He once exhibited to me a number of pictures which he valued at £60,000; and when I called there a few days afterwards, they were all disposed of.

At the house of Counsellor Dowse I had the pleasure of seeing a large collection

of Persian and Hindoostany pictures, and other rarities of the East: some of which I thought superior to the paintings of Europe.

I had the pleasure of being acquainted with Mr. Hartman, who lived in a very magnificent style in Portman Square. At his parties I met a number of Frenchmen: among these was the gentleman at whose house Napoleon Buonaparté was educated; but the Emperor, so far from being grateful to him for the favours conferred, compelled him to flee, and take refuge in England from his tyranny. At the same place I was also introduced to the father-in-law of General De Boigne, who acquired so large a fortune in the service of the Mahratta chief Mahdajee Scindia: this gentleman had been one of the courtiers of the murdered King of France, and was of course obliged to abandon his country.

Mr. Strachey, who had held an important situation at Madras, used frequently to call on me, and invite me to his house. He spoke Persian fluently, with the modern pronunciation of Irān (Persia), the style of which is *well known*; (i. e. grammatically erroneous.)

Sir Robert Chambers, who had been for many years Chief Justice in Bengal, frequently invited me to his house; but as he was then preparing for his journey to eternity, our intimacy was never matured.

To Mr. Ducarrol, Colonel Osborne, and Mr. Huddleston, all of whom had resided in India, I was under many obligations.

Mr. Wedgewood, whose compositions and inventions in the manufacture of China-ware are celebrated throughout the world,

paid me much attention, and at one period was very anxious to accompany me by the route of Persia to India; but afterwards meeting with a traveller who had returned from India that way, and who described the journey as very perilous, he was alarmed, and abandoned his design.

Mr. Hagar a celebrated painter, Mr. Poole, and Mr. Hamilton, two famous musicians, and Mr. Rotton, a proprietor of one of the Theatres, shewed me much civility in the line of their different professions.

Lord Teignmouth, Mr. Ives a long time the East-India Company's representative at Lucknow, Colonel Mark Wood, and Major Marsac, were all very polite, but did not manifest any warmth of friendship; which, as they had been all many years in India, I was rather disappointed at.

Many other noblemen and gentlemen paid me much attention: but as a recital of their names would be the cause of prolixity, I shall here close the account.

Notwithstanding the constant round of my engagements in London, I passed a considerable portion of my time in writing *poetry*, and in seeing every thing or place that was curious, either in the metropolis or its vicinity. I went one day, with a party of friends, to see Greenwich, once the residence of the Sovereign, but now an Hospital for Invalid Seamen, of whom there were 1500 present, when I inspected it. It is a noble institution, and worthy of imitation. Here is also a very celebrated Observatory, furnished with the largest and finest instruments procurable; and it is from this spot that the English calculate their

By the kindness of Mr. Sewell, I was invited to spend the day at the house of Dr. ——, situated eight miles from London. This gentleman was celebrated for his knowledge of chymistry, and his invention of several curious and useful machines. He exhibited before me many specimens of his art, which *appeared* to be the effect of magic. He dissolved gold and silver, and even a ruby, by a few drops of aqua-fortis. He made fire to pass through water. He changed water into air, and air into water. He separated the bodies of several substances, and again united them; with many other things too tedious to relate, but which afforded me the greatest amusement.

At the distance of —— miles from London there is a beautiful garden solely appropriated to the use of the *Freemasons*. Many wonderful stories are told of this sect. They

have several regulations peculiar to themselves, and are able to know each other, at first sight, by some sign, which cannot be perceived by any other person. Even the fear of death will not make them betray the secrets of their order. It is reported that the King, having some suspicions of them, ordered the Heir Apparent to become a Freemason, and to inform him if there was any thing in their tenets prejudicial to good government, or dangerous to the State. The Prince, in obedience to the Royal orders, was initiated into all the mysteries of the sect; and declared to his father that their principles were favourable to his government, and that they were among the most loyal of his subjects. Thus far the Prince disclosed; but nothing respecting their mysteries ever issued from his lips.

The only information I could obtain on

this subject was, that when King Solomon made his preparations for building the Temple of Jerusalem, he collected masons and workmen from all parts of the world, especially from Europe; and that these people, when assembled together, being desirous of commemorating the circumstance, and proud of their profession, invented certain mysteries, which should only be communicated to persons of their own craft.

Many of their customs are very praiseworthy. They do not interfere with any man's religion, nor attempt to alter his faith. They are liberal to the poor; and always relieve each other when in distress. Variance and strife are banished from among them; and they consider each other as *Brothers*.

I visited Spa Garden one evening when

the Prince of Wales attended the Lodge. The garden was elegantly illuminated; and there was a great concourse of people of both sexes. Supper was served upon tables placed under the trees; each of which held about twenty persons, and was superintended by one of the superior Freemasons. Many of the guests were of the lower order of the people; whose spirits, being exhilarated, either by the gay scene before them, or by the wine they had drunk, talked in the most familiar but affectionate style of their *Brother George*.

My appearance in the garden having attracted much attention, I received invitations from many of the tables to favour them with my company; and as they would not take any refusal, I was compelled to pay my respects to them in turn. I was therefore obliged to take a bumper of wine

at each table; and having been frequently challenged by some beautiful women to replenish my glass, I drank more wine that night than I had ever done at one time in the course of my life.

During supper, there was a grand display of fire-works, and the Prince's band of music played several delightful airs: in short, this entertainment realized the scenes described in the *Fairy Tales*, or the Arabian Nights' Entertainments.

I was frequently urged by several of the Freemasons to become one of their brethren; but as I was not perfectly convinced that their principles were conformable to my mode of thinking, I begged leave to decline the honour. They however prevailed upon Effendi Ismael, the Turkish ambassador, and Effendi Yusuf, his secre-

tary, to embrace their tenets; and both these Mohammedans were initiated into all the mysteries of Freemasonry.

In a former part of this work I have said that the English are fond of making large collections of every thing that is rare or curious. The place where these articles are deposited is called a *Museum*. The most celebrated of these, in London, is the *British Museum*; it being a National institution, that is, the whole expence is paid by Government. This building contains nearly 100 apartments, each of which is named from the articles it contains. It would be a vain attempt to enumerate the curiosities which are here preserved. All Nature has been ransacked to procure them. I was however particularly attracted by the sight of two horns, as long as those of a deer of two years old, which were extirpated

from the forehead of a woman after her death. A picture of the woman is also preserved with the horns.

This Museum is situated nearly on the limits of the city: and from its windows are to be seen, at the distance of four miles, the beautiful villages of Hampstead and Highgate, both of which stand upon lofty hills, bounding the horizon. The intermediate space is filled by rich meadows and verdant fields. However attracting the objects in the inside, I could not refrain from turning my eyes to this delightful prospect.

One of the objects which I saw in London, that most astonished me, was a man called a *Giant*. He was born in Ireland. His height was seven cubits, the length of his foot one cubit, the breadth of

his hand two thirds of a cubit, and all his other limbs in proportion. My head scarcely reached to his waist; and when he stood, he was obliged to stoop, lest he should strike his head against the ceiling. This poor fellow led a miserable life, as he was never permitted to walk out, for fear he should frighten the women and children; and was compelled to shew himself to every person who would pay a shilling for admittance.

My attention was one day attracted, as I passed through Portman Square, by seeing a great assemblage of boys clothed in sooty rags, who were singing and rejoicing. I asked the reason of their apparent happiness, and was informed, that Mrs. Montague had for several years lost one of her sons; that at length he was brought back to her by some chimney-

sweepers; and, in gratitude for his restoration, she every year gave all the children of that description in London a grand entertainment, and they were then celebrating the anniversary of the joyful event.

I was much gratified by an inspection of the King's private Library. It contains a vast number of books in all the European languages, bound in a very elegant manner. It also contains some choice Persian and Arabic Manuscripts. I saw there a copy of the *Shāh Jehān Nāmeh*, or History of the EMPEROR SHAH JEHAN of Hindoostan; in which were inserted the Emperor's portrait, and those of his most celebrated courtiers. After the plunder of Dehly, this book had been purchased by the Nabob Asuf ad Dowleh, and was highly prized by him. He gave it, as a mark of his special

favour, to Sir J. Shore, late Governor of Bengal, who presented it to his Majesty.

In the house of Mr. Daniel, I saw the portraits of many of my Indian acquaintance, and some beautiful paintings of the *Taje Mahal* (Tomb of Momtazi Zemān, the Empress of Shāh Jehān, King of the World) at Agra, and of several other places in Hindoostan, most accurately delineated. As many of the English had an opinion that there were not any buildings worth looking at in India, I was much rejoiced that Mr. Daniel had, by his skill, enabled me to convince them of the contrary; and I insisted upon several of my friends accompanying me to his house, to look at these pictures, which they could not behold without admiration.

During my residence in London, I had

the good fortune to form an acquaintance with two or three Hindoostany ladies, who, from the affection they bore to their children, had accompanied them to Europe. The most distinguished of these was Mrs. Ducarrol. It is generally reported that she was a young *Hindoo* widow of rank, whom Mr. Ducarrol rescued from the funeral pile of her former husband, and, having converted her to Christianity, married her. She is very fair, and so accomplished in all the English manners and language, that I was some time in her company before I could be convinced she was a native of India. This lady introduced me to two or three of her children, from sixteen to nineteen years of age, who had every appearance of Europeans.

I visited Noor *Begum*, who accompanied General De Boigne from India.

She was dressed in the English fashion, and looked remarkably well. She was much pleased by my visit, and requested me to take charge of a letter for her mother, who resides at Lucknow.

When General De Boigne thought proper to marry a young French woman, he made a settlement on the *Begum*, and gave her the house in which she resides. She has two children, a boy and a girl, of fifteen and sixteen years of age, who, at the time of my visit, were at school, but always spend their holidays with her.

I have before mentioned, that one of the objects I had in view, in coming to Europe, was to instruct young Englishmen in the Persian language. I however met with so little encouragement from the persons in authority, and had so many

other engagements to amuse me, that I entirely relinquished the plan. I could not, however, refuse the recommendations that were brought to me by an amiable young man, Mr. Swinton; and I agreed, that, if he would attend me at *eight* o'clock in the morning, I would instruct him. As he was full of ardour, and delighted with the subject, he frequently forsook his breakfast, to come to my house in time. Thanks be to God, that my efforts were crowned with success! and that he, having escaped the instructions of *self-taught* masters, has acquired such a knowledge of the principles of that language, and so correct an idea of its idiom and pronunciation, that I have no doubt, after a few years' residence in India, he will attain to such a degree of excellence as has not yet been acquired by any other Englishman!

CHAP. XI.

General description of England. Soil. Animals. Division of Land—state of cultivation. Roads. Description of London—Squares—Coffee-houses and Taverns—Clubs—Literary and other Societies—Opera, and Play-houses—Orrery—Masquerades—Routs—Public Buildings—Charities—Bank of England—Royal Exchange—Bridges—Canals.

HAVING, I fear, tired my Readers, by being so long the hero of my own tale, I will for some time drop this subject, and endeavour to give a description of London, and some remarks on England in general; together with a short account of the customs and manners of the people, the nature of its government, and its naval and military systems.

England, according to the ideas of a native of Hindoostan, may be said to be a mountainous country. Its soil is composed of two kinds of clay mixed with stones, and is equally adapted for the rearing of animals or for the cultivation of grain. The rainy season not being here of any continued duration, the earth is never too much saturated. The roots of the vegetable kingdom having, in consequence, a firm hold, extend themselves to a considerable distance, and are thereby enabled to support the lofty stems and spreading branches of the numerous trees which adorn this happy land, or to yield an abundance of delicious fruits to its inhabitants. I have seen a single vine, which grew in a small courtyard paved with flat stones, cover the whole side of a house, and produce sufficient grapes for all the family during the season; some of its bunches weighing six

pounds. Here also is to be found every species of flower that grows either in Persia or India. There must certainly be something very peculiar in the climate and soil of England, which causes it not only to yield such a variety of the productions of the earth, but also such a difference in the tempers and manners of its inhabitants, that no two of them appear to think or act alike.

The domestic animals of England are all excellent in their kind, especially the horses, dogs, and cattle. The latter are much larger than those of India; and the cows give a much greater abundance of milk, which yields delicious butter and cheese: their flesh also is admirable.

The English have particular horses for every kind of work. Those for draught

are so very large and powerful, as to be considered a curiosity in other countries. They are used only for heavy carriages, or for ploughing the land; it not being customary to use bullocks for that purpose, as with us. One of these horses will carry as great a load as a camel, and will work day and night. The saddle-horses are not handsome, but very useful; and so quiet, that one man may lead ten of them at once with a halter, and they will follow him over wall or ditch without any trouble or difficulty. All the land in England is divided into fields and parks, which are inclosed either with hedges or walls. Many of the parks contain *country-houses*: these are the rural habitations of the nobility or people of fortune, and comprehend, besides the house and offices, gardens, orchards, fish-ponds, and pasture-grounds for both sheep and deer. Many of these

estates have also rivers running through them, and extensive woods of valuable timber. Some of the proprietors of these houses reside in them the whole year; or, when they have business in London, hire a ready-furnished habitation for the time: but the people of wealth seldom remain in them above five or six months. Like the Arab tribes, they forsake the cities during the summer season, and seek, in the fresh and wholesome air of the country, a supply of health and vigour for the ensuing winter.

Every part of this country appears highly cultivated: though, to judge from the few people whom I saw in the fields, or met on the road, I should think the population very scanty; and I was frequently astonished how the agriculture was carried on.

The roads throughout England are very

good; they are wide, and formed of stone or gravel; and wherever they are intersected by ravines or rivers, good and substantial bridges are erected; by which means travelling in this country is not attended with any difficulty; and, at the distance of every six or seven miles, there are inns, which afford all things requisite either for rest or recreation. The villages resemble those of India, as, although the houses are generally built of brick or stone, and have chimneys, the roofs are low and thatched.

London is the capital of the Empire, and is the largest city I have ever seen: it consists of three towns joined together, and is twenty-four miles in circumference: but its hamlets, which to a foreigner appear a continuation of the city, extend several miles in every direction; and new streets

are each year added to the town, the houses of which are frequently bought or rented before they are finished, and in the course of twelve months are completely inhabited. Thus during my residence there, ten new streets were added to the town. The houses in London are generally built of brick, though a few of them are of hewn stone: they are commonly four stories high, and have regular rows of glazed windows in front. A few of the noblemen's houses have courts or porticoes before the door, which add to their grandeur. The roofs are sloped like a tent, and are covered either with tiles, or thin stones called *slates*. The interior is divided and furnished like those already described in Dublin; and the streets and shops are also lighted at night, in the same manner. The shops are in regular rows; and are very rich, extensive, and beautiful, beyond any thing

I can describe. The greatest ornament London can boast, is its numerous squares; many of which are very extensive, and only inhabited by people of large fortune. Each square contains a kind of garden in its center, surrounded with iron rails, to which every proprietor of a house in the square has a key, and where the women and children can walk, at all hours, without being liable to molestation or insult.

In this city the coffee-houses are not so numerous as in Paris: here is scarcely a street, however, in which there is not either an inn, hotel, or coffee-house, to be found: many of these have a magnificent appearance, and are on so extensive a scale, that in the London Tavern they can prepare a dinner for five hundred persons of rank, at a few hours' notice. I frequently dined at this tavern, with the Indian Club, by

invitation; and although several other large parties were assembled there at the same time, we were not sensible, either from a want of attendance, or from any noise or confusion, that any other persons were in the house.

Of the many admirable institutions of the English, there was none that pleased me more than their *Clubs*. These, generally speaking, are composed of a society of persons of the same rank, profession, or mode of thinking, who meet at a tavern at stated times every month, where they either dine or sup together, and confer with each other on the topics most interesting to them, or discuss such matters of business as, for want of room, could not be easily done in a private house.

These societies frequently consist of one

or two hundred members; but, as seldom above thirty or forty assemble at one time, they are easily accommodated. The absent members pay a small fine, which is carried to the account of the expences of the dinner, and the remainder is paid by those present.

There are a great variety of these clubs. Some are appropriated to gambling, or chess; others are entirely composed of painters, artists, authors, &c. &c. The Indian Club consists of a number of gentlemen who have resided for some years in the East. At these clubs, no person but a member is admitted, without a particular invitation; and, in order to become a *member*, every person must be ballotted for; that is, his name and general character are submitted to the society; and if any gentleman present objects to him, he is immediately rejected.

They have also societies of nearly a similar nature, which meet at the house of the president, where they are entertained with tea, coffee, sherbet, &c. Of this kind is the Royal Society, who meet every Sunday evening at the house of Sir J. Banks, where all new inventions are first examined; and if any of them are found deficient, they are rectified, by the joint consultation of the members. All the great literary characters assemble here, and submit their works to the inspection of the society. Through the kindness of the President, I was frequently present at these meetings, and derived much mental satisfaction from them.

I also frequently attended the meetings of the Musical Society, at the house of Lady Charlotte ————, where I was always much delighted by the harmonious voices and skill of the performers.

In London there is an Opera, and several Play-houses, open to every person who can pay for admission. As these differ but little from the Play-houses described in my account of Dublin, it is unnecessary to say more respecting them. There are also so many other places of public amusement, that a stranger need never be at a loss to pass his time agreeably.

A philosopher named Walker lately hired one of the old Play-houses, in which he exhibited, every night during the summer, an astronomical machine, called an *Orrery*, by which all the revolutions of the planets and heavenly bodies were perfectly described. From the centre of a dome twenty yards in height was suspended a glass globe, in which a bright lamp was burning that represented the Sun, and turned round, like the wheel of a mill,

on its axis. Next to the Sun was suspended a small globe that represented Mercury; a third representing Venus; a fourth, the Earth; and a fifth, the Moon: the sixth was Mars; the seventh, Jupiter, attended by four satellites; the eighth, Saturn, with five attending satellites; and the ninth, Georgium Sidus, a lately-discovered planet, with six attending satellites. All these globes were put in motion by the turning of a wheel; and exhibited, at one view, all the revolutions of the Solar system, with such perspicuity as must convince the most prejudiced person of the superiority, nay, infallibility, of the Copernican System. I was so much delighted by the novelty of this exhibition, and the information I received from it, that I went to see it several times.

The English have an extraordinary kind

of amusement, which they call a *Masquerade*. In these assemblies, which consist of several hundred persons of both sexes, every one wears a short veil or mask, made of pasteboard, over the face; and each person dresses according to his or her fancy. Many represent Turks, Persians, Indians, and foreigners of all nations; but the greater number disguise themselves as mechanics or artists, and imitate all their customs or peculiarities with great exactness. Being thus unknown to each other, they speak with great freedom, and exercise their wit and genius.

At one of these entertainments, where I was present, a gentleman entered the room dressed in a handsome bed-gown, night-cap, and slippers, and, addressing the company, said he paid several guineas a week for his lodgings above stairs; that

they had kept him awake all night by their noise; and that, notwithstanding it was near morning, they did not appear inclined to disperse; they were, therefore, a parcel of rude, impudent people, and he should send for constables to seize them. I thought the man was serious, but my companions laughed, and applauded his ingenuity.

Several of the ladies of quality permit their acquaintances to come to their houses in masquerade dresses, previous to their going to the public room, where they exhibit their wit and skill at repartee.

They have other public amusements, called *Balls*, which are confined to dancing and supper; but there are so many private entertainments of this kind given, that the public ones are not well attended in London.

I one day received an *invitation card* from a lady, on which was written, only, "Mrs.—— at home on —— evening." At first, I thought it meant an assignation; but, on consulting one of my friends, I was informed that the lady gave a *Rout* that night; and that a rout meant an assemblage of people without any particular object; that the mistress of the house had seldom time to say more to any of her guests than to inquire after their health; but that the servants supplied them with tea, coffee, ice, &c.; after which they had liberty to depart, and make room for others. I frequently afterwards attended these routs, to some of which three or four hundred persons came during the course of the night.

The public buildings in London are innumerable, and a description of them alone would fill a volume. They are generally built of stone, and many are very

massy and grand. The principal of them are, Westminster Abbey, which contains the tombs of all the Kings; the Cathedral of St. Paul's; the Foundling and Lying-in Hospitals; and those of Greenwich and Chelsea, for naval and military pensioners. There are also a number of Colleges, such as I have described at Oxford; and several Schools, which contain four or five hundred boys each, supported entirely by subscription, or by charitable donations. These schools may be considered as a little world, in which the English are taught every thing useful, honourable, and virtuous.

English charity does not consist in giving a small sum of money to a beggar, or a poor poet, or a starving musician. These persons they have a great aversion to; and should one of them follow a coach for miles, he would lose his labour, and

not be able to soften the hearts of those seated therein. But their charities are of a public nature; for in every parish there is a house built for the poor, where they may reside, and receive a daily allowance of food. If a family be reduced to poverty by any accident, they have only to make known their condition to the parish officers, who are obliged immediately to admit them to the established allowance.

These poor-houses are supported by a tax paid by every housekeeper in the parish; and the amount of their revenues has been estimated at *three crores of rupees*, or £.3,000,000, annually. Notwithstanding this immense expenditure, I saw a number of beggars in London, but was told they were idle, worthless people, who preferred this mode of a life to a regular stipend. Sometimes the receipts of the Play-houses

or Opera, &c. are dedicated to charitable purposes; and such is the attention of Government to the welfare of the poor, that if any individual can devise a scheme by which they will be benefited, the Ministers lay it before Parliament, and obtain permission to appropriate *lacs* of rupees for its support.

In this city there are several hundred bankers, who have very extensive concerns all over the world. There is, however, one house vastly preeminent over all the others, which is called the *Bank of England*: it is a very massy building, and contains nearly two hundred apartments, each of which is appropriated to a particular office. The partners of this bank are numerous, and constitute a *Company*, similar to the *East-India Company*, the business of which is managed by a certain number of Di-

rectors. In this bank is lodged all public money, and all the treasure of the nation. It is said to contain not less than £.100,000,000, in specie and bullion. The profits of this Company must be immense, as they seldom pay any demand in money; and their notes, which do not bear any interest, pass current, as cash, all over the empire.

Opposite the Bank is situated another public building, called the *Exchange*, where all the merchants of the city assemble every day, to make their bargains; and where intelligence is daily brought from every part of the world, whether of a commercial or political nature.

It has been before mentioned, that the present capital is composed of three towns; called, Westminster, the City, and the

Borough. The latter is situated on the south bank of the river, and is united to the others by three handsome stone bridges, each of which is from a quarter to half a mile long. Lower down the river, at a place called Gravesend, they are constructing a very extraordinary bridge, if such it can be called. It is an iron tunnel, which is to extend from one side of the Thames * to the other, all the way under ground. It will, consequently, be quite dark; but, by the aid of lamps, horses and carriages are to pass at all hours, while ships of the greatest burthen are sailing over their heads. This appears to me one of the boldest undertakings, and will be the most surprising work of art in England, if it succeed.

* The Thames at this part is as wide as the Ganges.

All the foreign trade enters London by the Thames; but there are various canals, communicating with this river, to every part of the country, by which the internal commerce is carried on. By means of these canals, all heavy articles are conveyed from one part of the kingdom to another, at one third of the expence they could be conveyed by land; and, consequently, the proprietors are enabled to sell them at a lower price.

CHAP. XII.

Of the state of the Arts and Sciences in England. Utility of the Art of Printing. Newspapers. Facility of travelling. Price of Provisions. Hot-houses. Excellence of the British Navy. The Author gives an account of the War with Denmark. He visits Woolwich—Description of the Docks and Iron-Foundry. Account of the British Army. Grand Review at Windsor. Tower of London.

Of the inventions of Europe, the utility of which may not appear at first sight to an Asiatic, the art of printing is the most admirable. By its aid, thousands of copies, of any scientific, moral, or religious book, may be circulated among the people in a very short time; and by it, the works of

celebrated authors are handed down to posterity, free from the errors and imperfections of a manuscript. To this art the English are indebted for the humble but useful publication of *Newspapers*, without which life would be irksome to them. These are read by all ranks of people, from the prince to the beggar. They are printed daily, and sent every morning to the houses of the rich; but those who cannot afford to subscribe for one, go and read them at the coffee-rooms or public-houses. These papers give an account of every thing that is transacting, either at home or abroad: they contain a minute description of all the battles that are fought, either by sea or by land; the debates in the Houses of Parliament; the state of the crops in the country; the price of grain and all other articles; the death or birth of any great personage; and even give information, that,

on such a night, such a play will be performed, or such an actor will make his appearance.

Soon after my arrival in London, an entertainment was given at Vauxhall for the benefit of some public charity. Previous to its taking place, the managers sent me a polite message, requesting I would favour them with my company; but that, as my appearance would be attended with great benefit to the undertaking, they hoped I would excuse their not accepting any thing for my admission. As I was ever ready to assist any public charity, I agreed to go; and it was immediately inserted in the newspapers, that the *Prince Abu Taleb* would honour the gardens with his presence on the appointed night. As Vauxhall is situated on the opposite side of the river, and I had never been seen in that

part of the town, the crowd of people who assembled in the evening was greater than ever before known, and it was with much difficulty I could pass through them. Whenever I went to Court, or paid my respects to one of the Princes or ministers of state, the circumstance was always reported by the newspapers of the following day. In all these advertisements, they did me the honour of naming me *The Persian Prince*. I declare I never assumed the title; but I was so much better known by it than by my own name, that I found it in vain to contend with my godfathers*.

* *Mirza* means a Prince, but it should follow the name: prefixed, it shews the person to be a descendant of Mohammed. Some people have supposed, because the author was not a *Prince*, he was unworthy of the attention paid him: this however is a mistake; he was a Gentleman by birth, education, and employment, and a Khān (Lord) by creation.

I am convinced no country in the world affords so much facility of travelling as England. People of fortune, who travel in their own carriages, need never feel fatigue; but if a person is in a hurry, he has only to take a place in the *Mail Coach*, and may be conveyed a thousand miles in seven or eight days, well secured from all the inclemencies of the weather, and sure of a good breakfast and dinner. These carriages pay a tax to Government, and are used by people of all ranks. Although these vehicles are in use in France, and all over Europe, there is no country where the same attention is paid to the comfort and ease of the passengers as in England. I complained of the inconvenience I suffered in Ireland by the jolting of the carriage, and what I then thought the rudeness of the coachman; but after experiencing the mode of travelling in France, I was convinced my

former complaints were all groundless. This will be further explained in the sequel.

Living is very expensive in England; and a good appetite is a serious evil to a poor man. Some idea of the rate of the expence may be formed by the prices of the common articles of food. Meat of all kinds sells, upon an average, for seven-pence halfpenny a pound; bread, four pounds for fifteen-pence; and porter, five-pence a quart. Vegetables and fruit vary in their prices, according to the season of the year.

One of the greatest luxuries the English enjoy is the produce of their hot-houses. In these buildings they raise vegetables and fruit in the coldest season of the year; and the tables of the rich are covered with pine-apples, melons, and other fruits of the

torrid zone. In this instance they excel us; for none of the Emperors of Hindoostan, in all the plenitude of their power, could ever have forced a gooseberry or a cherry, two of the most common fruits in Europe, to grow in their dominions.

[Here follows a minute description of a hot-house, which is omitted.]

* * *

The great perfection to which the English have brought their navy is, doubtless, the chief cause of their prosperity, and the principal source of all their wealth. By means of their navy, they can at all times send an army to invade their enemy's country. If they succeed, it is well; if not, they can return with little loss. Their neighbours, the French, on the contrary, although they possess an innumerable army of brave

troops, cannot injure the English, who are constantly well protected by their floating batteries, which suffer not a Frenchman to pass the sea.

The wisdom and skill manifested by the English, in the construction and navigation of their vessels, with the excellent regulations for preserving the health and discipline of the crew, are beyond my powers to describe. The following instance of their coolness and dexterity may give some faint idea of their character. Lord Teignmouth informed me, that when returning from India, and during a gale of wind off the Cape of Good Hope, the mainmast of the ship was struck by lightning, which instantly set fire to the sails and rigging; and before they could extinguish the flames, the mast was burned down nearly level with the deck: but, by the activity and dexterity of the

crew, the fire was prevented from communicating with the other sails, or any other part of the ship. All this was done with so little noise and confusion, that neither he, nor any of his family, who were below deck, in the great cabin, (although it happened in the day-time) knew any thing of the matter till several hours after, when, the gale having abated, they went on deck, and observed the mast gone.

During the late war, four of the kings of Europe, viz. the sovereigns of Russia, Prussia, Denmark, and Sweden, being irritated against the English for searching their ships, from a suspicion of their having French goods on board, entered into a confederacy to punish the English navy, if they persevered in this system. They also ordered all the merchant vessels of that nation in their ports to be seized, and

prohibited the exportation of any naval stores from their countries. When this intelligence was brought to Great Britain, the generality of the people were much alarmed; but the Government shewed no apprehensions, and sent Lord Nelson, with fifty ships of war, large and small, to cruize in the North Sea, on the coasts of these four kings; and gave him orders to seize, burn, or sink, all the ships he should meet with belonging to those nations, and thus revenge the affront offered to the British flag.

Lord Nelson having proceeded with his fleet up the North Sea, arrived at the narrow entrance of the Baltic Sea. Here his passage was warmly opposed by two forts, one on the Denmark, the other on the Norway shore, assisted by several large ships moored close to the land. The English however forced the passage, and cast anchor opposite

Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark, when they commenced a dreadful fire, both on the town and on the ships in the harbour. The Danes were not deficient either in skill or bravery, and the contest was long doubtful. Many of the English ships were severely injured, and 6000 of their men killed; when, at length, the Danes sued for peace, and acknowledged Great Britain to be sovereign of the ocean. All the English merchant ships were immediately restored; and the Emperor of Russia dying very soon after, the other kings were glad to make peace, and comply with the terms of the conqueror.

VERSE.

Better is a living body, and laughing enemies,
Than a dead body, and crying friends!

In short, the British seamen look with much contempt upon the navy of all other nations, and consider them to be only fit

for tenders, or carriers of provision, for their own fleet.

In the year 1801, the number of ships of war belonging to the Royal navy was eight hundred and three, carrying from sixteen to a hundred guns each; and there was a sufficient supply of timber and marine stores in the kingdom to build as many more. Of the number of their merchant ships, He only knows, who knows all things, whether in heaven or on earth!

The service of the navy is esteemed not only very honourable, but often very lucrative; for whatever ships of the enemy are taken, whether by the fleet or by a single ship, they become the property of the captors. The only restriction is, that if the ship so taken, or its guns, are thought worthy of his Majesty's service, the king

can take them for that purpose, at a reasonable price. Thus the *Victorieux*, in which I made the voyage from Leghorn to Constantinople, was a French vessel, taken by the fleet under the command of Lord Duncan, and was purchased from the captors for a large sum of money for his Majesty's service.

In England, there are several Royal dockyards, for fitting out and repairing these ships; but the two principal ones are Portsmouth and Woolwich. The former is also a celebrated sea-port, or rendezvous of the fleets, previous to their sailing on any expedition. As it is at a considerable distance from London, I did not visit it; but, by the kindness of my friend Colonel Peach, I had an opportunity of inspecting every part of Woolwich. I there saw several large ships on the stocks; and such

stores of timber, iron, canvas, &c. that had the war continued for ten years longer, they would not have required a fresh supply. I was particularly attracted by the mode of casting the cannon-balls and shells; also by the manner of boring and shaping the exterior surface of the guns at the same time, all done by the motion of a wheel turned by a steam-engine, which so facilitated the work, that an old woman or a child might have performed the rest of the operation.

In conclusion of this subject, I think I may venture to assert, that one half of the people of England are either sailors, or in some way connected with the navy.

The British army consists of cavalry, infantry, and artillery, and is very numerous and well disciplined; but, as it is dispersed

in different parts of the empire, it is seldom that more than twenty or twenty-five thousand can be seen at one time; and this only happens when they are assembled to be reviewed either by the King or by the Commander-in-chief.

I had the good fortune to be present at one of these reviews, but found considerable difficulty in effecting it. All the troops in the vicinity of London, amounting to 25,000, having been ordered to assemble near Windsor, to be reviewed by his Majesty, Mr. Clive and I set out from London the day previous to the time appointed, and arrived at Windsor early the same evening; but so many people had come on the same errand, that we could not get any accommodation at the inns; and although we offered six guineas for the use of two beds at any private house for the night, we could

not obtain them. We wandered, for some time, up and down the town, in the greatest distress; but at length my friend recollecting that he had an acquaintance who kept a large school in the neighbourhood, we proceeded thither, and fortunately reached the house just as the family were going to supper. The worthy schoolmaster received us most hospitably; and having directed four of his boys to sleep in two beds, he gave us their vacant ones.

Next morning, after breakfast, we proceeded on horseback to the parade, where we found an immense multitude of spectators assembled. I can safely aver there were five thousand carriages, filled, both in the inside and on the tops, with handsome women, dressed in their best attire. During the whole of my residence in Europe, I never saw so much beauty assembled as on *that* day.

The troops were drawn up in a circle, into the middle of which the King, attended by the Princes and general officers, rode. His Majesty was first welcomed by a discharge of cannon from each brigade, after which he was saluted by all the troops with their muskets. They then broke into columns, and marched past the Duke of York in grand divisions. I was lucky enough to obtain a station near his Royal Highness, opposite to whom a select band of music, belonging to the third regiment of Guards, was drawn up, and played some of the most charming tunes and melodious pieces of music I ever heard. It was nearly four o'clock before all the troops had passed the Commander-in-chief: we therefore hurried back to London as soon as the review was over, not wishing either to sleep on the road, or again to annoy our friends at the school.

The *Horse Races* at Newmarket annually occasion a vast assemblage of people; but as that diversion may be seen in Calcutta, I pass it over.

The object most worthy of visiting, in or near London, is, I think, the fort commonly called the Tower. By the introduction of my friend Colonel Brathwaite, I was permitted to see every part of this fortress. Immediately on my entrance, I was conducted to the Royal Menagery, where I was shewn lions, tigers, panthers, and some other savage animals which had been chiefly brought from Africa, but of whose names I had never before heard. We then proceeded to the Jewel Office, where they exhibited to us the crown, the mace, and all the coronation jewels, both of the King and Queen: amongst these were a ruby and an emerald, each of which

cost ten lacs of rupees (£. 125,000), and a number of valuable diamonds and other precious stones. During this exhibition we were locked up in the room, although all the articles were well secured by glass-cases and iron gratings. We afterwards went to the Armoury, in the yard of which were lying an innumerable quantity of cannon of all sizes: two of these were each twenty-five feet long. The room under the armoury was a quarter of a mile in length, and said to contain bridles, saddles, harness, and other equipments for 60,000 cavalry and artillery horses. The armoury is seven hundred paces long: in it are disposed, in a very curious and beautiful manner, muskets, bayonets, halberds, swords, and pistols, sufficient for an army of 120,000 men. At one end of the room is an apartment containing the statues of eighteen of the Kings of England, on horse-

back, with all the armour which they were accustomed to wear in their life-time; and, in fact, they looked as if still prepared for battle: each horse has also his groom attending him.

The armour which is here preserved is of a very ancient date, and is not composed of chains, like that of Hindoostan, but each limb has a complete piece of iron to cover it, and the whole fits the body as exactly as a suit of clothes: there is also a mask for the face, and iron gloves with joints at the knuckles, so that a person may even write in them. They assert that, formerly, the kings wore this armour the whole day, and never took it off but when they wished to sleep.

END OF VOL. I.

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