

nutriment sufficient for its growth) cut off the bud of the spur from a young cock, and, having previously made an incision, with his lancet inserted it in the comb. The expectation was fully answered; the spur, in a short time, began to grow in its new situation, and in due time attained the same proportion, which would have belonged to it upon the legs, and presented the curious spectacle of a cock, with a horn absolutely growing on the fore part of his head.

It is however to be observed, that the transplanted spur, though it attained the proportion, never assumed the consistency, belonging to it in its natural situation, but always continued of rather a soft texture. This perhaps, in some degree arose from

the different kinds and degrees of nutriment, conveyed to the superior and anterior parts of the animal; and partly in all probability, from its not being exposed to those habits and accidents, to which the legs of birds may in some degree be indebted for their hardness and comparative insensibility.

The writer of this article has inspected the head of the cock, which was separated from the trunk when it was killed, at about two years old, and which is preserved in spirits in the Museum, at St. Thomas'; and the only apparent difference between the spur, and one growing in its natural situation, is that it is a little more incurvated (owing perhaps to its softer texture) hanging forward toward the beak.

ON PARENTAL COERCION IN THE CHOICE OF A HUSBAND.

[From the *Universal Magazine*.]

I HAVE read with painful satisfaction the judicious observations, (signed C. W.) in your Magazine for July last, on the sordid source of that parental tyranny, which sacrifices the peace and real interests of the young and helpless part of our sex, at the shrines of family pride and pecuniary convenience.

In the sentiments contained in that essay I feel, unhappily, a peculiar interest. Cursed with the envied misery of imputed beauty, and arrayed in the splendid mockery of exterior accomplishments; the reputed darling of vain and unfeeling parents, by whom, from my childhood, I have been singled out as the victim, whose person, whose feelings, whose freedom of election (the dearest prerogative of a rational being!) whose sense of delicacy, of rectitude, of virtue—in short, whose every thing that is dear and sacred, might one day be the aggrandizement of their family, I am now even decorated and bound for the detestable sacrifice; and no choice is left me, but of submitting with sullen reluctance to a fate more dreadful than persecution, wounds, and death, or of exposing myself, by my refusal, to the certain alternative, of being banished, for ever, from the pale of relative protection and regard; and, unused and uninstructed as I am to encounter the hardships and difficulties of life, to seek that support through the rude and unsheltered deserts of an unfeeling world, which in the security and affluence of parental indulgence, I have hitherto enjoyed.

In short, sir, I am the second daughter of a gentleman of tolerable fortune; but whose family is so large as to enable him only to make a small though competent provision for his children. As it pleased heaven that I should be unhappily distinguished, even in my infant years, by such graces both of face and symmetry as were peculiarly gratifying to the vanity of my parents, every care was taken to foster and improve these advantages, and to heighten their lustre by all the attractions of dress, refinement and accomplishments; especially, as I was found particularly apt at every attainment of that nature: so that, while the rest of the family were carefully instructed in every branch of domestic duty, which could fit them to move in a private sphere, to which their expectations were directed, I was carefully secluded from every occupation of the kind, lest the delicate softness of my hand should be injured, or my smooth wrist should lose its polished turn.

All these marks of distinction, though at first sufficiently flattering to my childish vanity, have long been the unfailling source of my most cruel vexations: for as it was not natural to expect that my sisters should regard without envy the difference so unjustly made, or pursue their domestic occupations with content, while I was sporting among the keys of a harpsichord, attending to the instructions of a dancing master, or consulting my looking-glass upon the important choice of the ribband, best accommodated to my features and complexion