

ganvas bag of about four feet long, and not above six inches in circumference. Two of these bags are in constant use, and each of them held by two men. The bag is plated over a fire, and frequently turned till the lac is liquid enough to pass through its pores, when it is taken off the fire, and squeezed by two men in different directions, dragging it along the convex part of of a plantain-tree prepared for the purpose; while this is doing, the other bag is heating, to be treated in the same way. The mucilaginous and smooth surface of the plantain-tree seems peculiarly well adapted for preventing the adhesion of the heated lac, and giving it the form which enhances its value so much. The degree of pressure on the plantain-tree regulates the thickness of the shell, and the quality of the bag determines its fineness and transparency. They have learned of late, that the lac which is thicker in the shell than it used to be, is most prized in Europe. Assam furnishes us with the greatest quantity of lac in use; and it may not be generally known, that the tree on which they produce the best and largest quantity of lac is not uncommon in Bengal, and might be employed in propagating the fly, and cultivating the lac, to great advantage. The small quantity of lac collected in these provinces afford a precarious and uncertain crop, because not attended to. Some attention at particular seasons is necessary to invite the fly to the tree; and collecting the whole of the lac with too great an avidity, where the insect is not very generally to be met with, may annihilate the breed.

The best method of cultivating the tree, and preserving the insect, being properly understood in Bengal, would secure to the Company's possessions the benefit arising from the sale of a lucrative article, in great demand and of extensive use,

viduals, in private stations, turn over the pages. Particular touches of nature fasten on the memory, whilst we contemplate a being like ourselves; as we advance, we gain a new insight into human nature, and see the man, in *propria persona*, in spite of the artful covering that vanity, or self-delusion, spreads over the truth.

Dr. Johnson has somewhere remarked, that the life of the most insignificant fellow creature, sketched by himself, would certainly convey many instructive lessons to the reader. The one before us, written by a man under the influence of strong passions, must of course exhibit some very striking situations, and various modifications, of the marked features, which bring a character forward to notice, and seldom fail to raise astonishment, if, on a cool scrutiny, they seem to have no claim to admiration.

In the very childhood of Trenck, we trace a turbulent, restless spirit, eager to distinguish itself, and ostentatiously display its own importance; inflated by vanity, he struts forth the first in every fray, and stains his sword with much unnecessary blood. He enters with the same brainless ardour into wordy broils; and when he thrust himself thus into a war's nest, he complains loudly of being stung.

The general purport of the facts, we are informed, may be depended on; but many single ones are misrepresented and heightened, by the lively fancy of the relator, even when he did not deliberately intend to deceive; yet, considering his impetuous temper, we think he deserves praise for suggesting excuses, to palliate the king of Prussia's conduct, and account for his unremitting rigour.

We shall attempt to give a short abridgement of his life, and then subjoin a few more remarks, that naturally occurred when we followed this undaunted man, and saw him in his dreary dungeon employ his mind, though the gnawing pangs of hunger, and violent bodily pain, continually made him feel the miseries of a prison-house.

Trenck, a young man well educated, with great personal courage, quick apprehension, and brilliant abilities, is led by ambition to pursue fame in Frederic's military school: Full of emulation, and a consciousness of superior talents, he begins his career; and Fortune smiled upon him as he darted along. Formed to please the fair sex, he soon attracted the attention of a princess, who loved him in a royal style and filled his purse, after blessing his arms—to borrow the language of lovers: In short, all his prospects were bright; when he, in a foolish frolic, as he acknowledges

MEMOIRS OF FREDERICK BARON TRENCK.

[From the *Analytical Review*.]

THE life of this extraordinary man has all the charms of fiction, united with the warm interest, that a consciousness of reality imperceptibly creates; every instant we recollect, that the main circumstances have actually happened, and find the characters of life glowing in each scene. Biography is universally allowed to be more useful than history, when indi-