

his door, and, pistol in hand, compelled him to comply with her demand. Upon her arrival in England she found that her first marriage had been declared valid, upon the ground of incompetency in the court which had pronounced it void. Public opinion was against her; and, under the character of lady Kitty Crocodile, she was ridiculed by Foote, in *A Trip to Calais*, which she succeeded in obtaining to be prohibited. The validity of her first marriage being established, preparations were made to try her for bigamy, and Westminster Hall was fitted up with great state. The trial was attended by most of the members of the royal family, the foreign ambassadors, members of parliament, and other distinguished personages. The duchess, in deep mourning, took her seat unmoved, attended by two *femmes de chambre*, a physician, an apothecary, her secretary, and six counsel. She addressed the peers with energy, but was declared guilty. But, although her marriage with the duke was declared bad, his will was declared to be good: she lost the title but retained the property. Upon this issue of the affair, the adversaries of lady Bristol took measures to prevent her quitting the kingdom; but, whilst the writ *ne exeat regno* was preparing, she embarked for Calais and proceeded to Rome. After remaining there for some time she returned to Calais, and hired a spacious mansion which she splendidly furnished; but, the monotony of the town not suiting her volatile and turbulent disposition, she made a voyage to St. Petersburg, in a magnificent yacht, and was received with the highest distinction by the Empress Catherine, to whom she presented the valuable collection of pictures formed by the Kingston family. She afterwards went to Poland, where prince Radavil gave sumptuous entertainments in honor of her visit, particularly a bear-hunt by torch-light. Upon returning to France she purchased the beautiful chateau de Sainte Assise, two leagues from Fontainebleau, and the mansion in the rue Coq-Héron, at Paris, where she died, after executing a will, made by two attorneys who came from England on purpose. She bequeathed a set of jewels to the Empress of Russia, a large diamond to the pope, and a costly pearl necklace and ear-rings to the Countess of Salisbury, because they had belonged to the lady who bore that title in the reign of Henry IV. Her property in France was estimated at £200,000 sterling, besides which she had valuable possessions in England and Russia.*

The character of this female is easily explained. She had a foolish fashionable mother, who taught her to covet the vanity of distinction. She acquired it by nefarious arts, became rich and ostentatious, lived flagitiously, died dishonored, and is only remembered by her vices.

CHATTERTON.

That prodigy of genius, the unfortunate Chatterton, was amusing himself one day, in company with a friend, reading the epitaphs in Paneras church-yard; he was so deep sunk in thought as he walked on, that not perceiving a grave that had just been dug, he tumbled into it. His friend perceiving his situation, ran to his assistance, and, as he helped him out, told him in a jocular manner, he was happy in assisting at the resurrection of Genius. Poor Chatterton smiled, and taking his companion by the arm, replied, "my dear friend, I feel the sting of a speedy dissolution; I have been at war with the grave for some time, and I find it not so easy to vanquish it as I imagined—we can find an asylum to hide from any creditor but that!" His friend endeavoured to divert his thoughts from the gloomy reflection; but what will not melancholy and adversity combined subjugate? In three days after, the neglected and disconsolate youth put an end to his miseries by poison.

* Paris iii. 221.

GREAT SHIPS.

On the 9th of March, 1655, Mr. Evelyn enters in his diary, "I went to see the great ship newly built by the usurper Oliver Cromwell, carrying ninety-six brass guns and 1000 tons burthen. In the prow was Oliver on horseback, trampling six nations under foot, a Scot, Irishman, Dutchman, Spaniard, and English, as was easily made out by their several habits. A Fame held a laurel over his insulting head; the word *God with us*."

The first mention of ships of great burthen in England is derivable from the inscription on Canning's tomb in Radcliffe church, Bristol, which states that he had "forfeited the king's peace," or, in plain words, committed piracy on the high seas, for which he was condemned to pay 3000 marks; in lieu of which sum the king took of him 2470 tons of shipping, amongst which there was one ship of 900 tons burthen, another of 500, one of 400, and the rest smaller. These ships had English names, yet it is doubtful whether ships of so large a size were built in England; it seems more probable that Cannin; had purchased or taken these ships from the Hansatics, or else from the Venetians, Genoese, Luccese, Ragusians, or Pisans; all of whom then had ships of even larger tonnage.*

When I see a gallant ship, well rigged, trimmed, tackled, man'd, munitioned, with her top and top-gallant, and her spread sayles proudly swelling with a full gale in fair weather, putting out of the haven into the smooth maine, and drawing the spectators' eyes, with a well wishing admiration, and shortly heare of the same ship splitted against some dangerous rock, or wracked by some disastrous tempest, or sunk by some leake sprung in her by some accident, me seemeth I see the case of some court-favourite, who, to-day, like Sejanus, dazzleth all men's eyes with the splendour of his glory, and with the proud and potent beake of his powerful prosperity, cutteth the waves and ploweth through the prease of the vulgar, and scorneth to feare some remora at his keele below, or any crosse winds from above, and yet to-morrow, on some storms of unexpected disfavour, springs a leake in his honour, and sinks on the Syrtes of disgrace, or dashed against the rocks of displeasure, is splitted and wracked in the Charybdis of infamy; and so concludes his voyage in misery and misfortune.

* Anderson.

CURIOUS ADVERTISEMENTS.

CLERICAL DUTY.

June 20, 1716. In the *Stamford Mercury* of this date is the following advertisement:—"If any Clergyman of good character has the misfortune to be destitute of preferment, and will accept of a curacy of £27 in money yearly, and a house kept, let him with speed send to Mr. Wilson, bookseller, in Boston, Mr. Boys, bookseller, in Louth, or the Reverend Mr. Charles Burnett, of Burgh in the Marsh, near Spilsby, in the county of Lincoln, and he may be farther satisfied."

A SANGUINARY DIFFERENCE.

In the same *Journal* of March 28 preceding is announced—"Whereas the majority of Apothecaries in Boston have agreed to pull down the price of bleeding to six pence, let these certify that Mr. Richard Clarke, Apothecary, will bleed any body at his shop gratis."

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