

THE SCATTERED BIBLES, AND OTHER SKETCHES.



SOME years ago, when Mr. Wilder, an American merchant, and a party of his friends were engaged in visiting the manufactories established in the mountainous tracts of the departments of the Loire and the Puy de Dôme, they arrived at the skirts of a hamlet, on the declivity of a mountain. Being very desirous of finding a shorter and more retired track, they stopped at a little house to inquire the way. From the windows several women were watching a little child; and just as Mr. Wilder inquired for a road across the mountains, the infant was in danger of being crushed by a coal cart which had entered the street. The cries and alarms of the women were met by the activity of the travellers, who rescued the infant from its danger, and placed him in the arms of his mother, who expressed her regret that they should have been put to such trouble.

"Madam," interrupted Mr. Wilder, "my friend is only performing his duty: we ought