

rhymes, is one of the easiest and at the same time the most insignificant. Young people, in general, think it a proof of extraordinary genius, if they can put two or three lines together, that shall run, in any measure, like verses; and whenever they can do this, they think so much of it, as never to be satisfied, till they see it in print. In this respect, they judge erroneously. The faculty of measuring a few syllables, is a thing that any person, with a tolerably just ear, can easily attain. But a poetic talent, which consists in a lively imagination, an ardent vigour of mind, a quickness of perception, and a faculty of combining objects together, so as to form new and striking images; is as rare as the other is common; but it is this last alone, which forms the poet. Would our youthful rhimers attend to this distinction, it would check their vanity in some degree, and make them hesitate, before they became candidates for the title of poets, merely because they had made a few smooth and uninteresting lines.

These general remarks premised, the editor proceeds to the task he has assigned to himself under this department.

Viator, who writes from Berwick, as if on his return from a tour through Scotland, complains of the low state as to food and wages of the labourers in Scotland, and contends, with great warmth, that their wages should be augmented. But has he adverted to the situation of those who have the wages to pay? Before reformations of this sort can be prudently attempted, many particulars require to be adverted to, that do not occur to a hasty traveller. And in every country, where perfect freedom is allowed to individuals, to follow what business they incline, things of this sort will inevitably find their natural level, without the regulating efforts of any man.

T. offers an hypothesis concerning the human soul that is not intelligible to us; which, for that reason, we decline offering to our readers; Metaphysical disquisitions, unless very short and very clear, will be sparingly admitted, as tending only to engender disputes, without leading to any useful conclusions.

J. S - - - ville proposes as a query, whether, if a perforation were made through the centre of this earth, and a stone dropped from the surface of the globe into that vacuity; the stone, by its increased velocity, when it reached the centre, would not have acquired such an impetus, as to enable it to rise, on the other side, as at first; and so on continue vibrating for ever? 2. He asks, what is the nature of the gelatinous substance, called by country-people, a shot star?

Verus observes, by way of answer to a remark in *The Mirror*, that Dean Swift did not know the favourable opinion the Duchess of Marlborough had entertained of the author of Gulliver's Travels, otherwise it was not propable, he would have left a severe invective against her to be published after his death. But in this conjecture, he alleges the elegant writer of that essay has been mistaken; for Swift was really informed of this circumstance by his friend Gay, who writes thus to Swift, 17th November, 1726. "The Duchess dowager of Marlborough is in raptures with it, (Gulliver's Travels). She says she can dream of nothing else since she read it. She declares, that she hath now found out that

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