

Miscellany.

FROM THE PORTUGO.

View of the present state of Polite Learning.

CHAPTER V.

Of the state of Learning in the middle of the Eighteenth Century. A cursory Review of Physical and Natural Knowledge, Science and Art.

To what an eminent pitch of excellence, all the branches of learning implicated in the foregoing terms, had arrived at the middle of the last century, is familiar to every votary of letters; and announces the unblemished character of the age. All that appertains to *astronomy*, or the laws of motion, the principles of matter, were remotely traced, and fully developed, long previous to that period. The genius of Newton, prompted by the inspiring voice, and guided by the wisdom of Bacon, accomplished more than antiquity had power to conceive. Opticks, Mechanicks, and Pneumatick, were carried to the greatest excellence, almost at the same time. The history of the lower animal creation was complete; and but a trifling portion of the globe remained to be explored by the curious adventurer. A part of Africa only, was hid in obscurity; a savage tract, which as it cannot be fruitful in knowledge, scarcely seems to merit to be explored.

In the entire circle of the Sciences and Arts, that have the soil, or the vegetable kingdom for their object, little remained to be added, and what was performed was complete. Botany dates her excellence from an earlier era; and cannot improve much, unless unknown regions, fruitful in strange plants, should be discovered. Chemistry was far advanced on the road, which it has since so rapidly travelled. And of the other departments of science, which it is not requisite singly to enumerate, they had attained a degree of perfection, to which succeeding labouring and ingenuity, have scarcely been so fortunate, as to add any improvement.

Yet these are subjects, rather requiring persevering toil, and close observation, than intuitive genius, or a powerful imagination. They depend for consummate excellence, more upon the lapse of time, than the energy of exertion, and the boldness of inventive powers. Taste flies from the plodding scene, in matters of science and of toil; and takes shelter in the delicious groves of poetry; and the calm retreats of polite learning. It is the latter subject only, that materially affects the question under discussion; and with this remark, I shall dismiss the present chapter; without I hope committing injustice towards genius, falling into error from the omission of facts, or adopting prejudices, from the precipitation of judgment.

CHAPTER VI.

Of Moral Philosophy, Metaphysics, and Politics.

At the period, to which we have limited this investigation, moral philosophy had expanded to a perfection never before equalled, and not since surpassed. Without citing a crowd of authors, less famous but not less useful, the productions of Addison and Steele, with their ingenious coadjutors in Ethics, would stamp the age with a high character of estimable wisdom. But when we add to these illustrious names the regal achievements of Johnson, and the successful labours of Beattie, the imagination swells with the magnitude of their performances, and the vastness of their genius. We are disposed to confess, without hesitation or reluctance the pre-eminence of an age, that could boast of minds so brilliant and profound, and to believe in the maturity of a science, in which amplitude of knowledge, and energetic reason, had been so long employed.

That the searching genius of Dr. Johnson, has left a single chasm, or a minute aperture unexplored, in the great edifice of moral philosophy, would be an assertion that few would hazard. In all his reasonings we discern an intellect, which like the eye of the Eagle, penetrates the regions of light, and with equal ease explores the darkest shades. His imagination is crowded with imagery, to decorate his speculations, and embellish truth; to enforce his deduction, and give conviction to his precepts.

The consummate perfection of virtuous knowledge, will be found to the latest period, to be impressed on the pages of Johnson. No stoical rigour, or epicurean laxity; no sectarian prejudices, or cosmopolitan precepts will be discovered in his works, to deflect the rays of truth, from their natural centre of human happiness. Obvious principles of established virtue, are supported by perspicuous reasoning, and comprehensive analogy; explained by a rigorous language, in diversified illustration. His precepts remain upon the mind, and his exhortations sink into the heart.

To escape, divert, or mollify the evils of life, and to seize with wise avidity on its innocent pleasures, seems to constitute the art of manly happiness. This art has been perfected, as far as genius, learning, and experience could perfect it; while manners, customs and habits have been explained and elucidated, approved and settled.

In Metaphysics I have before alleged, that perfection has long since been acquired, and a cursory review of the science will attest the remark. Bacon was the modern leader to intellectual research. In this track, the laborious Locke, and the ingenious Descartes followed; and shortly after came Bishop Berkely; all distinguished for learning, exalted by genius, and immortalized by their productions. Hume entered the same path, to shed both light and shade upon the mind. Reid, on the contrary, by the magic wand of common sense, and natural sagacity, made error like a phantom, vanish at the command of reason. Reid restored the Science to obvious light and rendered it of permanent utility. He demonstrated that all that it was possible to know of the intellect, was manifest to patient contemplation, and persevering research.

That by attending to the train of our thoughts, the nature of consciousness, and the process of judgment, we should accomplish all that was worthy of acquisition; and that by penetrating deeper, we should only become bewildered among shadows, and perplexed by labyrinths. Of our various mental powers, and their peculiar functions, he evinced that we possessed all the knowledge that was open to mortal inquiry, or accessible to the sublime wisdom. Genius might encumber it with agreeable hypotheses, and cloud it by the irradiations of a sparkling imagination. Little however, is now required for its genuine completion, and that little is only to be wrought, by patient induction. The reasonings of Dr. Reid were conducted on the logick of Bacon; and he is at least to be estimated as equal to Newton, on a subject equally difficult, and more important; he reduced chaos to order, disproportion to symmetry, and deformity to beauty.

Political science keeps pace in its advances, with moral knowledge, and intellectual improvement. As far as it depends for excellence upon the suggestions of philosophy, and the gradual hints of experience, through a series of consecutive ages, it exhibited no defalcation, at the period to which I advert. Solid systems of government were maturely formed, and in successful operation; conducing to the happiness, and securing the protection of man. The grand edifice of polity, had been slowly reared by the divided soil of distant ages, as the materials for its construction, were successively flung from the mines of experience, by the shock of calamity, and the

explosion of empires. Time can give birth to no more; and the highest ingenuity must repose content, with practical perfection. We know and feel with what degree of freedom government can subsist; and we also know and have experienced, that anarchy and despotism, are a better cure for themselves, than any which wisdom or virtue, can prescribe or apply. They are two extremes of calamity, which neither spring from neglect of knowledge, nor the want of system. The corrupted passions of ambitious minds, groaning under the subjection of wholesome laws, will frequently produce them, in defiance of every precaution. They are the imperfections of the agents, not of the science.

Shannon & Ballard

HAVING received an addition to their former stock, have now on hand a handsome and general assortment of **Summer Goods,**

which they offer for sale at very reduced prices.

Camden, July 16, 1816. 6w16

MILL SAWS.

THE Subscriber has a few Philadelphia made MILL SAWS, for sale on good terms.

HENRY ABBOTT.

Camden, August 8, 1815. 20tf

Notice.

COTTON in the seed will be received and expeditiously picked and packed, on usual toll, at my Cotton Factory in Camden.

J. LYON.

Aug. 16, 1816.
N. B. I wish to hire two first rate packers for 5 or 6 months.

NOTICE.

ALL persons are hereby cautioned against harbouring, or in any manner whatever employing any of the Negroes belonging to the estate of ISAAC DUBOSS, without a written permission for this purpose, from some one of the heirs.

August 8, 1816. 19-2

NOTICE.

FOR SALE or to LET, the subscribers premises, on Broad-street 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 DOBY, or to the Subscriber.

EVERARD CURETON.

July 2, 1816. 14tf

NOTICE.

FOR Sale, Two LOTS, one situate on the corner of Broad & Rutledge streets the other adjoining it fronting on Rutledge street having on them a good two story dwelling house, calculated for a store, a kitchen, smoke house, stable and carriage house, and all other necessary buildings for a family and a store.—For terms and further particulars apply to the subscriber.

ELISHA BELL.

Camden, Aug. 13, 1816. 20tf

Patent Medicines.

For Sale at the Store of **ALEXANDER YOUNG.**

- Broad-street, Camden.
- Dr. DROTT'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.

—LIVEWIRE—
Elixir of Paregoric, Laudanum, Spirits of Lavender, Spirits of Hartshorn, Spirits of Nitre, Calomel, Jalap, Rheubarb, Ipecacuanha, Tartar Emetic, Peruvian Bark, &c.

++ Wanted, one or two intelligent LADS, from 14 to 16 years of age as apprentices to the Printing Business.— Enquire at this office. Aug. 1.

FOR SALE,

By the Subscriber, the following articles:
FIVE Tons Iron, flat, square & round, assorted sizes,
Sheet Iron for Cotton Gins,
Pots, Tea-kettles, Grindstones, &c.
A large and general assortment of **Dry Goods, Groceries, Cutlery and Hardware.**

Also, CROCKERY assorted, 400 lbs. Lamp Black, and a quantity of **Sole and Skirting Leather.** All which he will dispose of on good terms.

JAMES CLARK.
Camden, Aug. 22, 1816. 1-3

THE Subscriber offers for Sale, at reduced prices, his present stock of

GOODS,

consisting of a handsome assortment of **Dry Goods, Hardware, &c.** which have been purchased lately for cash; any person disposed to purchase the whole, stock, may obtain them on advantageous terms.

He likewise offers for sale his HOUSE and LOTS, and 48 acres LAND about two miles from Camden.

J. S. MURRAY.
August 22, 1816. 1-3

For Sale,

A BODY of good High LAND of about SIX THOUSAND ACRES, in Lancaster County, on Wild Cat Branch and Camp and Crane Creeks; the Platts are in possession of James H. Blair, who can give information about the Land, to any person wishing to purchase, and will receive proposals for the same.

ROBERT BALKLEY,
DUNCAN M'RA,
ZACH. CANTEY,
July 19, 1816. 17tf

50 Dollars Reward.

LOST, on the 17th November last, three bundles containing papers, valuable to no one but myself. Persons holding said papers are informed that should the same be left with the Post-Master, no questions shall be asked; and the above reward given, to any person claiming the same, either under a real or fictitious name.

ISAAC HINKLE.
Camden, 6th July, 1816. 20-3

THE NOTED HORSE Wrangler,

Will stand this season at the stable of the subscriber, on Beaver Creek, at the reduced price of \$5 the season, \$2 50 cis the single leap, and \$8 to ensure with foal.—Wrangler is so well known in this district that he needs no further recommendation.

SAMUEL B. HAMMOND.
Aug. 27, 1816.

LEE & DeLEON HAVE on hand a general assortment of fashionable and Fashionable Goods.

Also, a good supply of GROCERIES, which they will sell low for cash or produce.
Camden, May 9, 1816.

STATE OF SOUTH-CAROLINA.
Buckner Floyd, Declaration
vs.
Grows Floyd, Attachment.

WHEREAS the Plaintiff in this action did on the 20th March 1815, file his declaration in the office of the Clerk of this Honorable Court, against the defendant, who is absent from and without the limits of this state, and hath neither wife nor attorney known within the same, upon whom a copy of the said declaration, with a rule to plead thereto within a year and a day might be served: It is therefore ordered, in pursuance of the Act of the General Assembly in that case made and provided, that the said defendant do appear and plead to the said declaration, on or before the 19th March 1817, otherwise final and absolute judgment will be given and awarded against him.

Jno. K. M'Iver, Clerk.
Office of Common Pleas, Darling-
ton District, March 18, 1816. } j. s. d. f.

Blank Deeds,

For sale at the Camden Gazette 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.