

# JUVENILE ENTERTAINER.

"Torquet ab obscenis jam nunc sermonibus aurem."

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## JUVENILE ENTERTAINER

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### CONDITIONS.

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## BIOGRAPHY.

### The Progress of Genius

FROM OBSCURE AND LOW SITUATIONS, TO EMINENCE AND CELEBRITY.

Genius is that gift of God which learning cannot confer, which no disadvantages of birth or education can wholly obscure.

#### ALEXANDER BOUCHER,

Or, as he was accustomed to call himself, from the title given him in a French journal, *L'Alexandre du Violon*, one of the most remarkable but-centric violinists, was born at Paris in 1770. At the age of six he played before the dauphin, and at eight he played in public. He was in unfortunate circumstances in early life, until he obtained a place in Spain, under Charles IV, where he was himself a good violinist. In 1814, he went to England. At Dover, the custom house officers were about to seize his instrument, but Boucher suddenly struck up "God save the King," with variations, and was suffered to pass unmolested. He is as remarkable for eccentricity as for his musical powers. He is now established at Berlin. Boucher has attracted much attention by his resemblance to Napoleon, whose gait, demeanor and look he can perfectly imitate. Every one fancies he sees the emperor when Boucher folds his arms. He declares his resemblance to have been disadvantageous at the time of the restoration of the Bourbons.

#### MATTHEW BOULTON,

A celebrated engineer, was born at Birmingham in 1728. After being educated at the grammar-school, he was instructed in drawing by Torricelli, and he also studied mathematics. He engaged in business as a manufacturer of hardware, and, as early as 1745, he is said to have invented, and brought to great perfection, inlaid steel huckles, buttons, watchchains, &c., of which large quantities were exported to France, whence they were purchased with avidity by the English, as "the offspring of French ingenuity." In 1762, Boulton finding his manufactory at Birmingham too confined for his purposes, purchased a lease of the Soho, about two miles distant,

in the county of Stafford. This spot, then a barren heath, was gradually converted into an extensive manufactory and school of the mechanical arts, where ingenious men found ample employment for their talents from the liberal patronage of the patriotic proprietor. The introduction of that important machine the steam-engine, at Soho, led to a connexion between Boulton and James Watt of Glasgow, who became partners in trade in 1769. Among the many great undertakings in which these gentlemen were engaged, one of the most useful and important was the improvement of the coinage. In beauty and accuracy of execution, the coins struck at the Soho manufactory have rarely been surpassed; and the reform thus effected in the state of the English rational currency confers the highest honour on those with whom it originated. About the year 1773, was invented, at the establishment of Boulton and Watt, a method of copying, by a mechanical process, paintings in oil, so as to produce fac-similes of the originals, sufficiently accurate to deceive a practised connoisseur. The various mechanical inventions and improvements which originated, more or less directly, from the genius and application of Boulton, are too numerous to admit of specification. His long life was uninterruptedly devoted to the advancement of the useful arts, and the promotion of the commercial interests of his country. He died at Soho, Aug 17, 1809, and was interred in the parish church of Handsworth. 600 of his workmen attended his funeral, each of whom had a silver medal presented to him, which had been struck for the occasion. He was a fellow of the royal societies of London and Edinburgh, and an associate of several scientific institutions abroad. His manners and conversation are said to have been highly fascinating, and his private character was extremely respectable. He left an only son who succeeded him in his establishment at Soho.

*Encyclopedia Americana.*

## NATURAL HISTORY.

### THE DOG.

The Dog is allowed to be the most intelligent of all quadrupeds, and one that doubtless is most to be admired, for, independent of his beauty, his vivacity, and swiftness, he gives the most manifest proofs of his attachment to mankind. In his savage state he may have been a formidable enemy, but to view him at present he seems only anxious to please; he willingly crouches before his master, and is ready to lick the dust from his feet: he waits his orders, consults his looks, and is more faithful than half the human race. He is constant in his affections, friendly without interest, and grateful for the slightest favour he can receive: easily forgets both cruelty and oppression; and disarms resentment by submissively yielding to the will of those whom he studiously endeavours to serve and please.

His sagacity can only be exceeded by his fidelity; for he will discover a beggar by the appearance of his clothes; and when at night he

is put in charge of the house, no sentinel can protect it with greater care. If he happens to scent a stranger at a distance, his voice instantly sounds the alarm, and if they attempt to break in upon the territories, they are in danger of forfeiting either their limbs or life. From hence we may see of what importance this animal may be considered to the human race; it protects them from rapine, guards them from invasion, and shows an attachment that must at once both delight and please. It assists them in the destruction of such animals as are obnoxious to their interest, aids them in conquering those which contribute to their delight, and even, when worn out by age or exertion, their skin is capable of being turned into use.

The dog thus serviceable in himself, when taken into a participation of empire, exerts a degree of superiority over all animals that require human protection. The flock and the herd obey his voice more readily than even that of the shepherd or the herdsman; he conducts them, guards them, and keeps them from danger, and seems to consider their enemies as his own. Nor is he less useful in pursuit, when the sound of the horn or the voice of the huntsman calls him to the field; he justifies his pleasure by various little arts, and pursues with avidity that spoil which, when taken, he knows he must not share.

We cannot conclude the account of this sagacious animal without inserting an anecdote related by the ingenious Mr Pratt, which strikingly evinces the force of its fidelity, and displays an attachment that would do honour to the human race:—

"A few days before the overthrow of Robespierre, a revolutionary tribunal in one of the departments of the north, condemned on pretence of conspiracy, an upright magistrate and most estimable man. This gentleman had a water-spaniel, which had been faithful to his master for the space of twelve years; and at the moment when, from fear, his dearest friends had forsaken him, showed an attachment that at once must affect and please.

"This faithful creature was with him when he happened to be seized, but was refused admission into his cell; and after remaining at the door some time, in the hope of obtaining entrance, retired disconsolate to the house of his master's friend.

"Daily he returned to the doors of the prison, and remained stationary there for several hours at a time, and gave such indubitable marks of affection as absolutely to penetrate the keeper's heart. The faithful animal was permitted to enter, though the warder dared not allow him long to remain, but, at the same hour each day, he besought admission, and his pleadings were too powerful for the keepers to withstand.

"When the day of receiving sentence arrived, notwithstanding the crowd which power, love, and curiosity collected, the dog contrived to force a passage into the hall, and penetrating through the guards which surrounded his master, laid himself down between his feet when the fatal