

POETRY.

CUPID DEFEATED.

'Twas a beautiful night in the month of May,
When moonbeams lay in the flower bed sleeping,
And glittering dew on each leaflet lay,
And the earth shone forth like a young maid weeping.

THE NOVELIST.

A RECRUIT IN LISBON.

The Christmas holidays had been rapidly passing away at my father's house in Somersetshire, and I was in a state of miserable anxiety, looking forward to the arrival of the day, which was to call me back to a school I most mortally detested, when my parent after an hour's meditation, broke silence with the following speech:—"Tom," said he, "I have been thinking...

in a female en deshabille, I recognised my charmer, who said, in a trembling voice, that she had some very wicked scandalous neighbours, and therefore begged me not to appear in the street, but to retire for an hour or two, when I might return. That she was lodging alone with the exception of her domestics, and that if I liked, we could sup together. Highly delighted with this proposition, I tenderly kissed the hand which was extended towards me, requesting at the same time the honour of being allowed to furnish our meal. This I had been informed was a custom in foreign countries. That is not at all necessary, replied the lady, but as you may not prefer those things which I have provided, you must do as you please. Overjoyed at this additional proof of her affection, I took my leave, for fear of exciting the suspicion of such wicked scandalous neighbours as unfortunately lived in the street, and ordered, from the nearest hotel, a magnificent supper, with four bottles of the best wine, and the finest fruits that could be procured, to be sent to the lady's house at nine o'clock, at which time I also presented myself.

He was a decided enemy to a permanent army in time of peace, and used his utmost efforts to have it disbanded. He was also opposed to the excise laws. The corporation rewarded his diligence, as well as that of his colleague, Mr. John Ramsden, by an occasional present of a cask of ale.—In 1665, we find Marvell attending Parliament at Oxford, where he began to correspond with his constituents almost every post. Many of his letters, written after this period, have been preserved, and are curious for their historical and parliamentary information. It would appear, that the mysteries of political economy were just as puzzling to the agriculturists of those days as they continue to be to the landowners of our own time. The cry has always been with them, "The rents are falling—we must do something to keep them up." And so, in their consummate wisdom, they passed a law to prohibit the importation of Irish cattle! There certainly were some practical legislators in the Commons at that time; for Sir John Pritiman, member for Leicester, having been suspended from his seat for a breach of privilege, and having been sent for to the Speaker's chamber to receive sentence upon his knees at the bar, it was found that he had effected his escape by the back door. The door was forthwith ordered to be nailed up for the future! A bill was passed making all the conventicles riots; and a penalty of five shillings was directed to be imposed on all those who took part in them, and who refused to tell their names. If they were not able to pay the five shillings, it was provided, that they should "work it out" in the House of Correction!

SELECTIONS.

ANOTHER PORT.—It is well known that gentlemen of the Lower House are in the habit of sleeping at their posts. One evening, during the debate upon the reform bill, Mr. —, the Irish Member, laid himself off, as usual, to repose. On awaking from a refreshing slumber, he inquired, of the Irish Secretary, who sat next to him, "Stanley, my dear boy, what are they at now?" "Milborne Port, Sir," replied Mr. S.—"Did you say Milborne Port? Is it Milborne Port, then?" said the member; "Sure I have tasted Southampton port, and Tawny port, and curiously crusted port; but the devil a bit of me ever heard of Milborne Port till this blessed moment, sure?"—World of Fashion.

ROYAL CRUELTY.—The following story, which is stated in a history of King Ferdinand, by Colonel Rotale, now in the press, can hardly be credited. Ferdinand and his wife, the Queen, were one day in the park, and Ferdinand, whilst pretending to play with him, caused him to be fastened to a ball, in which were small pins stuck in various directions, and then covered them over with paste. The unhappy dog swallowed the fatal ball, when the Prince of Asturias, holding in his hand a piece of twine, to which he had attached the ball, began to draw it upwards. The dog uttered piteous cries. The Queen ran to his aid, and the young wretch, redoubling his efforts, caused a portion of the intestines of the animal to attach to the pins, and drew it through his throat.

THE SULTAN AND THE PACHA OF EGYPT.—The war between these two parties, according to certain current accounts of the genealogy of the two princes, is a war between uncle and nephew. The Egyptian Pacha is said to be, by birth, a Frenchman of St. Domingo, who, with his sister, was taken by the Algerines, at an early age, and both being sold as slaves, the female, who was beautiful, was purchased by the Sultan then reigning, became his favorite, and gave birth to the present ruler of the Turkish empire. Through her influence her brother was raised from post to post, till by a course of promotion, of which there are abundant examples in the East the poor captive became, at last, nominally Pacha, but, in fact, really sovereign of Egypt! Such is the account which we have from a friend long in the Levant, and with good opportunities for being well informed.—Scotsman.

CURIOUS MODE OF PUNISHING A MURDERER.—Sir George Staunton visited a man in India, who had committed a murder, and in order not only to save his life, but what was of much more consequence, his caste, he submitted to the penalty imposed; which was, that he should sleep seven years on a bedstead without a mattress, the whole surface of which was studded with points of iron, resembling nails, but not so sharp as to penetrate the flesh. Sir George saw him in the fifth year of his probation, and his skin was then like the hide of the rhinoceros, but more callous; at that time, however, he could sleep comfortably on his "bed of thorns," and remarked, that at the expiration of the term, he should most probably continue that system from choice, which had been obliged to adopt from necessity.—Penn Magazine.

PARLIAMENT.—The present for the year 1830, has been a most unproductive one, never being any decided step upon measures of importance without previously consulting his constituents. He was indisputably in his attendance, and in reporting to the corporation the debates which took place.

THE EFFECTS OF LITIGATION.—A century ago there resided in Iniskea two persons who were remarkable for superior opulence, and had become the envy and wonder of their poorer neighbours. Their wealth consisted of a flock sheep, when unfortunately, some trifling dispute occurring between them, a dissolution of partnership was resolved upon.—To divide the flock, one would suppose, was not difficult, and they proceeded to portion the flock accordingly. They possessed 101 sheep; 50 fell to each proprietor, but the odd one—how was it to be disposed of? Neither would part with his moiety to the other, and after a long and angry negotiation, the sheep was left in common property between them. Although the season had not come round when sheep are usually shorn, one of the proprietors, requiring wool for a pair of stockings, proposed that the fleece should be taken off. This was resisted by his co-partner, and the point was finally settled by shearing one side of the animal. Only a few days after, the sheep was found dead in a deep ditch; one party ascribed the accident to the cold feelings of the animal having urged him to seek shelter in the fatal trench; while the other contended that the wool remaining upon one side had caused the wether to lose his equilibrium, and that thus the melancholy catastrophe was occasioned.—The parties went to law directly, and the expenses of the suit actually devoured the produce of the entire stock, and reduced both to a state of utter beggary. Their descendants are pointed out to this day, as being the poorest of the community, and litigants are frequently warned to avoid the fate of "Mailey and Malone."—Wild Sports of the West.

ABSENCE OF MIND.—A ludicrous example of this kind of absurdity is told of Mr. K—, a courtier in the reign of George the Third.—This personage, who is said to have been the most absent man in the three kingdoms, went one birth-night to White's coffee-house, Saint James's, full dressed, except his stockings which he accidentally discovered in consequence of spilling some hot coffee upon his legs; he immediately sent the waiter to bring him a pair of white silk stockings, expressing his astonishment at the inadvertency he had committed, and congratulating himself on having so fortunately found it out. The stockings being brought to him, he put them both on one leg, and went to court.

CONSCIENCE.—Mr. —, who always indulges himself in speaking unceremoniously to persons of the highest rank, said the other day to a certain Marquis, "What answer can you give to the populace who so justly complain of your endeavours to trample on their rights?" "None," said the Marquis—"I clothe myself in the mantle of my conscience." "Then your lordship wears very light clothing this cold weather," rejoined the other.—Magazine of the Beau Monde.

A FURIOUS WIFE.—A tradesman and his wife having had a bitter quarrel, in order to appease their fury they threw all their portable furniture out of the window. The wife then drew the bed to the window, ripped the tickings, and set all the feathers afloat in the air, then rushing to the balusters of the stairs and breaking her arm upon them, exclaimed with an insane energy, "Now you are a cuckold, you must pay for a surgeon!"—Records of my Life, by the late John Taylor.

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