

thus accoutred, or ratner unaccoutred, he was now no more than

Poor Mad Tom, whom the foul fiend has led through fire and through flame, through ford and whirlpool, and quagmire; that hath laid knives under his pillow, and halters in his pew; set ratsbane by his porridge; made him proud at heart to ride on a bay trotting horse over four-inch bridges; to curse his own shadow for a traitor; who eats the swimming frog, the toad, the tadpole, the wall-newt, and the water-newt; that in the fury of his heart, when the foul fiend rages, swallows the old rat and ditch dog, drinks the green mantle of the standing pool:

"And mice, and rats, and such small gear,
Have been Tom's food for many a year!"

In this character, and with such like expressions, he entered the houses of both great and small, claiming kindred to them, and committing all manner of frantic actions; by which means he raised very considerable contributions.

But these different habits and characters were still of further use to our hero, for by their means he had a fairer opportunity of seeing the world than most of our youths who make the grand tour; for he had none of those pretty amusements and rare-shows, that so much divert our young gentlemen abroad, to engage his attention; it was wholly applied to the study of mankind, their various passions and inclinations; and he made the greater improvement in this study, as in many of his characters they acted before him without reserve or disguise.

All these observations afforded him no little pleasure, but he felt a much greater in the indulgence of the emotions of filial piety, paying his parents frequent visits, unknown to them, in different disguises; at which time the tenderness he saw them express for him in their inquiries after him (it being their constant custom so to do of all travellers) always melted him into real tears.

Our hero not being satisfied with the observations he had made in England and Wales, was resolved to see other countries and manners. He was the more inclined to this, as he imagined it would enable him to be of greater service to the community of which he was a member, by rendering him capable of executing some of his stratagems with much greater success. He communicated his design to Escot, one of those who commenced a gipsy with him, (for neither of the four wholly quitted that community.) Escot very readily agreed to accompany him in his travels, and there being a ship ready to sail for Newfoundland, lying at Dartmouth, where they then were, they agreed to embark on board her,