

...; frequently disturbing them with its loud and unmusical clamor, its potulant sprightliness, and assumption of a dominion which it is incapable of maintaining. Its flesh is very much like that of the Pheasant; it also resembles that bird in many of its habits. In ancient Rome, the Pintado was much more highly prized, as an article of luxury for the table, than with us.

#### ANECDOTE OF ANIMALS.

*"A Singular Device.*—A singular circumstance exhibiting in a remarkable degree the reflecting faculties of a wolf, is related as having taken place at Signoy le Petit, a small town on the borders of Champagne. A farmer one day, looking through the edge of his garden, observed a wolf walking around his mule, but unable to get at him, on account of the mules constantly kicking with his hind legs. As the farmer perceived that his beast was so well able to defend itself, he considered it unnecessary to render him any assistance. After the attack and defence had lasted fully a quarter of an hour, the wolf ran off to a neighboring ditch where he several times plunged himself into the water. The farmer imagined he did this to refresh himself after the fatigue he had sustained, & had no doubt that his mule had gained a complete victory; but in a few minutes the wolf returned to the charge, and approaching as near as he could to the head of the mule, shook himself, and spouted a quantity of water into the mule's eyes, which caused him immediately to shut them. That moment the wolf leaped upon him, and killed the poor mule before the farmer could come to his assistance."

*"Singular Interposition.*—A lady had a tame bird, which she was in the habit of letting out of its cage every day. One morning as it was picking crumbs of bread off the carpet, her cat who always before showed great kindness for the bird, seized it on a sudden, and jumped with it in her mouth upon the table. The lady was much alarmed for the safety of her favourite, but, on turning about, instantly discovered the cause. The door had been left open, and a strange cat had just come into the room. After turning it out, her own cat came down from her place of safety, and dropped the bird, without doing it the smallest injury."

*The Sparrow protected.*—M. Hecart, of Valenciennes, procured the kitten of a wild cat, which he so effectually tamed, that she became the friend and protector of a domesticated sparrow. M. Hecart always allowed the sparrow to fly about at perfect liberty. One day, a cat belonging to a neighbouring house, had seized upon this sparrow, and was making off with it; but this wild cat, observing her at the very moment, flew at puss, and made her quit the bird, which she brought bleeding and half dead, to her master.—She seemed from her manner, really to

... situation of the poor sparrow, and rejoiced when it recovered from the injury, and was again able to amuse itself with this wild grimalkin.

*Indicators of Earthquakes.*—The following extraordinary anecdote of the sensibility of cats, to approaching danger from earthquakes, is well authenticated. In the year 1783, two cats belonging to a merchant of Messina, in Sicily, announced to him the approach of an earthquake. Before the first shock was felt, these two animals seemed anxious to work their way through the door of a room in which they were. Their master observing their fruitless efforts, opened the door for them. At a second and third door, which they likewise found shut, they repeated their efforts, and on being set completely at liberty, they ran straight through the street, and out of the gate of the town. The merchant whose curiosity was excited by this strange conduct of the cats, followed them into the fields, where he again saw them scratching and burrowing in the earth.—Soon after there was a violent shock of an earthquake, and many of the houses of the city fell down, of which number the merchant's was one; so that he was indebted for his life to the singular foresight of his cats.

#### BIOGRAPHY.

"The proper study of mankind is man."

#### FREDERICK THE GREAT KING OF PRUSSIA.

Man is the creature of circumstance.—His character is determined by the manners and customs of the country, and the spirit of the age in which he lives. The close of the reign of Frederick William, was characterised by the ignorance and superstition which covered his domains.—The mists which had shrouded the dark ages, had been dispelled from the rest of Europe; and the cheering light, which science and literature shed on others, served only to make more visible the "blackness of darkness" that brooded over Prussia. Although the people were under the influence of laws little inferior to those framed by the Grecian lawgiver—although Frederick the Elector and Frederick William had, by persevering industry, opened sources of commerce and devised means for the increase of wealth, still they moved not. The Iron hand of ignorance held them fast, and they yet retained, as they ever had done, the character of a superstitious, deluded nation. They had a religion it is true, but it was one consisting of outward forms and vulgar prejudices, void of vitality.

Such was the condition of Prussia when Frederick the Great ascended the throne. His having been educated abroad, his acquaintance with the other nations of Europe, some of whom were in the zenith of their prosperity, made him the more sensible of the degradation and unhappy situation of the people over which he was called to rule. Adding to great energy of mind,

an inordinate ambition, he made it the height of the latter to clovate the character of his subjects, and the unshaken constancy with which he preserved in it, could only have proceeded from a sincere attachment to their welfare. Military powers was then in great repute, and "by a steady and severe discipline" he raised from his small kingdom, the best and most skillful army in Europe, and with it himself, (no mean warrior) at its head, he struck terror into the whole German Empire. All Europe was dazzled by the splendor of his military talents, and unanimously bestowed upon him the epithet he so richly deserved.

Nor is it as a general only that he is deserving of applause. Well versed in literature, he appreciated its advantages, and he applied the whole energies of his vigorous mind to shed its influence upon his benighted people. Universities were established, and no pains spared to disseminate knowledge among all classes. As a patron he stood pre-eminent. Men of letters ever were in favor at his court, and as few such were to be found among his own countrymen, no inducements were by him thought too strong—no expence too great, if thus he could entice them there from foreign nations. The consequence of these admiral qualities as a sovereign was, that the limits of his kingdom were extended, its population and industry increased, and its march in the road to wealth and prosperity rapid.

Would that a veil might be thrown over the rest of his character. Would that after he had raised his subjects from the degraded situation in which he found them, to that elevation, to bring them to which he had so long and so ardently striven, he could there have left them. But no—he only raised them that they might fall. In supplanting ignorance and superstition, he scattered seeds, in the springing up and growth of which, every principle of virtue and morality, the only sure basis of government, was rooted out, and at last, (as says Tytler) brought them to the feet of an ungodly conqueror.

Such was this distinguished, but vicious man. And while those, who are opposed to him for qualities which have made his name approbrious, give these the prominence they deserve, let them not neglect those other better qualities, which have justly entitled him to the sir\_name of the Great.—[Adelphi.]

#### CURRAN.

Four times was the intrepid spirit of Curran dared to the field in a duel: but even there he could not refrain from indulging his wonted humor. On one of these occasions, when he fought Mr. St Leger, the other demanding which was to fire first, Curran answered "that he came as a guest merely—it was for St. Leger himself to open the ball, since he gave the invitation." Next, seeing that St. Leger presented the pistol wide of the mark, Curran gave him the word of command fire, which the other obeyed, without any mischief of course, when Curran discharging his pistol in the air, the affair ended. Another duel which he had with the Lord Chancellor Clare was,