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THE

ACADIAN MAGAZINE.

ol. I.

OCTOBER, 1826.

No. IV.

Selected.

FIGURES IN DOMINOS.

(TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN OF A YOUNG ENGLISHWOMAN.)

the third of December, 1824, e emperor gave a ball and masquede, which was fully attended. My opitious stars had brought me acainted with Goethe, the poet. Day ter day I had lived with him in eat intimacy and friendship, and seemed desirous that I should see ery thing of consequence, on contion, as I was learning German, at I should note every event in that nguage. He in kindness took me the ball. It was splendid in the treme; but so many attended, that might be called an " orderly consion." The emperor was staid and lemn; intending, no doubt. to be purteous, but all did not think so; d myself, for one, thought he was pt quite so condescending as he ight have been; but no matter for at, he had a goodly set around him. he dancing was new to me, and I nfess my prejudices are against altzing. I did not join in the dance. he masquerade soon followed; and fact, for a short time, the dance as carried on with masks, then the askers scattered to find amusement here they could. It was delightful, pt I soon became fatigued and threw ide my disguise to join my friend nd protector Goethe, who was a tivileged person and went where e pleased without a disguise. He as happy to find me, and as we leandagainst the wall, I ventured to quire of him the names and characrs of several figures which struck VOL. I.

my attention particularly. Goethe seemed pleased with answering my inquiries, and I proceeded with confidence. "That figure on whom your eyes are fixed, and whose dress and mask denotes that he intended this night to represent Alcibiades, isan old lawyer who has a desire to be thought young, and shudders at growing old as fast as nature intends he shall; still, however, she is very kind to him, for seldom do you see such limbs and such movements after sixty five; for deny it as often as he can, he has reached that age. You see him speaking to every pretty girl in the saloon, from a passion of being wonderfully agreeable. This is his weak side, for in the main he is a clever fellow, and a lawyer of no ordinary character; not that he is very learned, but he is a shrewd discerner of men, and looks quite through their actions and motivesthe light of nature is in him. He is not very eloquent, for his voice is rather low and sometimes husky; yet he so arranges and connects his subject, that its weak side is hid and an apparent chain of argument is produced of great strength, and ingeniously wound around his adversa-To be successful, his opponent ry. must break it; not attempt to un-Long practice has given twist it. him a faculty of making a witness say almost what he desires him to say, and if any part of the testimony makes against his side of the ques-

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