

working at her needle, brushing up the house, and twirling the distaff."

A LITERARY WIFE.

How delightful is it (says D'Israeli, in his *Curiosities of Literature*), when the mind of the female is so happily disposed, and so richly cultivated, as to participate in the literary avocations of her husband. It is then truly that the intercourse of the sexes becomes the most refined pleasure. What delight, for instance, must the great Budacus have tasted, even in those works which must have been for others a most dreadful labour ! his wife left him nothing to desire. The frequent companion of his studies, she brought him the books he required to his desk ; she compared passages, and transcribed quotations ; the same inclinations, and the same ardour for literature, eminently appeared in those two fortunate persons. Far from withdrawing her husband from his studies, she was sedulous to animate him when he languished. Ever at his side and ever assiduous, ever with some useful book in her hand, she acknowledged herself to be a most happy woman. Yet she did not neglect the education of eleven children. She and Budacus shared the mutual cares they owed their progeny. Budacus was not insensible of his singular felicity. In one of his letters, he represents himself as married to two ladies ; one of whom gave him boys and girls, the other was philosophy, who produced books. The Lady of Evelyn designed herself the frontispiece to his translation of *Lucretius*. She felt the same passion in her own breast as animated her husband's, who has written with such various ingenuity. Of Baron Haller it is written that he inspired his wife and family with a taste for his different pursuits. They were usually employed in assisting his literary occupations ; they translated manuscripts, consulted authors, gathered plants, and designed and coloured under his eye. What a delightful family picture has the younger Pliny given posterity in his letters ! Of Calphurnia, his wife, he says, " her affection for me has given her a turn to books, and my compositions which she takes a pleasure in reading and even getting by heart, are continually in her