

JUVENILE ENTERTAINER.

"Torquet ab obscenis jam nunc sermonibus aurea."

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THE JUVENILE ENTERTAINER

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BIOGRAPHY.

The Progress of Genius

FROM OBSCURE AND LOW SITUATIONS, TO EMINENCE AND CELEBRITY.

Genius is that gift of God which learning cannot confer, which no disadvantages of birth or education can wholly obscure.

JOHN HARRISON.—The ingenious inventor & maker of the famous Time keeper, was bred a carpenter—Having a turn for wheel work, he constructed some wooden clocks, the accuracy of which was much admired.

In 1735 he visited London with a machine, and was sent by the board of longitude to Lisbon to try it. From that time he went on improving his invention, and received the reward of £20,000 granted by parliament.

DR. SAMUEL JOHNSTON.—The learned critic and lexicographer, and author of so many valuable miscellaneous pieces, was the son of a bookseller in Litchfield. His father dying and leaving him in poor circumstances he became a member of the school of Bosworth; and on the death of his mother a considerable time afterwards, his was so little meliorated, that he had recourse to writing a romance, to defray the expenses of her funeral and pay her debts; yet his literary labours at last procured him such celebrity, that the king granted him a pension of 300 per annum, and honoured him with a chair in the Royal Library. The Universities of Oxford and Dublin conferred on him the degree of L. L. D. His remains were interred in Westminster Abbey, and a statue, with an appropriate inscription, has been erected to his memory in St. Paul's Cathedral.

ALEXANDER ADAM.—This eminent schoolmaster and useful writer, was born June, 1741, Coats of Burgis, in the county of Moray. His parents were poor, but gave him such education as a parish school afforded; & after having successfully endeavoured to procure an education at King's College, Aberdeen, he was engaged in 1758, to go to the university of

Edinburgh, where he surmounted pecuniary difficulties with a virtuous and honourable perseverance, such as are rarely to be found; and improved his opportunities of knowledge with assiduity and success. In 1761, he was elected schoolmaster to Watson's hospital, an establishment for the education of the poor, and continued to improve himself in classical knowledge, by a careful perusal of some of the best and most difficult authors. In 1767, he was appointed assistant to the rector of the high school of Edinburgh, and, in 1771, successor to the same gentleman, and filled this honourable station during the remainder of his life, raising the reputation of the school much higher than it had been known for many years.

Dr. Adam compiled "A Summary of Geography and History," for the use of his pupils, which he afterwards enlarged and published, in 1794. In 1791, he published Roman Antiquities; or an account of the manners and customs of the Romans," 8 vo. This useful work has been translated into German, French, Italian, &c. has been very generally recommended in preference to Dr. Kennet's work on the same subject. In 1800 he published his "Classical Biography" which was originally intended as the appendix to a Latin dictionary, on which he had been employed for some years; but the high price of paper, and the great expense of printing such works discouraged him from carrying into effect his original design. He printed, however, in 1805, an abridgement of his dictionary, under the title of "Lexicon Linguae Latinae compendiarium," 8 vo. All these works, have attained a high degree of popularity, and are used in the principal schools of this kingdom. Dr. Adam died December 18th, 1809, of an apoplexy, in the 69th year of his age, universally regretted as an able and successful teacher, a man of high rank in classical literature, and in private life benevolent & amiable. At one period of his life, when the French revolution distracted the political opinions of his country, he incurred some degree of censure for having introduced matters of a political kind into his school. For this no apology can be valid; but it appears that he became afterwards more cautious; and at the period of his death, his character was so universally esteemed, that his remains were honoured with a public funeral.

NATURAL HISTORY.

THE HORSE.

The horse is justly esteemed one of the most noble and useful animals with which God has blessed man. In size, shape, and colour, they vary much. They are usually about fifteen hands, or five feet high, and with a form, in which are united, strength, activity and beauty. The horse has a stately head and neck, with clear lively eyes, the body round, and with well formed legs and hoary hoofs. The mane flowing round and thick long tail, which they naturally enjoy, adds greatly to their beauty, the colour varies from white to black, the hair is short and smooth. The horse is an animal of such strength and spirit, and yet easily managed, that he serves mankind for many purposes, where the want of him could not be well supplied. He

is bold endures long fatigue, and performs great labour with quickness and a free spirit, and yet is so easily guided, as to be driven in any direction, fast or slow by a simple bridle, or even by words. Some horses to be sure, are very wild, and hard to govern, but when well trained and kindly used, they are gentle and very fond of their masters.

The horse in his temper is very bold and fearless, and has always been made a chief aid to mankind in the wars which they carry on against each other.

In the book of Job is given a very fine description of the horse, where the Lord in order to show Job his own weakness recounts the wonders of creation. He says to Job, 'Hast thou given the horse strength? Hast thou clothed his neck with thunder? Canst thou make him afraid as a grasshopper? The glory of his nostrils is terrible. He paweth in the valley, and rejoiceth in his strength, he goeth on to meet the armed men. He moweth at fear, and is not affrighted, neither turneth he back from the sword. The quiver rattleth against him, the glittering spear and the shield. He swalloweth the ground with fierceness and rage neither believeth he that it is the sound of the trumpet. He saith among the trumpets, aha! aha! and he smelleth the battle afar off, the thunder of the captains and the shouting.' This, indeed, is a noble description, but remember, it is the description of a brute, and however fine for the character of a brute, would not become a rational being like man. Man does truly sometimes, assume the likeness of the horse in the rash and headlong course he pursues. Behold how terrible and fearless the War Horse looks; how forward to dash into danger; see his furious manner—fit emblem this of the daring sinner, 'Every one turneth to his course as the horse rusheth into the battle'. Jer. 8th chap. C.

To behold the War Horse rush into the battle amid destruction and death is not strange, for the animal is not conscious of his danger. But to see young persons possessed of reason, & warned by the word of God, pursuing an evil course, and boldly plunging into folly and vice; when ruin meets their souls at every step like death in a battle, and only a step between them and eternity—this is a sight to make one shudder with fright. Be ye not as the horse or mule, which have no understanding.'

LITERATURE.

From the Amulet.

THE TRIAL.

Concluded.

"I bow with submission to the judgement of my country, and though I be innocent, I return my thanks to the venerable judge, who has just pronounced the awful sentence, for the christian tenderness with which he has treated one seemingly so involved in guilt as I am. The jury as men, could have returned no other verdict; but he it is, who has taken up arms against them; my doom was sealed in heaven. May the sacrifice of my life atone, if not for the crime of which I am innocent, at least for the many faults which I have committed. It is impossible not to recognize in this the hand of the supreme disposer of events. I had at first clung to life and clung to it, yet that I might yet be saved and restored to my beloved father and to the esteem of good men; but I think I am now resigned to die, with a firm hope, that if my days are cut short in their prime, if my hopes of happiness and betterment have been blasted, and if I am to be my lot, it is wisely and mercifully decreed, in order to redeem me from the errors into which I have fallen, to purify my soul from those feelings of self-appraise and pride, which had made me seek human praise rather than peace with God."

During this affecting address the hall was hushed to perfect stillness, every body large forward with breathless eagerness to catch the words, all seemed painedly divided between horror for the supposed crime, and ad-