

LITERARY.

From the American Review.

Observations on the 1st. volume of Dr. Clarke's travels in Russia, Tartary and Turkey.

BY A RUSSIAN.

Continued.

At Sarskoelslo the author manifests his disposition to misrepresent all he sees, and all that he hears of in Russia. The act of vandalism by which several pictures (as he says), were cut "in order to adapt them to the accidental spaces left vacant," (page 13,) never was committed but in his imagination. Those who know with what care the numerous collections of pictures, belonging to private individuals, are kept at St. Petersburg, and who have visited the galleries of the Hermitage, and other imperial palaces, will see the improbability of this story, and will agree with us, that in the *fine arts* at least, the progress of Russia has been great. Since the death of the empress Catharine, Sarskoelslo has never been inhabited.—Some of the pictures and statues have been removed from thence. We suspect that Dr. Clarke talks of this palace, without having been admitted into it, for it is usually shut, at the season he pretends to have been there.

The inspection of the cathedral at Novgorod affords him an occasion, for descanting on some of the religious practices of the Russians. After an historical summary of the introduction of images into Russia, he observes that "the different representations of the Virgin—will show to what a pitch of absurdity superstition has been carried." It is not a new discovery that the appearance of images is coeval with that of the Christian religion in our country—nor that those images were derived from Greece. We willingly acknowledge that they are wretchedly executed.—We will not deny that there prevails much superstition among the lower classes of society; but if we comprehend the meaning of the term superstition, it signifies implicit belief granted to ideas or facts, which are repugnant to human reason,—which we are unable either to conceive or to explain, because those ideas or facts, admit of no demonstrations, and are entirely out of the ordinary laws of nature. Now on this subject we would ask Dr. Clarke, in what country the mass of the population is not superstitious? England is no exception; for he himself informs us (page 440) when speaking of the Tartars who hail as a good omen the appearance of martins in their dwellings, that the same idle opinion prevails in his own island. We know that the belief in ghosts is not uncommon there, and that very recently a poor woman was tried for witchcraft before a British court of justice.

If we mistake not, James I. king of England, supported in writing his belief, that it was possible to ride on a broomstick through the air, a distance of two or three hundred miles; and so lately as the middle of the seventeenth century Sir Thomas Browne seriously combated the idea, that it was possible to sail as far as the East Indies in an egg-shell. Did not the superior minds of Dr. Johnson and Dr. Robertson give credit to stories of witches and apparitions?—And without recurring to such illustrious examples, may we not presume to affirm, at the risk of scandalizing our pious author, that there was a glimmering of superstition about himself, when on the shores of the sea of Azoph, at Taganrog, he could discern "a very forcible proof of the veracity of the sacred Scriptures" in the diminution of waters consequent on the prevalence of violent easterly winds? Can he, after this, be so much astonished at seeing the barbarians of Russia attach miraculous virtues to their Obrazi, and addict themselves to other absurd superstitious practices?

But to proceed. Having informed us that it had snowed heavily before his arrival at Novgorod on the 4th April, and that the snow increased rapidly during his progress to Tver, Dr. Clarke tells us in the next page, that "the soil is for the most part sandy, and apparently of a nature to set agriculture at defiance."—He alone can explain how he saw this, as the ground was covered with snow. We notice the observation, trivial as it is, merely as an instance of the want of reflection, with which this writer commits his remarks to paper.

The village of Yadrova attracted our traveller's attention. After informing us that it consists of a single street as wide as Piccadilly, and describing the exterior appearance of the buildings, he adds, "a window in such places is a mark of distinction, and seldom noticed." The sarcasm is meant to be insulting, and is only contemptible.

At Poskol, another village on this high road, the sledge which supported his carriage breaks down. Being obliged to wait a few hours until the necessary repairs are made, he loses no time, and hastens to take "a very interesting peep into the manners of the peasantry." He sees the woman of the house prepare dinner during her husband's absence—he sees the husband re-

turn from church with his children, holding in their hands some pieces of consecrated bread, not larger than a pigeon's egg;—the family goes to dinner, and all eat out of the same bowl—much crossing and bowing before and after their frugal meal.—Dinner ended, they all go to bed—afterwards they drink vinegar or quass.—And that this first sketch of the manners of the country may be wanting in no particular, Dr. Clarke does not forget to communicate to us the effects of their digestion, in terms too indelicate for us to repeat. Possessed of these very interesting discoveries, he seizes his pencil, and gives the following finished portrait of the Russians.

"The picture of Russian manners varies little with reference to the prince or the peasant. The first nobleman in the empire, when dismissed by his sovereign from attendance upon his person, or withdrawing to his estate, in consequence of dissipation and debt, betakes himself to a mode of life little superior to that of brutes. You will then find him, throughout the day, with his neck bare, his beard lengthened, his body wrapped in a sheep's hide, eating raw turnips, and drinking quass, sleeping one half of the day, and growing at his wife and family the other. The same feelings, the same wants, wishes and gratifications, then characterize the nobleman and the peasant; and the same system of tyranny, which extends from the throne downwards, through all the bearings and ramifications of society, even to the cottage of the lowest boor, has entirely extinguished every spark of liberality in the breasts of a people who are all slaves. They are all, high and low, rich and poor, alike servile to superiors; haughty and cruel to their dependants; ignorant, superstitious, cunning, brutal, barbarous, dirty, mean. The Emperor canes the first of his grantees, princes and nobles cane their slaves; and the slaves their wives and daughters. Ere the sun dawns in Russia, flagellation begins: and, throughout its vast empire, cudgels are going, in every department of population, from morning until night."

We have seen the empire of Russia transformed by the magical pen of Dr. Clarke into a vast house of correction, where flagellation proceeds with a regularity comparable only to the effects of machinery at Birmingham or at Manchester! Upon what authority worthy of credit has this author founded so monstrous an edifice of calumny? Among the various passages in which he has so liberally poured forth the grossest abuse upon our nation, we meet indeed with some citations from Olearius and from Meyenberg, (page 86) and some letters in verse of one Tuberville, (page 83) who was secretary to the first ambassador sent from England to Russia; about the middle of the sixteenth century; but since he refuses to admit the authority of Puffendorf, (certainly as respectable as the names he has brought before us) who wrote a hundred and fifty years later, and whose opinion differs from the Doctor's, ought he not to produce in support of his assertions, some more recent testimony?

The question between them is nothing less than whether or not the Russian nation is as barbarous in modern times, as it was in the reign of the Tzar Ivan Vassilievitch. The manuscript of Mr. Heber and the *Voyage de deux Francais*, (which Dr. Clarke cites so frequently,) will not bear him out in the present instance. Nay, when he cites them as witnesses upon other occasions, they are far from being always of his opinion. For example, the "Voyageurs Francais" (page 49,) concede at least to the Russians the merit of being hospitable, and Mr. Heber, though his statement is in several respects very defective, represents the condition of the peasantry in very different colors from those used by Dr. Clarke. Let us be allowed to express our great satisfaction at finding the respectable name of Lord Whitworth brought forward in the book before us, only to corroborate remarks purely scientific. The testimony of that nobleman, well acquainted as he is with Russia, and so distinguished by his learning and virtues, would indeed have been of the greatest weight. We have sufficient grounds therefore for believing, that the disgusting account given of Russian manners and Russian character, is the result solely of the writer's own observations;—but here again new difficulties present themselves to every impartial mind. A few general reflections will not be superfluous, before we proceed to confront Dr. Clarke with himself.

VALUE OF TIMBER.

The Earl of Aylesbury, in England, has recently fallen 5000 oaks on his Yorkshire estates, valued at 100,000.—and on one estate in the neighbourhood of Bath, of about 2000 acres, belonging to Thomas Swyimmer Champneys, esq. the timber has been valued at upwards of 50,000.

Cucumbers saved from Bugs.

Set out an Onion, or set up an Onion stalk or two in each hill of Cucumbers, and the streaked bug will keep away."

Moral Reflections.

This following article is from the pen of IN-

QUINO, a member of the late convention of France, and one of the celebrated infidels of the present age; it is contained in a book published by him under the title "On Prejudice," and we select it as the constrained testimony of an enemy of the Lord Jesus Christ, in favour of his divine mission.

"He called himself the Son of God! Who among us dare say that he is not? He always displayed virtue; he always spoke according to the dictates of reason; he always preached up wisdom; he sincerely loved all men, and wished to do good even to his executioners; he developed all the principles of moral equity, and of the purest patriotism; he met danger undimmed; he shewed himself averse to the great, who in all ages have made a bad use of their power; he described the hardness of the rich; he attacked the pride of kings; he dared to resist even the face of tyrants; he despised glory and fortune; he was sober; he soled the indigent; he taught the unfortunate how to suffer; he sustained weakness; he fortified decay; he consoled misfortune, and knew how to shed tears with them that wept; he taught men to subjugate their passions, to think, to reflect, to love one another, and to live happily together. He was hated by the powerful men whom he offended, and persecuted by the wicked whom he unmasked; and he died under the indignation of that blind and deceived multitude for whom he had always lived."

I may say of the earth, as a philosopher said of Athens, "It may serve for a transient lodging, but not for a constant dwelling." Outward plenty, may be a comfortable ship for indigence to sail in; but it is a dangerous rock for confidence to build upon. Give some people the earth in their hands, and they care not who has heaven to his heart.

We have been favored with the following curious observation from the pen of Dr Franklin. It was found among a number of remarkable manuscript notes of his, written on the margin of a pamphlet, called "Moral and Political Reflections," published in London in 1770, and has never before been made public:

"The difference (between a civilized and savage life,) is not so great as may be imagined. Happiness is more generally and equally diffused among savages than in our civilized societies. No European who has once tasted savage life, can afterwards bear to live in our societies. The care and labour of providing for artificial and fashionable wants—the sight of many rich, wallowing in superfluous plenty, whereby so many are kept poor and distressed by want—the insolence of office—the snares and plagues of law—and the restraints of custom; all contribute to disgust him with what is called civil society."

The correctness of the Doctor's opinion may perhaps be disputed; we, however, give the observation as it was found, without comment, more as a matter of curiosity than as an absolute truism.

Washington Nat. Register.

Under Decree in Equity.

Will be sold in CAMDEN, before the Court House, between the legal hours of sale, On Monday the 5th day of August next,

FOUR separate tracts of LAND, containing 650 acres, (more or less,) situate on Horse Pen Creek, in Kershaw District, having on the same a Grist Mill, sold to satisfy a decree in favour of Turner Joy and Jacob Boon, against Nicholas Swilley.

—ALSO—

A tract of Land containing One Hundred Acres, (more or less) situate on Horse Pen Creek, bounded at the time of the original survey, on all sides by vacant land. Another tract on the north side of the Wateree, containing One Hundred and fifty acres, granted to Wm. Langley, and bounded at the time of the grant thereof, by Benjamin Perry's and Zaddock Perry's land, near Col. Peay's Ferry.—Also, a lot in the town of Camden, No. 29, bounding on Broad-street. The said two tracts of land, and town lot above mentioned, to be sold to effect a division between the heirs of William Langley deceased, on a credit of nine months, the purchaser giving bond and good personal security, to be approved by the commissioner and paying for titles.

J. CARTER, Com. in Equity, June 27, 1816. Camden District.

FOR SALE AT THIS OFFICE, INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE Artillery Sword Exercise.

Blank Deeds,

For sale at the Camden Gazette Office.

Sheriff Sale.

By virtue of an Order of the honorable court of Common Pleas, will be sold on the first Monday and Tuesday in August next, before the Court House in Camden, within the legal hours of Sale,

THREE LOTS situate in the Town of Camden, fronting on Broad street, known in the plan of said town by Nos. 147, 148, and 164; one Lot fronting on King-str. adjoining the lot on which the Court House stands, numbered 24, and one half of a lot fronting on York-street, No. 640 Acres land, more or less, situate on the main road to Salisbury, 8 miles from Camden; 311 acres land, more or less, situate on the waters of Granny's quarter Creek; 307 Acres land more less situate on Hanging Rock Creek; 35 acres of land more or less, situate 2 miles from Camden, on the main road to Salisbury.—All of the above sold as the property of William and Samuel Parker, deceased, in order to satisfy the dower claimed by Mrs. Joanna Parker, widow of said William Parker, deceased, and to make a division among the heirs.

Conditions.—Six months credit will be given for one half of the purchase money, and on the balance 12 months, purchasers giving approved security, or a mortgage of the property and payment for Shff. titles. F. S. LEE, Shff. K. D.

Election in Clermont Cavalry.

NOTICE is hereby given that an Election will be held at STATESBURGH, on the first Saturday of August next, for a CORNET in the Clermont Troop, to supply the vacancy occasioned by the promotion of Cornet Mayrant.

By order of

John Jennings, Capt. 6th Cavalry.

WM. T. SPANN, First Sergt.

May 28, 1816.

South-Carolina—Kershaw District.

Thomas English, jr.

Tolls before me a Bay HORSE nine years old, fourteen hands high, small star on his forehead, some saddle spots on each side of his weathers, no further marks or brands. Appr'd at forty dollars.

THOMAS ENGLISH, J. P.

July 12, 1816.

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NOTICE.

SUBSCRIPTION papers issued by the Trustees of the SANTEE STEAM BOAT COMPANY, may be seen at the Store of Messrs BIRNBAUM & Co. and at Messrs LEX & DELAON'S. Persons desirous of becoming Subscribers are invited to come forward. June 6, 1816.

NOTICE.

FOR SALE or to LET, the subscribers premises, on Broad-st. in Camden, nearly opposite the Post-Office, recently occupied by Doctor Carter. Any person disposed to purchase said premises may expect to get a great bargain. A very liberal credit will be given.—For further particulars apply to Mr. JOHN DEAY, or to the Subscriber. EVERARD CURETON. July 2, 1816. 14th.

Patent Medicines.

For Sale at the Store of ALEXANDER YOUNG, Broad-street, Camden. Dr. DROPP'S Stomachic Elixir of Health, Vegetable Nervous cordial, Gout & Rheumatic drops, Patent Stomachic Wine Bitters, Worm Destroying Lozenges, Anti Bilious Pills, Patent Itch Ointment, Infalible Tooth Ache Drops, Circassian Eye Water, Restorative Dentifrice.

—ALSO— Bateman's Drops, Godfrey's Cordial, British Oil, Turlington's Balsam of Life, Stear's Opodeldoc, Essence of Peppermint, &c.

Elixir of Paragoric, Laudanum, Spirits of Lavender, Spirits of Hartshorn, Spirits of Nitre, Calomel, Iodine, Rhenish Ipecacuanha, Tatar Emelic, Peruvian Bark, &c.

BLANK BONDS

For Sale at this Office.

PRINTING,

OF EVERY DESCRIPTION, EXECUTED WITH NEATNESS AND ACCURACY AT THE OFFICE OF THE CAMDEN GAZETTE; Where may be had BLANKS FOR LAWYERS, MAGISTRATES, SHERIFFS, &c.