

ELLEN—THE MINSTREL MAID.

BY GILES M'QUIGGIN.

I saw her when a beautiful bride,
And lovelier lass than she,
Ne'er wandered on Ben Cruiban's side,
Or sported by the sea.
Her locks were like the golden hues,
That paint the sunset sky;
And few to dare the frown would choose
Of her dark hazel eye.
And many a lad that loved her well,
At evening often strayed
In hopes of meeting on the dell,
Fair Ellen, the minstrel maid.

'Twas rosy summer when she wed,
Young Clem of Thistlevale;
And fairer flow'r was never led
From Cruiban's fragrant dale.
And ere the month of love was told,
Or flowers ceased to bloom,
The husband of her youth was cold,
And covered in the tomb.
Since then in weeds of widowhood,
All modestly arrayed,
Doth wander through the heath and wood,
Poor Ellen, the minstrel maid.

CHAPTER OF ANECDOTES.

A SINGULAR WAGER.—The year 1725 was extremely rainy, and a banker, named Bulliot, (remarking that it rained on Swithin's day, and remembering the popular superstition that if it rained on that day, each of the following forty days would be more or less wet; and it having rained also on the day of St. Gervais, who has likewise the reputation of being a hydraulic saint,) laid a wager that it would be wet for forty consecutive days. Several persons took it up and the wager was reduced to writing in those terms: "If, dating from St. Gervais day, it rains more or little during forty successively, Bulliot will be considered to have gained; if it cease to rain for only one day during that time, Bulliot has lost." On these terms, Bulliot betted against all who presented themselves, and on that day he deposited a very large sum of money; for, besides the sums which he put into the hands of the umpires, he took gold-head canes, snuff-boxes, and jewels of every kind, whose value was appraised, and against which he placed money. It is said, that one person, having no ready money betted on a lot of fine Holland shirts, and that Bulliot accepted the gage. This wager made a great deal of noise and as the chances were decidedly against Bulliot, many people accepted the conditions, and were underwritten by Bulliot; but as he had deposited all his cash, he was forced to give the umpires notes and bills of exchange; and as his credit was well established, it is related that he issued paper to the amount of fifty thousand crowns. It will be conceived that the hero of this wager became quite fashionable; and that, during the time that elapsed before the development of the affair, he excited as much interest and curiosity as would have been felt for a monarch or a warrior. Whenever he appeared, he attracted universal attention; and he became so popular, that he was made the subject of a play. But unfortunately, Saint Gervais was not true to his character, and it ceased raining before the expiration of the due time. Bulliot was ruined, and so thoroughly, that he could not honour the notes and bills of exchange which bore his name. The holders of these obligations tried to enforce payment; and as the ancient law as well as the new code, did not recognise debts of this character, they endeavoured to pass themselves off as bona fide creditors, who had taken Bulliot's notes for other considerations than the wager, and that they ought to be paid or compounded for; but the assignees made it appear by the dates and other evidence, that all these notes formed parcel of the wager. They were, therefore, non-suited, and the debt declared irrecoverable."

AN INGENUOUS ARGUMENT.—Athanasius Kircher, the astronomer, had an acquaintance, whose character he esteemed, but who was unfortunately infected by atheistical principles, and denied the existence of a God. Kircher, sincerely desirous of rescuing his friend from his foolish and criminal prejudice, determined, upon his own private invitation, to convince him of his error. Having invited his friend to visit him, he procured a celestial globe of immense decorations and conspicuous magnitude, which he placed in his apartment where it would be under his immediate observation. It happened exactly as Kircher had intended. His friend immediately inquired whence it came, and to whom it belonged. "Not to me," said Kircher, "nor was it ever made by any person, but came to me by mere chance." "That," replied the atheist, "is impossible, you jest." Kircher, however, persisted in

his assertion, and thus proceeded to reason with his friend: "You will not believe that this small body originated in chance, and yet you will contend that those heavenly bodies, of which it is only a faint and diminutive resemblance came into existence without order and design." His friend was first confounded, then convinced, and ultimately united in acknowledging the glory, and adoring the majesty, of the great Creator of the heavens and the earth, the Governor, because the Creator of the universe.

THE COAT OF MAIL.—Napoleon was accustomed to wear a coat of mail under his clothes, and which he rarely went without. On his departure for Belgium he thought it best to guard against those dangers with which he was threatened—having all Europe leagued against him—by every means in his power. He accordingly sent for a clever workman, and asked if he thought himself competent to make a coat of mail of such texture that no weapons whatever could penetrate. On the artificer answering in the affirmative, Bonaparte agreed to give him 18,000 francs the sum asked. On the day fixed, the man brought his work to the palace. Napoleon quickly examined it, and ordered the workman to put it on himself. The man obeyed. Napoleon then took two pistols, saying, "We shall now see if this coat of mail is of the texture you promised me." He fired at his breast; the cuirass resisted. "Turn round." The man obeyed. The second ball struck his back, and with the same result. The poor artificer, half dead with fright, thought these trials would be sufficient, but he was mistaken in his calculation. Bonaparte next armed himself with a long fowling-piece, and made the same experiment on the shoulders, back and breast of the trembling patient. Happily the cuirass resisted, and saved the inventor from so cruel a trial. "How much am I to pay you," said Napoleon, "after this noble exploit?" "Eighteen thousand francs," stammered out the frightened artificer, almost deprived of his senses. "No such thing, sir," said Napoleon. "I shall give you thirty-six thousand," and gave an order on his treasurer for that amount.

THE THREE MARRIAGES.—A late minister of religion in Worcestershire, used to relate the following anecdote of one of his friends, who had been three times married. The unfortunate speculator in matrimony had married "for his first wife a very worldly avaricious woman who grasped at every thing, and never was satisfied. The second was a corpulent, easy, dirty, quiet soul, always in good humour, and satisfied with every thing; the last was a most violent termagant who rendered his life miserable whilst she lived. The good old man upon reviewing his past life used to observe, "my friends, I have had variety enough in the conjugal relation, and may literally say, I have married the world, the flesh, and the devil."

JOHNSON AND GOLDSMITH, "While at supper on one occasion, *tete-a-tete*, at Jack's coffee-house, Dean-street, Soho, on rumps and kidneys, Johnson observed, "Sir these rumps are pretty little things, but then a man must eat a great many of them before he fills his belly." "Aye, but," said Goldsmith, "how many of these would reach to the moon?" "To the moon! ay, sir, I fear that exceeds your calculation." "Not at all, sir," says Goldsmith, "I think I could tell." "Pray, then, let us hear." "Why, one if it were long enough." Johnson growled at this reply for some time, but at last recollecting himself, "Well, sir, I have deserved it; I should not have provoked so foolish an answer by so foolish a question."

CARD.

DR. RUFUS S. BLACK, having completed his Studies at the Universities of Edinburgh and Paris, intends practising his profession in its various branches in Halifax and its vicinity.

Residence for the present, at Mr. M. G. Black's, Corner of George and Hollis Streets.

Advice to the Poor, gratis. Sw. July 8.

HENRY G. HILL,
Builder and Draughtsman.

RESPECTFULLY informs his friends and the public, that he has discontinued the Cabinet business, and intends to devote his time exclusively to

PLAIN AND ORNAMENTAL BUILDING.

He begs to offer his grateful acknowledgments to those who have hitherto patronised him, and now offers his services as an Architect, Draughtsman and Builder, and will be prepared to furnish accurate working plans, elevations and specifications for buildings of every description, and trusts by strict attention to business to insure a share of public patronage.

Residence, nearly opposite Major McColla's Carpenter's shop—Argyle-street. June 10.

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June 8, 1837.—Sw.

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June 10. 6sq.

J. MUNRO.

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ACADEMY.

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BEGS leave to notify to his friends and the public, that he has opened an Academy in

Brunswick-Street, opposite the New Methodist Chapel, where he intends instructing youth of both sexes, in the following branches of education, viz. Orthography, Reading, Writing, English Grammar, Arithmetic, and Mathematics, generally. Likewise, Maritime and Land Surveying, Geometry, Trigonometry, Navigation, and the Italian and modern methods of Book-keeping by double entry. The strictest attention will be paid to the morals and advancement of such pupils as may be committed to his care. July 8.

HUGH CAMPBELL,

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RESPECTFULLY acquaints the Public, that he has received by the late arrivals from Great Britain, a Supply of the following articles, which he sells at his usual low terms.

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