

## Curiosities.

### AN AUTHENTIC DOG STORY.

Sir Harry Lee, of Dickey, in Oxfordshire, ancestor of the late earls of Lichfield, had a mastiff which guarded the house and yard, but had never met with the least particular attention from his master, and was retained for his utility only, and not from any particular regard. One night, as his master was retiring to his chamber, attended by his *faithful* valet, an Italian, the mastiff silently followed him up stairs, which he had never been known to do before, and, to his master's astonishment, presented himself in his bedroom. Being deemed an intruder, he was instantly ordered to be turned out, which being complied with, the poor animal began scratching violently at the door, and howling loudly for admission. The servant was sent to drive him away. Discouragement could not check his intended labour of love, or rather, providential impulse; he returned again, and was more importunate than before to be let in. Sir Harry weary of opposition, bade the servant open the door, that they might see what he wanted to do. This done, the mastiff, with a wag of his tail, and a look of affection to his lord, deliberately walked up, and crawling under the bed, laid himself down, as if desirous to take up his night's lodgings there. To save further trouble, but not from any partiality for his company, this indulgence was allowed. About the solemn hour of midnight the chamber door opened, and a person was heard stepping across the room. Sir Harry started from his sleep; the dog sprang from his covert, and, seizing the unwelcome disturber, led him to the spot? All was dark; and Sir Harry rang his bell in great expectation, in order to procure a light. The person who was pinned to the floor by the courageous mastiff, roared for assistance. It was found to be the valet who little expected such a reception. He endeavoured to apologize for his intrusion, and to make the reasons which induced him to take this step appear plausible. But the importunity of the dog, the time, the place,

the manner of the valet, all raised suspicions in Sir Harry's mind, and he determined to refer the investigation of the business to a magistrate. The perfidious Italian, alternately terrified by the dread of punishment, and soothed with the hopes of pardon, at length confessed that it was his intention to murder his master, and then rob the house. This diabolical design was frustrated only by the instinctive attachment of the dog to his master, which seemed to have been directed on this occasion by the interference of Providence. How else could the poor animal know the meditated assassination? How else could he have learned to submit to injury and insult for his well-meant services, and finally seize and detain a person, who, it is probable, had shown him more kindness than his owner had ever done? It may be impossible to reason on such a topic, but the facts are indisputable. A full-length picture of Sir Harry, with the mastiff by his side, and the words, "More faithful than favored," are still to be seen at the family-seat at Ditchley, and are a lasting monument of the gratitude of the master, the ingratitude of the servant, and the fidelity of the dog.

THE ADULTERATION OF TEA. — The *London Lancet* gives the result of the microscopical and chemical analysis of forty-eight samples of tea.

Of the 24 specimens of black tea analyzed, every one was found to be *genuine*. Of a like number green teas, *all were adulterated*. The adulterations are mainly a colouring matter with which the tea-leaf is faced, painted or glazed. Ferrocyanide of iron or Prussian blue is the article most commonly used for this purpose. Sometimes, however, indigo, kaolin or China clay, and turmeric powder were found in addition. That species of tea which is denominated gunpowder, was adulterated in other ways by admixture with leaves not those of tea, with paddy husk, and particularly with "lie tea," so called, a leaf which resembles the tea leaf closely, and is sent to this country from China in vast quantities, to be employed in ad-