

A LEGAL PUN.

"A gentleman told a punning epigram of Jekyl's upon an old lady being brought forward as a witness to prove a tender made:

"Growl, forbear! that tough old jade
Can never prove a tender mad."

SHERIDAN'S ORATORY AND HABITS.

"In speaking of Sheridan's eloquence, Lord H. said that the over-strained notions he had of perfection were very favourable to his style of oratory in giving it a certain elevation of tone and dignity of thought. Mr. Fox thought his Westminster Hall speech, trumpery, and used to say it spoiled the style of Burke, who was delighted with it. Certainly in the report I have read of it, it seems most trashy bombast. At Holland House, where he was often latterly, Lady H. told me he used to take a bottle of wine and a book up to bed with him always; the former alone intended for use. In the morning he breakfasted in bed, and had a little rum or brandy with his tea or coffee; made his appearance between one and two, and pretending important business, used to set out for town, but regularly stopped at the Adam and Eve public-house for a dram. There was indeed a long bill run up by him at the Adam and Eve, which Lord H. had to pay."

THE WAVERLEY NOVELS.

"Talked of the Scotch novels. When Wilkie, the painter, was taking his portraits of Scott's family, the eldest daughter said to him, "We don't know what to think of those novels. We have access to all papa's papers. He has no particular study; writes everything in the midst of us all; and yet we never have seen a single scrap of the MS. of any of these novels; but still we have one reason for thinking them his, and that is, that they are the only works published in Scotland of which copies are not presented to papa." The reason *against* is stronger than the reason *for*: Scott gave his honour to the Prince Regent they were not his; and Rogers heard him do the same to Sheridan, who asked him, with some degree of *brusquerie*, whether he was the author of them. All this rather confirms me in my first idea, that they are *not* Scott's."

JOSEPH ADDISON.

"Addison, according to the tradition of Holland House, used, when composing, to walk up and down the long gallery there, with a bottle of wine at each end of it, which he finished during the operation."

THE "QUARTERLY" AND "BLACKWOOD."

"Made, while I walked, the following stanza of a song supposed to be sung by Murray to the tune of the "Christening of Little Joey," at a grand literary dinner which he gives:

"Beware, ye bards of each degree,
I from Wordsworth down to Packwood;
Two rods I've got to tickle ye—
The "Quarterly" and "Blackwood."
Not Cribb himself more handsomely
Your hollow noddle crack would;
I'll fob you in the "Quarterly,"
And ruffian you in "Blackwood!"
"So tremble, bards of each degree," &c., &c."

A DRAMATIC JOKE

"Mentioned a tolerably fair punning *jeu-d'esprit*, written by one of his friends, upon an attempt made by a Mr. Aikin to speak a prologue at a private play they had, in which he failed totally, and laid his failure upon the bad prompting of a Mr. Hardy, to whom he gave the manuscript for that purpose. I remember the following:

"Aikin says Hardy prompts not loud enough;
Hardy has too much taste to read such stuff;
Aikin was *hardy* to attempt to speak.
Hardy was *ai kin* (*aching*) for the speaker's sake."

LADY CLARE

"Reminded me of the night she saw me as Mungo, at a masquerade at Lady Besborough's. Told her this was the last folly I had been guilty of in the masquerading way. Brought to my mind a pun I had made in her hearing that night. Lady Clare said, "I am always found out at a masquerade." "That shows," answered I, "you are not the clair-obscur."

A BATCH OF CONUNDRUMS.

"Some tolerable conundrums mentioned by the ladies:—"Why is the Prince of Homburg like a successful gamester?—Because he has gained a great Bet." "Why doesn't U go out to dinner with the rest of the alphabet? Because it always comes after T." "What are the only two letters of the alphabet that have eyes? A and B, because A B C (see) D." I mentioned one or two of Beresford's (author of the "Miseries of Human Life,") most ludicrously far-fetched. "Why is a man who bets on the letter O that it will beat P in a race to the end of the alphabet, like a man asking for one sort of tobacco, and getting some other?—Because it is wrong to back O (tobacco)." "Why must a man who commits murder in Leicester Square, necessarily be acquitted?—Because he can prove an alley by (alibi)."

BON-MOTS.

"Tierney mentioned two bon-mots of Mr. Pitt: one was his adding to Sir W. Curtis's toast ("A speedy peace and soon,") "soon, if possible;" and the other, his answer to some militia or yeomanry commander, who reminded him that they had stipulated never to quit the country,—"Never," said Pitt, "*except in case of actual invasion*." I also mentioned Sir W. Curtis's conundrum, "Why is a towel like a serpent?—Because it's a *wiper*." A blunder told of some Irishman, whose wife's brother was heir to a large fortune, saying, "If my wife had been her brother, what a large fortune," &c. &c."

A PRIZE FIGHT.

"Breakfasted with Davies at seven. Walked to Jackson's house in Grosvenor Street; a very neat establishment for a boxer. Were off in our chaise at eight. The immense crowds of carriages, pedestrians, &c. all along the road—the respect paid to Jackson everywhere, highly comical. He sung some flash songs on the way, and I contrived to muster up one or two myself, much to Scrope Davie's surprise and diversion. The scene of action beyond Crawley, thirty-two miles from town; the combatants Randall & Turner, the former an Irishman, which was lucky, as it