

who profess to be smart, and, above all, the infliction of pain upon your friends and neighbours, by treading too hard upon their gouty places.

CORINNA sees nothing, hears nothing, reads nothing, that does not call forth the coruscations of her really pregnant wit; but their frequency dazzles, and their being often ill-timed, destroys their zest, or perverts their application. A fellow being condemned for sacrilege, having robbed a church and taken away along with him the communion plate, the creed and the ten commandments, a gentleman remarked, I do not wonder at the plate being stolen, but I can not think what was the man's object in taking the creed and the commandments; upon which Corinna said, "O, he took the creed to *make believe*, and the commandments to *break them* to be sure." Now this, though witty, happened to be ill-timed and perverted, for it was the day appointed for the execution of the poor fellow, and tho' aimed at the gentleman who had made the remark, and who was notorious both as a hypocrite in religion and as a libertine, was applied to the delinquent.

TRIFLETTA, has addicted herself to the sin of punning, and makes and solves charades, rebuses, riddles and confundrums, which are a kind of tinsel trappings that are hung round the tiara of sterling wit. Though this bastard wit is generally harmless, it is like a dose of magnesia, both palling and ineffectual. Some puns indeed have point, but then that is because they are not genuine puns, the distinction being, that where there is only a resemblance in the *sound*, it is a pure pun, whilst, if there is an allusion also that applies to the *sense* of the word at the same time, it partakes of the nature of a witticism. True wit is translateable into all languages, puns never can be understood but in one. A gentleman of a facetious disposition, had the mischance, on an