

both of them persons of mean extraction, and that he was born at Palermo on the 8th of June, 1743. His father happening to die during his infancy, his maternal uncles took him under their protection, endeavoured to instruct him in the principles of religion, and give him an education suitable to his years and their own situations but from his earliest infancy he is said to have shewn himself so averse to a virtuous course of life, that he would not remain at the seminary of St. Roch at Palermo, where he had been placed for his instruction.

At thirteen years of age he was sent to a convent at Castagironc, where he assumed the habit of a novice, and being placed under the tuition of the apothecary, he learned from him the first principles of chemistry and medicine. He did not continue long in this asylum: during his stay, however, if we are to put implicit confidence in his right reverend biographers, he exhibited so many new symptoms of a vicious character, that the religious were often under the necessity of chastising him. "It is recorded, among other things, that being employed to read during meals, as is customary in all holy communities, he could never be prevailed upon to recite what appeared in the book before him, but, on the contrary, he would repeat whatever occurred to his own imagination: nay, he has even confessed, that in reading the martyrology, he used to substitute the names of the most famous courtezans of the times, instead of those of the female saints!"

Having soon after abandoned his convent on account of the rigour of its discipline, and the severe mortification he was exposed to, the friar-elect returned to Palermo. There he was frequently seized and imprisoned on account of his conduct, and at length was forced to fly from the place of his nativity, on account of having duped a goldsmith of the name of Morano, out of about sixty pieces of gold, by taking advantage of his avarice. The exasperated jeweller not only applied to a magistrate for justice, but also threatened to revenge his wrongs by means of his *stiletto*, and to avoid these impending calamities, Cagliostro thought proper to withdraw himself from his vengeance.

We shall not follow this celebrated adventurer through the several capitals of Europe, nor recapitulate the various deceptions by which he procured immense sums of money. His connexion with Cardinal de Rohan, and with Madame de la Motte, in the memorable affair of the diamond-necklace purchased in the name of the Queen of France, his two journies to England, and his tricking a quaker, during his residence in London, out of a sum of money by the agency of his wife, are all detailed at full length. The secrets too of his Egyptian masonry, and his successful impositions by means of a pretended intercourse with the *world of spirits*, are related and commented upon.

After committing a multitude of frauds in various kingdoms, and escaping from the hand of justice in almost every capital of Europe, Cagliostro at length, by uncommon fatality, was arrested in his career, and condemned to death in the only metropolis, perhaps, in which he could not have been convicted of a breach of the moral obligations that connect man with society. Having repaired to Rome in 1789, he endeavoured to procure disciples, and even instituted a lodge of Egyptian masonry. The papal government, jealous of its authority, and terrified, lest this association should plot against the safety of the ecclesiastical state, ordered him to be seized on the