

to his mind that there could be any doubt of the truth of those tenets in which his father and mother had instructed him, and which he heard venerable looking men, in sacred habits proclaim from all the pulpits of Lisbon. He was decidedly of opinion, that none but monsters of wickedness, who ought to be burnt in this world by way of preparing them for the next, could harbour any doubt on such important points; he had indeed, occasionally heard it hinted, that some of those doctrines were incomprehensible, and others contradictory; but this did not convey to his judgment any reason for doubting of their truth. He never omitted, therefore, any of the ceremonies prescribed by the church; he confessed his sins regularly, performed penance faithfully, would not eat a morsel of meat on a Friday on any consideration; and with the most punctual perseverance repeated daily his Pater Noster, Ave Maria, and Credo, to the last bead of his rosary. A person who thought that the whole of Christianity consisted in these and other ceremonies, could not but be surprised and shocked to hear his claim to the name of a Christian disputed. As to that thirst for revenge on every real or imaginary injury, which he had indulged from his childhood, and some other culpable propensities to which he was addicted, he considered all of these as venial foibles, which were more than expiated by his obedience to mother church in more essential points; and when his indulging in those culpable practices to which he was by temper or constitution prone came in question, he shrugged his shoulders, and said, 'Well, I thank God, they are neither here nor schism.'

The physician, however, endeavoured to give him a different notion of these matters, founding most of his arguments on passages of a sermon to be found in the gospel of St. Matthew; for this happened to be a physician who sometimes read the bible. There are, it would appear, some of that kind in America. The Portuguese, at first, thought the passages in question of a very singular nature; and as they were plain and intelligible, and nothing mysterious in them, he could hardly believe that they were quite orthodox: besides, he was a good deal surprised that certain articles, which he thought of great importance, were not touched upon; yet on being informed who the person was who had preached this sermon, he could not deny that it had a fair chance of being sound Christianity. The physician having brought him so far, found little difficulty in persuading him, that it was his duty as well as interest to leave Zeluco to his own

wicked heart, which carried its punishment within itself; hinting also the probability of his falling sooner or later within the grasp of the laws of society, which his passions continually tempted him to violate.

It was probably owing to the remonstrances of this extraordinary physician that Zeluco left the island in safety; and the Portuguese merchant was indebted to him for being freed from the two most tormenting demons that can possess the human breast, jealousy and the spirit of revenge.

METHOD OF MAKING POT-ASH.

[In a Letter from Dr. Dexter to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.]

HAVING had frequent applications from the manufacturers of pot-ash, to examine that article, which condemned by the Assaymasters; I have been led to several observations, which are generally the result of experiments, respecting its defects and the causes of its impurity. From a conviction that those defects may be easily remedied, I have committed my remarks to paper, with a concise history of the manufacturing this salt, which I beg leave to submit to the consideration of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; and if after their critical examination, they shall be thought to contain any useful hints, they will dispose of them as they think proper.

It is unnecessary to premise, that the great evil which injures the salt, and very much reduces the value of some of the American pot-ash, arises from foreign matters, such as common salt and earth, being accidentally mixed with it.

The furnaces and machines or apparatus commonly used in this country, for extracting the salts from the ashes, and for boiling and fluxing them, are undoubtedly of a good kind.

The first important object to be observed, is to extract all the salts from the ashes. For this purpose, rain or river water ought always to be preferred. The ashes should be saturated, and thoroughly wet, and remain with, about an inch of water over the top of them twelve hours at least. Then a small opening may be made in the bottom of the leach tub, which ought to contain a strainer, to prevent the ashes from running off. The liquid discharged is fit for immediate use. At