

a civilized tongue, would doubtless be found pretty near akin to an oath. The huxter listened to this maledictory out-pouring, with the most profound composure, merely remarking, when the left-handed benediction had ceased for pure want of breath; "Friend McTurk, mind thine own affairs, or perchance thou mayest run thy face against my fist!"

Bathsheba Buddicombe accompanied her grim guardian, and verily a more interesting creature I never beheld, except perchance in Mungo McGraw's wax-work show. Her wee bit face hung round with fringes of raven curls, was better set off by the plain, sad-coloured silken bonnet than it would have been by the gayest, gaudiest headgear. Even Miss Nettles herself, who, of course, was among the on-lookers, was compelled to admit that considering the lassie never had been christened she was not so overly ill-favoured! Sitting, as Bathsheba was, beside the dour, grim-like Quaker, she reminded me for all the world of a snow-drop blossoming in the neighbourhood of a puddock stool!

On a sudden an extra-particular bustle got up in the court, and the word was passed in audible whispers, that the great Master Kame had arrived. Every eye was turned to the door to catch an early look of the illustrious personage, who presently entered the chamber, Hamish McTurk clearing the road before him with his baton. He was a decent looking black-a-vised man, not unlike, so far as externalities were concerned, to a sober Old Light ruling elder, and, in fact, few would have suspected that such a grave-like tyke could have his noddle filled with the idiotical whims and crotchets of phrenology.

Now came the moment of intense excitement, as Dominie Paumie expressed it, and when the sitting Magistrate, Bailie Peacod, desired Wattie to arise and stand forth, you might have heard a pi. fall, or a wood-cricket chirp. The patient who was to undergo the operation, tried to look as valorous as possible—his sweet-heart turned red and white by turns, like the revolving beacon in the clock light-house, and as for Malachi he sat as motionless as the image of Dagon, as if he were busy in counting the spots and cracks in the ceiling.

Hamish having, according to legal use and wont, proclaimed silence, a very superfluous

procedure as matters stood, master Kame proceeded to business. He took out of a green bag, an instrument resembling, for all the world, a pair of reaper's heuks joined together at the handles thereof, with which he encircled Wattie's head, pressing the two ends till the machine met like a ring.

Having worked and powdered away for a minute or two, the operator suddenly dropped the outlandish instrument, and uplifting his two hands, like the minister when pronouncing the dismissal, he exclaimed, "My stars and garters, what a mighty development! As I am an honest man and a phrenologist, I never met with such a monstrous specimen of Acquisitiveness! it beats old Daniel Dancer's all to sticks. Why the lad would live on one farthing per diem, and out of the residuum lay past money into the bargain!

But preserve me! what a scene got up so soon as this most unequivocal verdict was returned. The Quaker sat with his mouth wide open, as dumfounded like, as if he had been smitten by a fit of the palsy. Laird Ogilvie sprang across the table like a lamp-lighter, and folded the blushing trembling Bathsheba in his eager arms; and the spectators broke out into a mighty and universal shout of satisfaction and triumph. The young bachelors cheered, because their feelings naturally prompted them so to do; and the married men, if perchance, less hearty in their congratulations, added their mites, as they did not like to be supposed that they were worse off than their neighbours. Even Miss Nettles and Hamish McTurk, joined in the festive slogan, though their motives, most probably, were none of the purest. The one, doubtless remembered the murder of her lap-dog, and the latter the martyrdom of his shins; and assuredly an energy was added to their applause because they saw that the bowls of fortune had not rolled exactly as their common foe had calculated or wished.

To make a long story short, the Town Clerk engrossed a minute in the records of the Burgh, to the effect that the parties might lawfully wed, seeing that the condition imposed by Bathsheba's curator had been fully implemented, Master Kame signing the same as witness-in-chief. Finally, the lieges of Dreepdail having borrowed a couple of arm-chairs from the Clayslap Arms, carried the