

a virtuous, amiable and educated woman; her love is the highest delight which gladdens him in the vale of suffering—it is a great oasis that spreads for him its grassy verdure on the desert of despair. In the possession of a lovely, sympathetic woman, even in the solitudes of life, only illuminated by her smiles, the soul is more gratified than upon the throne of Napoleon, when the world honoured him with its homage, and was dazzled by the lustre of his glory.

Though Rousseau threw enchantments over the tender passion; though Byron and Ossian transfused the most sublime and profound sensibility into love, yet they never experienced those fine feelings of which the pure heart of woman is susceptible. It is the fountain from which piety and ardent affections gush in a spontaneous and flowing union. It is in the midst of distress and anguish that the finest qualities of the female, and the noblest traits of the female character, are displayed in all their characteristic grandeur.

When the husband is under the pressure of unalterable woe—when his prospects are withered by the dissolved illusions of hope, and the cruel deserts of friends—it is then that the consolations of a wife pour the balm of sympathy in the corroded bosom of grief. Adversity only gives an additional impulse of ardour to her attachment—it seems to inspire her with a spirit of devotedness to the object of her love, which rises superior to afflictions or misfortune. No changes or chances estrange the constancy or subdue the intensity of her devotion.

#### BRITISH MANNERS IN FORMER TIMES.

Mons. Jorevin, a French traveller, who journeyed through England in the reign of Charles II., stopped at the Stag inn, at Worcester, in the High-street; and he describes the entertainment of himself and a friend, with whom he supped, so as to acquaint us somewhat with the entertainments in inns at that time. "During supper, he (his friend) sent for a band of music, consisting of all sorts of instruments; among these the harp is the most esteemed by the English. According to the custom of the country, the landladies sup with the strangers and passengers; and if they have daughters, they are also of the company, to entertain the guests at table with pleasant conceits, where they drink as much as the men. But what is to me the most disgusting in all this is, that when one drinks the health of any person in company, the custom of the country does not permit you to drink more than half the cup, which is filled up, and presented to him or her whose health you have drank. Moreover, the supper being finished, they sat on the table half a dozen pipes and a packet of tobacco, for smoking, which is a general custom, as well among women as men, who think that without tobacco one cannot live in England, because, say they, it dissipates the evil humours of the brain." It appears from a "Character of England," printed in 1659, "that the ladies of greatest quality suffered themselves to be treated in these taverns, and that they drank their *crowned cups* roundly, danced after the fiddle, and exceeded the bounds of propriety in their carousals."

If a description of Scottish manners, printed about fifty years ago, may be relied on, it was then a fashion with females of Edinburgh to frequent a sort of public-house in that city. The writer says: "January 15, 1775—A few evenings ago I had the pleasure of being asked to one of these entertainments by a lady. At that time I was not acquainted with this scene of 'high life below stairs,' and, therefore, when she mentioned the word 'oyster-cellar,' I imagined I must have mistaken the place of invitation; she repeated it, however, and I found it was not my business to make objections, so agreed immediately. I waited with great impatience till the hour arrived, and when the clock struck away I went, and inquired if the lady was there.—'O yes,' cried the woman, 'she has been here an hour or more.' The door opened, and I had the pleasure of being

ushered in, not to one lady, as I expected, but to a large and brilliant company of both sexes, most of whom I had the honour of being acquainted with. The large table, round which they were seated, was covered with dishes full of oysters, and pots of porter. For a long time I could not suppose that this was the only entertainment we were to have, and I sat waiting in expectation of a repast that was never to make its appearance. The table was cleared, and glasses introduced. The ladies were now asked whether they would choose brandy or rum punch? I thought this question an odd one, but I was soon informed by the gentleman who sat next me, that no wine was sold here, but that punch was quite 'the thing;' and a large bowl was immediately introduced. The conversation hitherto had been insipid, and at intervals; it now became general and lively. The women, who, to do them justice, are much more entertaining than their neighbours in England, discovered a great deal of vivacity and fondness of repartee. A thousand things were hazarded, and met with applause; to which the oddity of the scene gave propriety, and which could have been produced in no other place. The general ease with which they conducted themselves, the innocent freedom of their manners, and their unaffected good-nature, all conspired to make us forget that we were regaling in a cellar, and was a convincing proof that, let local customs operate as they may, a truly polite woman is every where the same. When the company were tired of conversation they began to dance reels, their favourite dance, which they performed with great agility and perseverance. One of the gentlemen, however, fell down in the most active part of it, and lamed himself; so the dance was at an end for that evening. On looking at their watches, the ladies now found it time to retire; the coaches were therefore called, and away they went, and with them all our mirth. The company were now reduced to a party of gentlemen; pipes and politics were introduced; I took my hat and wished them good night. The bill for entertaining half a dozen very fashionable women amounted only to two shillings apiece. If you will not allow the entertainment an elegant one, you must at least confess that it was cheap."

We turn to the Florentine Ubaldini's description of England, as it was about two hundred years previous. It is dated A.D. 1351; and, after giving an account of the excessive state and ceremoniousness of Edward the Sixth's court—which he, however, observes was much relaxed since Henry the Eighth's time—Ubaldini thus proceeds:—

"The English generally spend their incomes. They eat often, and sit as many as two, three, four hours at table, not so much to eat all the time, as agreeably to entertain the ladies, without whom no banquet is given. They are disinclined to exertion, and sow so little, that the produce scarcely suffices to support life; wherefore they eat little bread, but so much the more flesh, which they have of every kind, and perfectly good. Cakes, made with milk and cheese, are everywhere prepared; for innumerable herds feed, day and night, in the most fruitful pastures. There are no wolves, but exceeding plenty of deer, swine, and other game. There is a great deal of hunting and hospitality.

"The women do not yield in beauty, agreeableness, dress, and good morals to the Sicennese, or the most esteemed in Italy. The lords keep uncommonly numerous households.

"The people are, upon the whole, rather tall, but the nobility, in good part, small, which comes of their frequently marrying rich maidens under age. Men and women have a white skin; to preserve or improve this natural colour, the latter are bled two or three times a year, instead of painting like Italian ladies.

"The men are naturally obstinate, so that if one is obliged to contradict them, he must not at once butt against them. (*urtarli*) but gradually allege his reasons, which they then, through their good parts, readily comprehend. Many to