

# JUVENILE ENTERTAINER.

"Torquet ab obscenis jam nunc sermonibus aurem."

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## THE JUVENILE ENTERTAINER

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## MISCELLANEOUS.

### THE EYE.

The following beautiful description of the eye was a part of the chapter upon light, in Arnott's *Physics*, a work of great interest and learning:

"But this miracle of light would have been wholly useless, and the lovely paradise of earth would have been to man still a dark and dreary desert, had there not been the twin miracle of an organ of commensurate delicacy, to perceive the light, viz. of the eye; in which there is a cornea of such perfect transparency, placed exactly in the anterior centre of the ball, and elsewhere it had been useless, were exact behind this, the beautiful curtain, the iris, with its pupil dilating and contracting to suit the density of the light—and exactly behind this again, the crystalline lens, having many qualities which complex structure only in human art can attain, and by the entering light forming on the retina beautiful pictures and images of the objects in front, the most sensible part of the retina being where the images fall. Of these parts and conditions, had any one been otherwise than it is, the whole eye had been useless, and the light useless, and the great universe useless to man, for he could not have existed in it. Then, wherever we find that the precious organ, the eye, is placed, not as if by accident, somewhere near the centre of the person, but aloft on a proud eminence, where it becomes the glorious watch-tower of the soul; and again, not so that to alter direction, the whole person must turn, but in the head, which on a pivot of admirable structure, revolves while the whole body is at rest; the ball of the eye, moreover, being furnished with muscles, which as well direct as turn it with the rapidity of lightning to sweep around the horizon, take in the whole heavenly concave; then is the delicate orb secured in a strong socket of bone, and there is over this the arched eyebrow a cushion to destroy the shock of blows, and with its inclined hairs to turn aside the descending perspiration which might incommode; then there is the soft pliant eyelid, with its beautiful lashes incessantly wiping the polished surface, and spreading over it the pure moisture poured by lachrymal glands above, of which mois-

ture the superfluity, by a fine mechanism, is sent into the nose, there to be evaporated by the current of the breath still further, instead of there being only one so precious organ, there are two, least one by accident should be destroyed, but which two have so entire a sympathy, that they act together only as one more perfect; then the sense of sight continues perfect during the period of growth, from birth to maturity, although the distance from the lens to the retina is constantly varying, the pure liquid which fills the eye, if rendered turbid by disease or accident, is by the action of life, although its source be the thick red blood, gradually restored to transparency. The mind which can suppose or admit that with in any limits of time, even a single such organ of vision could have been produced by accident, or without design—and still more, that the millions which now exist on earth, all equally perfect, can have sprung from accident, or that the millions of millions in past ages were all accidents, and that the endless millions throughout the animate creation, where each requires a most peculiar fitness to the nature and circumstances of the animal, can be accident—must surely be of extraordinary character, or must have received an unhappy bias in its education."

### REMARKS ON GEN. WASHINGTON.

The following article is from the London New Monthly Magazine. The London Sun attributes it to the pen of Hazlitt, and calls it "A Sketch of W. Washington, one of the greatest men the modern world has ever seen."

I remember my father telling me he was introduced to Washington in 1790, by an American friend. A servant, well looking and well dressed, received the visitants at the door, and by him they were delivered over to an officer of the United States' service, who ushered them into the drawing room in which Mrs. Washington and several ladies were seated. There was nothing remarkable in the person of the lady of the president; she was matronly and kind, with perfect good breeding; she at once entered into easy conversation, asked how long he had been in America, how he liked the country, and such other familiar but general questions. In a few minutes the general entered the room; it was not necessary to announce his name, for his peculiar appearance, his firm forehead, Roman nose, and a projection of the lower jaw, his height and figure, could not be mistaken by any one who had seen a full length picture of him, and yet no picture accurately resembled him, in the minute traits of his person. His features, however, were so marked by prominent characteristics, which appear in all likenesses of him, that a stranger could not be mistaken in the man. He was remarkably dignified in his manner, and had an air of benignity over his features, which his visitant did not expect, being rather prepared for sternness of countenance. After an introduction by Mrs. Washington, without more form than common good manners prescribe, "he requested me," said my father, "to be seated; & taking a chair himself, entered at once into con-

versation. His manner was full of affability. He asked how I liked the country, the city of New York; talked of the infant institutions of America, and the advantages she offered, by her intercourse, for benefiting other nations. He was grave in manner, but perfectly easy. His dress was of purple satin. There was a commanding air in his appearance, which excited respect and forbade too great a freedom towards him, independently of that species of awe which is always felt in the moral influence of a great character. In every movement too there was a polite gracefulness equal to any met with in the most polished individuals in Europe, and his smile was extraordinarily attractive. It was observed to me that there was an expression in Washington's face that no painter had succeeded in taking. It struck me no man could be better formed for command. A stature of six feet, a robust, but well proportioned frame, calculated to sustain fatigue, without that heaviness which generally attends great muscular strength, and abates active exertion, displaying bodily powers of no mean standard. A light eye and full—the very eye of genius and reflection, rather than of blind passionate impulse. His nose appeared thick; and, though it befitted his other features, was too coarsely and strongly formed to be the handsomest of its class. His mouth was like no other that I ever saw; the lips firm, and the under jaw seeming to grasp the upper with force, as if its muscles were in full action when he sat still. Neither with the general nor with Mrs. Washington was there the slightest restraint of ceremony. There was less of it than I ever recollect to have met with, where perfect good breeding and manners were at the same time observed. To many remarks Washington assented with a smile or inclination of the head, as if he were by nature sparing in his conversation and I am inclined to think this was the case. An allusion was made to a serious fit of illness he had recently suffered: but he took no notice of it. I could not help remarking, that America must have looked with anxiety to the termination of his indisposition. He made no reply to my compliment but by an inclination of the head. His bow at my taking leave I shall not forget. It was the last movement which I saw that illustrious character make, as my eyes took their leave of him for ever, and it hangs a perfect picture upon my recollection.—The house of Washington was in the Broadway, and the street front was handsome. The drawing room in which I sat was lofty and spacious; but the furniture was not beyond that found in dwellings of opulent Americans in general, and might be called plain for its situation. The upper end of the room had glass doors, which opened upon a balcony commanding an extensive view of the Hudson River. A grandson and daughter resided constantly in the house with the general, and a nephew of the general's, married to a niece of Mrs. Washington, resided at Mount Vernon, the general's family seat in Virginia, his residence as president, keeping with