

THE GROANS OF A TRADESMAN.

GROAN 1. AFTER showing your whole stock to a stranger, and seeing him lay aside article after article, as if for purchase, beholding him select from the heap some half-crown article, desiring it may be sent him immediately to the further extremity of the town.

SECOND. Endeavouring in vain to hook a shy customer, who keeps nibbling round the bait, but will not venture to bite.

THIRD. Being obliged to listen to the dry stories of a long winded customer, who thinks by laying out half a dozen shillings, he amply reimburses you for as many hours of misery.

FOURTH. As you are setting off to attend a sale, to purchase an article you particularly want, being interrupted by the entrance of a customer—then in your hurry to dispatch his business, committing a hundred mistakes, which you are obliged to rectify—then setting off, at full speed, through the streets, at the hazard of breaking your head or your neck, pursued by the curses and threats of the people you jostle—then arriving at the auction, breathless and exhausted, just as the lot you wanted has been knocked down for half the price you intended to have given for it.

FIFTH. Visits, or rather visitations, of those *gentry*, who lay aside articles—for which they will call to-morrow—

“To-morrow, and to-morrow, and to-morrow;
“Creeps in its petty place, and from day to day—”

but these *gentry* are by no means punctual.

SIXTH. Attending a sale of furniture in the dog-days, wedged in amidst a crowd of unwashed, uncombed attendants, till you are half dissolved with heat—your ears deafened with the Srentorian voice of the auctioneer and the clamorous vociferation of the bidders—and your olfactory nerves tortured by a rank compound of villainous smells, you behold with joy the appearance of the articles for which you have braved all the horrors of stench, noise and suffocation—and have the further satisfaction of seeing the whole of them monopolized, at double their value, by some of those sagacious *gentry*, who think nothing dear but what they buy in the shop of a tradesman.

SEVENTH. Attempting to please a customer, who is resolved not to be pleased.

EIGHTH. Being troubled by the custom of a shabby fellow, who will not be offended.

NINTH. Being asked for the credit of a person whom you are unwilling to offend, yet resolved not to trust.

TENTH. After running about all the morning, just as you are sitting down, with a keen appetite, to a hot dinner, being called