

## ANECDOTES.

### LORD CHATHAM.

Some years after this nobleman's resignation of all his employments, a petition was sent from the City to his Majesty, humbly requesting an immediate dismissal of his ministers. The reply, as might reasonably be supposed, to so audacious a solicitation, consisted in a plain negative. The petitioners were told that their demand was an imputation against the royal abilities and penetration, as if he wanted sagacity to perceive when he was faithfully and ably served. In the ensuing session of Parliament the Earl of Chatham made a motion, that an humble address be presented to his Majesty, requesting that he would be graciously pleased to discover to the House the person under whose influence he had returned such a reply to so loyal a part of his people. But, said his Lordship, 'this motion of mine will certainly be negatived: I can anticipate rejection in the aspects of Ministers. How then shall I come at the information I contend for? Was it you, or you (addressing himself to those most liable to suspicion?) Will nobody reply? Let me see if countenances will betray.—The face has been known to be the index of criminality.' He then directed his eye of fire to every minister in the assembly, and fixing it with all his collected force at last upon a great Law Lord, exclaimed, *Ah! methinks I see Felix tremble.* It is said, that such was the irresistible effect of the united power of this statesman's person, manner, and eloquence, that even one of the greatest men that ever adorned this kingdom was on this occasion daunted into a temporary fear, by this bold, though vague imputation."

### THE LAST OF THE MONTAGUES.

The last Duke of the noble house of Montague was distinguished by his benevolence and humanity, which, however, were sometimes exercised in a very eccentric manner. The duke had often observed a middle-aged man in something like a military dress, of which the lace was tarnished, and the cloth threadbare, walking at a certain hour in the park with a mournful solemnity. He made inquiry respecting him, and found that he was an unfortunate man, he having laid out the whole of his stock in the purchase of a commission; he behaved with great bravery in war, but at its conclusion was reduced to starve on half-pay. He learnt farther that the poor officer had a wife and three children in Yorkshire, to whom he regularly sent down one moiety of his pay, reserving the other for his own support in town, where he was in the hopes of obtaining a situation. The duke determined to serve this generous veteran; and one day sent his servant to invite him to dinner. The captain returned thanks, and promised to wait on his grace. When he came, the duke received him with marks of peculiar civility; and taking him aside, with an air of secrecy and importance, told him that he had desired the favour of his company to dine chiefly on account of