

ing seen a youth fly in his first action, he pretended he had sent him to the rear on a message; the youth fled a second time; he brought him to the front of the army, and saying, 'That a gentleman's son ought not to fall by the hands of a common executioner,' shot him with his own pistol.

IN the celebrated action which decided the fate of the Boeotians, the Romans were retreating in confusion; when Sylla, frantic at the sight, leaped off his horse, seized one of the ensigns, and rushing in among the fugitives, 'here,' cried he, 'shall I die with honour: and you, Romans, when asked, where you betrayed your general, remember to tell, it was at Orchomenos.' Shame, and a sense of honour, stopped their flight, and turned the fortune of the day.

HOW lightly the Romans accounted the marriage-compact, we may judge from an anecdote mentioned by Plutarch. A certain Roman had divorced his wife, and being pressed by the expostulations of his friends, who asked, *was she not fair? was she not chaste? was she not fruitful?* holding up his shoe to them, replied, *is it not handsome? is it not new? yet none knows where it pinches but he that wears it.*

DON Martin Yanex de Barbuda, master of Alcantara, having about the year 1390, attempted with a small force to kill all the Moors in Spain, was, together with most of his forces, slain in battle; on his tomb is the following inscription: *Aqui yace aquel, in cuyo gran cecazon nunca pover tuvo entrada.* 'Here lies he, into whose heart fear never found entrance;' which gave occasion to the Emperor Charles V. to say, *Ese fidalgo jamas debio apagar alguna candela con sus dedos.* 'Then that gentleman has never snuffed a candle with his fingers.'

A Maiden Lady, lately deceased, has bequeathed the following legacies. 'Item I leave to my dear entertaining Jackoo, (her monkey), 10l. per annum, during his natural life, to be expended yearly for his support. Item, to Shock and Tib, (her lap-dog and cat) 5l. each for their annual subsistence during life; but should it so happen, that Shock dies before Tib, or Tib before Shock, then, in that case, the survivor to have the whole: which legacies I hereby ordain, after the decease of all the aforementioned parties, shall descend in remainder to my niece, Mrs. Mary G——n, and to the children of her body, lawfully begotten.'

APHORISMS.

A MAN who defers doing what ought to be done, is guilty of injustice as long as he defers it.

THE dispatch of a good office is very often as beneficial to the solicitor as the good office itself.

THE love of praise is a passion deeply fixed in the mind of every extraordinary person; and those who are most affected with it, seem most to partake of that particle of the Divinity which distinguishes mankind from the inferior creation.

OUR defects and follies are too often unknown to us; nay, they are so far from being known to us, that they pass for demonstrations of our worth. This makes us easy in the midst of them, fond to shew them, fond to improve in them, and to be esteemed for them.

NOTHING is more amiable than true

modesty, and nothing is more contemptible than the false. The one guards virtue, the other betrays it.

TRUE modesty avoids every thing that is criminal; false modesty every thing that is unfashionable.

MAN, considered in himself, is a very helpless and a very wretched being. He is subject every moment to the greatest calamities and misfortunes. He is beset with dangers on all sides, and may become unhappy by numberless casualties, which he could not foresee, nor have prevented, had he foreseen them.

GREAT and heroic minds, not only shew a particular disregard to those unmerited reproaches which have been cast upon them, but are altogether free from the impertinent curiosity of inquiring after them, or the poor revenge of resenting them.