

## LITERARY DEPARTMENT.

### FILIAL PIETY.

Of all the virtues recommended to society there is none more strongly inculcated by eternal wisdom than that which forms the subject of this paper. If nature sometimes produces monsters, whose base and unprincipled souls lead them to relax the sacred and venerable ties which should so powerfully unite children to the authors of their being, it is not for such depraved minds we have selected the following facts, as they are incapable of feeling the force of the virtuous sentiments we here celebrate; but we address ourselves to those exalted minds in whom a sentiment of early piety produces a pleasing obedience to the dictates of that divine precept, "Honour thy father and thy mother."

A young lad, but newly admitted into the military school, soon made himself appear rather a singular disposition by his remarkable abstemiousness. Whatever variation of diet was allowed, he never ate any thing but bread and soup, and drank nothing but water. The governor being informed of this conduct, so very uncommon in a boy, attributed it to an indiscreet devotion, and reproved him for it. Nevertheless the lad persisted, and the governor mentioned the circumstance to Monsieur Paris Duverney. He had the boy called before him, and with his usual mildness and moderation represented to him that such singularity was by no means proper or allowable in a public institution, and that he must certainly conform to the rules and diet established there. He afterwards unsuccessfully tried to find out the reason that could induce the boy to act in such a manner, and at last threatened, if he persisted in concealing it, that he would send him home again to his family. This menace had the desired effect, and he then disclosed the motive of his conduct. "You will not, I hope, be displeased with me, sir," said he; "but I could not bring myself to enjoy what I think luxury, while I reflect that my dear father and mother are in the utmost indigence. They could afford themselves and me no better food than the coarsest bread, and of that but very little. Here I have excellent soup and as much fine white bread as I would choose. I look upon this to be very good living, and the recollection of the situation in which I left my parents

would not permit me to indulge myself by eating any thing else."

Monsieur Duverney and the governor could not restrain their tears at such an early instance of fortitude and sensibility. "If your father has been in the service," said M. Duverney, "how comes it that he has got no pension?" "For want of friends and money, sir," replied the youth. "He has been upwards of a year soliciting one, but his money and resources failed; and rather than contract debts at Versailles, he is content to languish in the manner I have told you." "Well," said M. Duverney, "if the fact appears to have been as you have stated it, I will engage to procure your father a pension of 500 livres. In the meantime here are three louis d'ors for yourself as a present from the king and I will advance your father six months' pay out of the pension I am certain of obtaining for him." "How can you send the money to him, sir?" asked the boy. "Let that give you no uneasiness," replied M. Duverney. "I shall find means." "Ah, sir," said the boy, with precipitation, "if you can do it so easily, be pleased to send him these three louis d'ors you were so good as to give me. I want nothing here, and they would be of the greatest service to my father for my brothers and sisters." How delightful to the sensible mind are such early emanations of pious gratitude!

The following fact by no means yields to the preceding in greatness of soul, generosity or filial affection:—

A French officer, going to rejoin his regiment, took the opportunity while on the road to enlist some recruits whom he wanted to complete his company, and had got several in a city where he halted. Two days before he determined to march from this city, a young man of a very graceful figure and pleasing aspect presented himself. An air of candour and politeness prepossessed every beholder in his favour, and the officer at the first interview wished to engage him, while with the utmost precipitation he offered to enlist. The officer perceived his embarrassment, and tried to remove it. "Ah, sir," said the young man, "do not, I entreat you, attribute my disorder to any base or shameful motive; but perhaps you do not choose to engage me, and in that case dreadful indeed will be my misfortune." Some tears escaped as he uttered