

"of enjoying in my European travels. But I detain you; the dinner bell rings."

The heavens still presented the same changeless mass of vapour; the rain still poured down; but the heaviness of the atmosphere did not yet sink the temperament within doors. We dined with more than our usual liberality of spirits; for strangers had arrived just as we sat to table, a circumstance that never fails to increase our good humour. Assuredly there is not a spot on the globe where curiosity is more boundless or more good-naturally tolerated than at the Springs. There appears to exist a tacit understanding that the visitors established are privileged to enquire into the particular objects the visitors arriving have in view—whether for health or enjoyment? If for the latter, it is all very well; enquiry ceases, and they are warmly welcomed; but if a halting gait, defective sight, or any other symptom, proclaims an invalid, what a sensation is created! Scarcely has the stranger been divested of his travelling costume, when he is assailed by some blandly-toned questioner, who, with a most sympathetic countenance, enquires into the nature of his sufferings, the time he proposes staying, the kind and quantity of water recommended, and so on. A group perhaps gathers round, looking so interested and full of compassion, that the person might fancy he had suddenly encountered so many ministering angels, eager to assuage his sufferings; or, as these investigations sometimes take place at table, knives and forks are arrested in their busy progress; some benevolently offer their opinions; with admonitory hints regarding regimen; whilst the luxurious fare that fills the board is any thing but calculated to encourage a neophyte in abstinence. This gratuitous advice is usually followed up, by initiating the stranger in the local customs—such as the especial hour for rising, the precise moment the different mineral impregnations may be taken with the most salutary effect, the time that must elapse between each engurgulating process, &c. &c.—This kindly interest, manifested by persons seen for the first time, is generally taken in a friendly spirit; a consciousness, perhaps awakened by present suffering, that all are alike subject to the same infirmities—that all, all are doomed to the same penalty of mortal pain—subdues the fastidious pride, that, in another place, might resent such freedom as impertinence.

The strangers last arrived were two military gentlemen, from their regiment stationed at Kingston; very agreeable young men. They did not escape the ordeal of the friendly inquisition I have just noticed; though it was obvious a more deferential tone was assumed, and a greater de-

gree of tact brought into play, to obtain their confidence than was deemed at all necessary to use towards civilians. But this little *finesse*, or compliment to their inferred knowledge of the world, was quite superfluous. The gallant officers entered at once into the humour of the place: they answered frankly, and, in their turn, questioned freely. In half an hour they were as much at home as if they had been born there, and were surrounded by the friends and acquaintances of their boyhood. To say the truth, curiosity is not the only moral faculty that expands in this favoured region. Generosity, mirthfulness, harmony, and all those delightful hues of the intellectual economy that comprise a disposition to diffuse happiness—attain to exquisite perfection. Shadows sometimes flit across the pleasant scene, in the shape of a cross-grained, irritable invalid; or darker still, in the guise of a would-be exclusive, who glances disdain around; but a few days usually softens the acerbity of the one, and removes the silly conceit of the other. This partial restoration of the golden age, so different from my experience of other small communities, has led me into fanciful speculations as to the cause. I have almost convinced myself that the atmosphere possesses some active principle, as favourable to the healthful powers of the mind, and inimical to its distempers, as the waters are to the disorders of the physical frame. Whether I succeed in winning others to adopt my theory or not, is a matter of minor importance, since my failing to do so will not diminish the pleasures that result from health, mirth and good-breeding.

AN HONEST MEANS OF GETTING A LIVING.

THERE seem to be but three ways for a nation to acquire wealth; the first is by war, as the Romans did, in plundering their conquered neighbours—this is robbery; the second by commerce, which is generally cheating; the third by agriculture, the only honest way, wherein a man receives a real increase of the seed thrown into the ground, in a kind of continual miracle, wrought by the hand of God in his favour, as a reward for his innocent life and his virtuous industry.—*Franklin*.

A BROKEN FORTUNE.

OWN finely compares a broken fortune to a falling column; the lower it sinks, the greater weight it is obliged to sustain. Thus, when a man's circumstances are such, that he has no occasion to borrow, he finds numbers willing to lend him; but should his wants be such, that he sees for a trille, it is two to one whether he may be trusted with the smallest sum.—*Goldsmith*.