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THE VALLEY AND RIVER PLATTE.

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No. V.

(Dis) advantages of a written character—The "grave" as a place of amusement—Where the Missionaries (don't) go.

THERE is something about a written character which at once commends it to universal favor. There is no beating about the bush in its assertions: its directness fairly reaches the senses of the most obtuse or incredulous. When it says that John Smith has built up for himself a character for integrity as unblemished as that of any of the patriarchs, it evidently means it; though, probably, the man who wrote it did not mean any such thing, and when it says that the same party excels all others in his vocation, it may mean all this or anything else down to mediocrity. If it says J. S. is an arrant rogue and scoundrel, it is generally taken at its word; but if the aforesaid gentleman can read it, it is not likely to do him much harm. We like to see a man present one of these documents. We have a criterion of our own by which to go in estimating the truth of the assertions contained therein, though, be it understood, we do not by any means attempt to say that such a thing is altogether unreliable and useless. The man who comes up to us with an air of irresistible self-importance, who gazes at us with an air intensely patronizing, and a benignity which is calculated to make us feel our inferiority, and then presents to us a paper containing a list of his manifold virtues, at the same time soliciting our good offices, we at once put down as considerably