

# THE INSTRUCTOR.

No. XXXIX.]

MONTREAL, JANUARY 30, 1836

[Price 2s.]

## MISCELLANEOUS.

### ANECDOTE OF THE PRINCESS OF WALES.

'If ever on thy eyelid stood the tear  
That pity had engendered, drop one here!'

Her royal highness, the Princess of Wales, mother of George the Third, soon after her arrival in England, being accustomed to peruse the daily newspapers, perceived in one of them, December, 1742, the following advertisement:—

'A man who has served his country bravely, by a very peculiar circumstance of misfortune, reduced to the extremest distress. He has a family, too, who are deeply involved in his fate. This intelligence will be sufficient to those who can feel, and who can relieve. Such persons may be more particularly informed of his past misfortune, and may be witnesses of his present, by calling at'—

The benevolent princess was struck with this advertisement, and she resolved to see the miserable man who advertised. In a simple morning dress, and in a common chair, to avoid the public eye, she set out about noon; a lady, who was her favorite and companion, walked slowly behind her. They eluded all observation, and arrived at the appointed place.

The direction led them up two pair of stairs to a little apartment, which they entered. A woman, whose ghastly features expressed at once poverty and sickness, lay stretched on a forlorn bed, without curtains, and circled in her arms a female child, whose closed eyes seemed sealed up with death, & whose face outdid her mother's in marks of want and despair. A tall and graceful man sat before a fire, having on his knee a boy wrapped in a shaggy petticoat: over whom he hung his head and gazed upon him with looks of affection and anguish. All this was seen in a twinkling of an eye. Her highness stopped short, drew close to her companion, and

clasped her in her arms, as she had suddenly entered this mansion of horror. The man, starting from his chair, placed the child by the side of its hapless mother, advanced gracefully towards the ladies, and begged of them to sit down. Her highness, opening her lips for the first time, said, 'With all my heart.'

The scene that ensued surpasses all description. Hope and expectation sat trembling on the parents' eyes, while sensibility and pity beamed from the royal visitor's features, and diffused over all her countenance a graceful sorrow and dejection.

The attending lady disclosed their business. They had read his advertisement, she said, and were desirous of receiving the information which it promised. The man thanked them for their humanity, and proceeded to relate his story. His voice was good, his style was simple, and he spoke with precision, fluency and grace.

He informed her royal highness of the whole of his misfortunes. He had been an ensign in a marching regiment, which was then in Germany. A knot of these military cocknobs, with which every regiment is crowded, had conceived a pique against him, for being braver and more sensible than themselves. One of these hotheaded youths had sent him a challenge, on a very frivolous pretence, which, from motives of duty and honour, he refused to accept. Pretences were drawn from this, and combinations were formed, to insult and ruin him. They represented him to the chief commander as a coward, a slanderer and a bad officer. His conduct was inquired into, and overpowered by numbers he was broken for crimes he never committed. After this, he set out immediately with his little family for England, to lay his case before the secretary of war, and to implore justice: but having no powerful friend to introduce him into the war-office, the secretary would not listen to his complaints. This put a period to his hopes. His wife was then seized with sickness, and being destitute of