



"JUSTUM, ET TENACEM PROPOSITI VIRUM, NON CIVIUM ARDOR PRAVA JUBENTIUM, NON VULTUS INSTANTIS TYRANNI MENTE QUATIT SOLIDA."

VOLUME I.

PECTOU, N. S. WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 24. 1835.

NUMBER V.

THE BEE

IS PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING,
And delivered in Town at the low price of 12s. 6d
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which he offers for Sale at
VER Y LOW PRICES
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SCREW AUGERS, LOCKS, HINGES AND FIRE-IRONS,

With a Great Variety of other Goods.

The above STOCK has all been selected by J. M.
from the different Manufacturers in Great Britain.
May 25. if

THE GIPSEY LAIRD,

A ROMANCE OF REAL LIFE.

About a hundred years ago, when the country gentlemen of Scotland were characterised by less refined, and we may add less virtuous manners, than at present, there flourished in Roxburghshire, a certain Laird Baillie, who was even then remarkable for his frolicsome, pugnacious, dreadnaught sort of habits. Every fair within thirty miles was sure to be attended by this hearty fellow, who seldom saw one of these scenes of rustic business and festivity come to a conclusion without either fighting a battle on his own account, or participating in one, perhaps, in which some boon companion was the principal. One evening, as he was riding home from St. Boswell's fair, he overtook a large party of gypsies who had been attending that market with their horn and tin ware, and who were now slowly wending their way to a point of rendezvous where they were to meet with another party with whom they usually associated. Baillie was a friend and favourite of the gypsies, whose wild and vagrant character found a peculiar sympathy in his own bosom; and on the present occasion, as on many others, he had to thank them for having aided him in one of those fights in which he took so much pleasure. For an hour he reined in his horse, and, walking abreast with the chiefs of the party, chatted over all the deeds of the day, in his usual good-humoured manner, without observing that the night was advancing, while he was still ten Scotch miles from home. At length the gypsies turned off the road, in order to pitch their camp at the back of an adjacent plantation, where it seemed, from the gleam of a fire among the trees, that their companions were already assembled. Baillie, whom they expected to take leave of them here, and pursue his own way, proposed, after a moment's hesitation, to linger with them for a short space, and take a glass from their bottle; to which they very readily acceded. On arriving at the place to which the fire directed them, Baillie found half a score of the same tribe busily engaged in preparations for supper and bed, a large kettle being swung above a fire upon the ground, while an awning, extended between two donkey-carts, was destined to serve for a general dormitory. In a quarter of an hour, the young laird found himself seated at supper, which, for substantiality and delicacy rivalled that of Cumaco. When it was done, liquors of various kinds were produced—flowing horns went round—the laird's spirits became unusually excited—he laughed, he joked, he sung—the gypsies themselves became nearly as elevated. Ere long, Baillie forgot every other consideration but the merry scene before him, and, under the gust of a sudden passion for the life of a gipsy, he declared he would join their corps, thinking, of course, that after going along with them for a few days, and seeing a little of their mode of life, he would resume his usual habits. The gypsies, taken off their guard, and unreflecting upon the consequences, agreed to the proposal, and in the course of a few minutes initiated their friend into such of their mysteries as were necessary for the support of the character he wished to assume.

With the morning, reflection came, but to the gypsies alone; they now bitterly regretted their folly in trusting a person whom they could not hope to retain

in their band, or in their confidence, except upon compulsion. He, however, was still in the humour for the joke, and, being furnished with suitable attire, and tanned with the true Egyptian olive, was delighted to survey in himself what he was pleased to call as roguish a looking loon as ever cheated the widdy. In compliance with his request, the party directed their course across the country to the mansion of one of his acquaintances, where they arrived about nightfall. Here the laird had an opportunity of gratifying his frolicsome humour, by displaying an assumed talent of fortune-telling, in which, from his knowledge of the history of his dupes, he succeeded so well as to excite no little astonishment amongst them. This was to him a rich treat; and for several days longer he enjoyed several opportunities, in passing from house to house, of gratifying his humour. Upon the fourth, as the party were traversing a wild moor bordering on the laird's own property, they were overtaken by a hasty messenger of their tribe, from Kirk-Yetholm, who informed them of the great alarm excited by Mr. Baillie's disappearance, and stated that warrants were out against several of the party, in consequence of their being seen in his company at St. Boswell's fair. A council was forthwith held, at which the Laird himself was present, and where with a mixed feeling of surprise and amusement he heard it gravely proposed and decided on to send him off to a distant part of the country, under the charge of three of the chief gypsies. To save them, as he imagined, from any farther trouble on his account, Mr. Baillie intimated his intention of immediately returning home, and, handing to the chief or leader what stock of money he had about him to drink his health with, he promised them all good quarters whenever they found it convenient to rendezvous at his house, which he invited them to do frequently. A malicious uttering laugh passed amongst the gypsies at this announcement of Mr. Baillie, and their leader, a tall swarthy savage, turning to him, with a grim smile merely observed, that he must leave the regulation of his future motions to his captain. Somewhat surprised, and not half relishing the tone and looks of the desperadoes, Baillie, who still conceived that their demeanour was merely assumed with the view of extorting money from him, desired to know at once what "smart-money" they insisted on having, and we would give them any thing in reason; but he was cut short by the captain, who sternly remarked, that when they wanted any of his money they would ask for it, but in the meantime he must comply with the orders he received. Mr. Baillie was thunderstruck, but his indignation soon overcame his surprise. He was not naturally the most temperate man in the world, and highly incensed at what he considered an insolent aggression on his personal freedom, he reiterated his determination to leave them, and intimidated by a flourish of his cudgel that it would not be safe for any one to attempt to interrupt his purpose. But the gypsies had anticipated this explosion of wrath, and at a signal from the captain, four or five threw themselves upon him, and in spite of his great strength pinned his arms to his body. Without attending to the furious denunciations of vengeance which Mr. Baillie continued to pour forth, their captain proceeded to give orders for the dispersion of the band, directing the

Pictou, 9th June, 1835.
Secretary.

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