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ANTOINE AUGUSTIN THOMAS DU F——.

AN AUTHENTIC AND AFFECTING NARRATIVE. BY HELEN MARIA WILLIAMS.

THE following affecting and well related story will, we presume, be acceptable to our readers; and it ought to be the more so, when they are assured, that it is a true one. It will prove to our friend Senex, that we intend to profit by his remarks. A relation of such interesting incidents having actually occurred on the stage of life, excites a feeling infinitely keener, and more attractive than, to use Senex's expression, all "the wire drawn" tales of mere fancy ever written could possibly excite.

MISS WILLIAMS begins her sixteenth letter from France, in 1790, with the following story, which she assures us wholly true:—

"Antoine Augustin Thomas du F——, eldest son of the baron du F——, counsellor of the parliament of Normandy, was born on the 15th of July, 1750. His early years were embittered by the severity of his father, who was of a disposition that preferred the exercise of domestic tyranny to the blessings of social happiness, and chose rather to be dreaded than beloved. The endearing name of father conveyed no transport to his heart, which, being wrapt up in a stern insensibility was cold even to the common feelings of nature.

"The baron's austerity was not indeed confined to his son, but extended to all his dependants. Formed by nature for the support of the ancient government of France, he maintained his aristocratic rights with unrelenting severity, ruled his feudal vassals with a rod of iron, and considered the lower order of people as a set of beings whose existence was tolerated merely for the use of the nobility. The poor, he believed, were only born for suffering; and he determined, as far as in him lay, not to deprive them of their natural inheritance. On the whole, the baron

acted as if it were the great purpose of human life to be hated, and perhaps no person ever attained that end more completely than himself.

"His son discovered early a taste for literature, and received an education suitable to his rank and fortune. As he advanced in life, the treatment he experienced from his father became more and more intolerable to him, as, far from inheriting the same character, he possessed the most amiable disposition, and the most feeling heart.

"His mother, feeble alike in mind and body, submitted with the helplessness, and almost with the thoughtlessness of a child, to the imperious will of her husband. Their family was increased by two more sons, and two daughters; but these children, being several years younger than Mons. du F——, were not of an age to afford him the consolations of friendship; and the young man would have found his situation intolerable, but for the sympathy of a person, in whose society every evil was forgotten.

"This person, his attachment to whom has tintured the colour of his life, was the youngest of eight children, of a respectable family of Bourgeois at Rouen. There is great reason to believe that her father was