

used lately for bullets: but you will see several *physicians* in the block, and a number of *men of letters* complete, except the heads.'

I readily availed myself of this invitation; and, as we proceeded, my interesting conductor left me nothing to desire in the way of explanation, while I was lost in astonishment at the infinite sagacity which directed this great establishment.

'I observe,' said I, 'that all the tablets in this division are particularly profuse of moral qualities and religious impressions. They are designed for the clergy, I suppose.'

'No, sir, for the actors and actresses: these are the only people we now have, that set much store by a character for morality and religion: they demand, however, a great deal in this way, and we are almost obliged to be too full for a handsome distribution of the lines, in order to satisfy their ambition to be exemplary.'

'I have lost,' continued he, 'much good material and capital workmanship, by the political changes. *Legions of honour* are now a drug; and *senators* useless. Many a magnificent slab, connected with the imperial *regime*, I have been obliged to sell at the price of granite, for building the foundations of statues to the Bourbons; and the same police-officer, that has commanded their preparation, has brought me the order for their destruction. What vexes me most, however, is, that we are obliged to bear the damage when the selfishness of individuals speculates on gain. How many family monuments, executed to order, have been left on our hands, because relations have suddenly found it inconvenient to claim the titles and achievements which they had given in with pride! How many alterations have we been obliged to make at our own expense, to save the article from being rejected altogether! Such of the bishops as have been provident enough to order memorials of their virtue and piety before-hand, have given us a great deal of trouble in this way: Napoleon's chaplain has expected us to convert him, for nothing, into the almoner of Louis XVIII, and the preceptor to the King of Rome would have us metamorphose him, on the same terms, into confessor to her Royal Highness the Duchess of Berri. As to the *sentiments*, they give us much less trouble than the titles: loyalty and devotion stand as before, it is only necessary to substitute the word *loyal* for *imperial*, and this, you know, is with us the affair of a moment. Courage and fidelity are still apropos; we must only be careful to interpolate the Bourbons in some principle part of the inscription. efface the eagle and engrave a lily or two in their places. All this people expect us to perform as a matter of course; but—'

Le Sieur M. N. was interrupted in his complaint by suddenly meeting with his two customers, who were in fact seeking him. They had seen a monument of which they much approved: and the head of the esta-

lishment, when their choice was pointed out to him, complimented them very much on their good taste. 'They could not have selected anything,' he said, 'of a prettier melancholy, or of a purer marble: the price was only five hundred francs, and as there was at present no inscription on it, they might have anything they pleased engraved, for which, however affectionate, he would charge moderately by the letter. The gentlemen seemed startled by the price: they, however, proposed an inscription, and inquired how much 'the best of parents—tenderest of husbands,' would come to? M. N. made his calculation: on hearing its amount they seemed more appalled than before, and one of them instantly said—'Suppose then, we were to leave *the best of parents* out of our lamented friend's monument? It would come cheaper then: and, in truth, perhaps the less we say of his conduct as a father, the better; 'I was just thinking,' replied the other, 'that propriety as well as economy seemed to require us to drop the allusion to his conjugal life: it was not in the domestic circle that our deplored relative (and here the speaker's voice faltered) displayed most brilliantly the many virtues and amiable qualities by which his character was unquestionably adorned.'

The result of the discussion I did not wait to hear: finding that the dealer in memorials was likely to be occupied for some time with these sincere mourners, I made an appointment with him for another day; and, when I saw him again, I learned, on enquiry, that the two gentlemen had gone away without ordering any monument at all.

#### NOVEL READING.

A good novel is a very great treat, and ranks high among the productions of human wit, nor does the primary and direct effect of it appear to us to be necessarily dangerous to the morals of any reader; but the tendency of the indiscriminate reading of novels, or even of the frequent reading of good ones, must be to encourage in all minds, and especially in the tender minds of young women, the baneful habit of imaginary indulgence; and such suffer years to slide away in a dreamy state of half-animation as to all the useful purposes of their station. It is this which makes novels more dangerous to females, than to our own sex; almost every man has of necessity that collision with mankind, that disturbance and interference of real business, and worldly interests, which may serve to rouse him perforce from his dream, and disenchant him from the web of romance, in which he has entangled himself; but a young woman, living at home, with no property to manage, no interest to cultivate, no family to provide for, no contentions at the bar, or in the senate, no bargains on the Change, no intrigues in the country; nothing, in short, that she cannot in some measure transform and accommodate to her own ideal world, lives as it were