

not here necessarily designate the native country of the writer or speaker who employs them. I have heard even from the Bench in our courts of law, some of the most uncouth occasionally adopted.

The following little story in No. XVIII, though conveying in other words the trite admonitions that have been addressed to the indolent, and those who procrastinate whatever does not press upon their immediate attention, in all ages, is no bad illustration of them, and is a fair specimen of the work.

“Travelling in a retired part of the country I once happened to be caught in a sudden shower of rain, at a distance from an inn, and took shelter in a poor unfinished house, standing by the side of the road. The owner, who appeared to be indolent, and somewhat infirm, but possessed of a degree of shrewdness and humour, received me with a hearty welcome, and apologized for the leaky state of his house. It lacked, he said, half a dozen shingles upon the roof, near the ridge, where the rain, for the want of those few shingles, came through, and dripped down, to the injury of the furniture, and the annoyance of the family. He had for a long time, intended to make the necessary repair, but had not yet effected it. When it rained, he always resolved to attempt it, as soon as the rain should be over. But, when the weather became fair, he was no longer sensible of any immediate occasion for it; and, as it could be done at any time, it passed out of his mind, until another storm revived his recollection, and renewed the determination, which he had thus often formed, and as often forgotten.

“In short, sir, added the old man, when I suffer for the want of it, I can not do the work, without great inconvenience; and when I can conveniently do it, I never feel the want of it.

“This whimsical account of the operations of his mind made a strong impression upon mine; and I oftenthink of it, when I see persons of my acquaintance resolve, and forget, and then re-resolve, to perform some necessary, but unpleasant or laborious, act of duty.

“If a man’s finances are as leaky as the roof of the country-man’s house, the sunshine of good fortune may render him too warm and comfortable to be mindful of it, and the