

## LITERATURE.

Mr. Murdoch has published a prospectus of a work which he is preparing for the press: "An Epitome of the Laws of the Province." The work is to be published by subscription, and those wishing to patronize it, and to procure copies, should lose no time in placing their names on one of the lists which are opened for that purpose. A moment's consideration is sufficient to convince, how generally useful a clear well written abridgement and commentary of the laws, will prove to every class in the community.

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*Life of Mrs. Jordan.* By J. Boaden.—3 vols. London. 1830.

We regard the publication of this very superfluous work at the present moment, as an instance of something worse than bad taste in all the parties concerned. The possession of a few letters in the hand-writing of Mrs. Jordan, and a knowledge of facts already well known to the public at large, seem to have suggested to Mr. Boaden the project of a profitable speculation, in the hope that a disinclination on the part of the sovereign and his family to see their names familiarly introduced into the details of the life of an actress, would induce them to buy up the work. We cannot sufficiently commend the lofty spirit which has escaped this pactory snare.

The work itself is meagre, trivial, and abounding in the self-conceit so palpable in the previous biographies of Mr. Boaden. It bears evident marks of having been hastily concocted, after the author's discovery that no interference would be exerted for its suppression; various facts having been introduced into *the body* of the work, borrowed from the newspapers of the last two months. Of Mrs. Jordan, her fate, and fortunes, it tells us very little, and nothing that is satisfactory;—but of Mr. Boaden and his critical opinions, a vast deal too much.—We have no inclination to earn more of either.

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THE GENTLEMAN IN BLACK—Kidd, London.

This celebrated individual, who has walked "to and fro upon the earth," ever since he beguiled our blushing mother with an apple—("Man fell with apples, and with apples rose.")—has of late attracted the most courteous and urbane attention of the world. We say urbane, for it is only to the present age that the *Gentleman in Black* owes an exemption from tail and horns. He is quite another guess personage to the grisly wight who was taken by the nose by St. Dunstan: the vulgar appendages, which he received from the middle ages, have been sacrificed to the philosophy of modern times, and we now treat of the *Gentleman in Black*, as we treat of the cholera-morbus, taxation, O'Connell, or any other ab-