

But spite of all defects, his glories rise,
And art, by judgment form'd, with na-
ture vies :

Behold him found the depth of Hubert's
soul,
Whilst in his own contending passions
roll.

View the whole scene, with critic judg-
ment scan,
And then deny him merit if you can.
Where he falls short 'tis Nature's fault
alone ;
Where he succeeds, the merit's all his
own.

In the year 1760, the late King George the Second died, and with a new reign, under a young monarch who loved the arts and professed to encourage them, every person who had any pretensions to genius expected both notice and encouragement. Among these Mr. Sheridan, who was on terms of intimacy with several in the confidence of the new sovereign, was not without his particular expectations, in which he was not altogether disappointed. He was one of the first to whom a pension was granted*, and it was frequently his boast, that thro' his suggestion Dr. Johnson was offered the independance which he afterwards enjoyed from his Majesty's bounty. This honour has, however, been claimed by another gentleman, and each of them may have been entitled to it. It will not be thought very surprizing that on such an occasion two persons without any communication with each other, should think of and recommend the same person.

For the two or three succeeding years Mr. Sheridan was employed in delivering his Lectures in different parts of the kingdom, and in Scotland he was honoured with so much attention, as to have a Society established for promoting the reading and speaking the English language. The members of this society were some of the principal literary persons in the Kingdom, and amongst others, Dr. Blair, Dr. Robertson, Dr. Fergusson, and others. His Lectures were generally approved, though they sustained some slight injury from the ridicule of Mr. Foote, who produced a burlesque on them in 1762, at the theatre in the Haymarket.

In 1763, Mr. Sheridan's Comedy, The Discovery was performed at Drury lane,

* When Dr. Johnson heard of Mr. Sheridan's pension, he made a splenetic observation on the occasion ; which offended Mr. Sheridan so much, that he refused ever after, during the rest of his life, to have any correspondence with Dr. Johnson, though often solicited by him.

in which Mr. Sheridan represented Lord Medway. About 1763, he went to France, and took up his residence at Blois, by order of his Majesty, as it has been asserted. During his residence at this place he lost his wife, who died there on the 26th of September 1766. Those who were intimate with Mr. Sheridan cannot but have received the most favourable impression of the virtues of this lady from the affectionate terms in which she was always spoken of by her husband. If our recollection does not deceive us, Mr. Sheridan did not continue long in France after this event.

His next public appearance was in 1769, when he exhibited at the Haymarket an entertainment of reading, singing, and music, which he called An Attic Evening Entertainment ; and in the summer of the same year he resumed his profession of an actor by performing at the Haymarket the characters of Hamlet, Richard III. Brutus, and Othello. In this year he published his Plan of Education for the young Nobility and Gentry of Great Britain, addressed to the King ; in which he made a tender of his services, and an offer to dedicate the remainder of his days to the execution of that plan which he had then proposed. He concludes in the following words :—' Things are now brought to a crisis. I have, after struggling many years through uncommon hardships, at length accomplished my part, so as to be ready to enter upon the task. To the completion of it, assistance is now necessary ; I can proceed no farther without it. The duty that I owe to a numerous family will not permit me to run any farther risks. And on the other hand, when I consider the just grounds I have to believe, that if the design be not executed by myself, it never will be by any other hand, I cannot help wishing that I were enabled to give my whole attention to it, till it should be established on a solid foundation. Nor will my expectations, I hope, be deemed unreasonable, when the utmost I should propose during the prosecution of this laborious task is, that my income should not be less than what I could apparently make in a much more easy way. And I profess to your Majesty in the sincerity of my heart, and with the same regard to truth as if I were addressing the Almighty, that I would prefer a competency in this way to all the wealth and honours of this world, in any other course. However strange such a declaration may appear in these times, yet it will not be thought very extraordinary, if known to

* See Correspondence of Wilkes and Horne.