

# Miscellany.

FROM THE PORTICO.

View of the present state of Polite Learning.

## CHAPTER VII.

Of History and Biography.

It was not till a late period, that Historical writing in the English language, assumed an elevated rank, and became distinguished for the native grace, dignity and beauty of its character. Lord Clarendon, Bishop Burnet, Whitelocke, and Milton, if the two latter are entitled to so illustrious an appellation, were the only Historians of any degree of merit, who shone anterior to the time of which we are speaking. Although the two first were celebrated, yet it was not so much a tribute paid to absolute and positive excellence, as to comparative correctness; they were praised for being less imperfect than others, in a different branch of composition; and were never estimated, as the standard of historical writing. Clarendon wanted one of the chief qualifications of a great historian, next to that of genius; he was destitute of impartiality, and void of candour. Yet his style is nervous, and his manner dignified; and many may yield him the meed of praise, from the force of gratitude, who when placed on the tribunal of rigid judgment, to decide his merits, would justly sentence him to obscure mediocrity. English erudition, however, owes much to Clarendon. He entered as the Prologue to Historical perfection, when there were few actors on the stage; and when of those few, not one was eminent. He is one of those therefore, who may justly be ranked higher than heroes, and applauded more than Princes; for he gave an impulse to the intellect, and a direction to the taste of his country, which places him among the benefactors of mankind, and the promoters of learning.

The completion of Historical Eloquence in the English language, was however, reserved for a more brilliant era, and more dispassionate minds. In the middle of the last century, we can clearly witness the accomplishment of its excellence. In Hume, we behold the classic page of a second Livy; the animation of Tacitus sparkles in the glowing language of Gibbon; and the fidelity of a Thucydides excites our admiration in the volumes of Robertson. To particularize the variety of beauties in each, would be a needless, though not an unpleasing task. The extent and splendour of their powers, are generally known; and the inimitable lustre of their productions, is admitted by all, to whom they are familiar.

Where complete perfection is so universally acknowledged, it is hard to appeal to authority, and useless to argue for a point admitted. Is it not sufficient evidence of impassable limits, that all aspire to equal, but none hope to surpass the magnificence of their work?

On the subject of American history, the critic denied an insight into futurity, involuntarily heaves a sigh of despair. Where the spirit of faction rages with such virulence, who shall pretend to be cool and impartial? Local prejudices contribute to imbecill political animosity; and the variance of the East and West, bears some similitude to the forgotten distractions of the Roman Empire. If union of sentiment be so difficult to effect, may not the consequences to learning prove great and deplorable?

Biography, though not of earlier bloom, was equally brilliant in standard perfection. Cibber's Lives of the Poets, have been pronounced above imperfect dulness, or unfaithful deficiency, by the Father of Biography himself. But it is difficult, if not impossible, for the imagination to paint brighter excellence, than is exhibited in the lives of the Poets by Johnson; or to conceive more sparkling beauties, melodious diction, and diversified illustration, than abound in his productions of nature. With a practical knowledge of every diversity of life, he combined a profound acquaintance, with the springs and motives of the human mind, that gave him a familiar insight into the feelings and passions of the heart.

When we consider, that to these qualifications he superadded extensive knowledge, quickened by genius, and matured by superiour judgment; it is not to be imagined, that he could fall short of perfection, or be readily equaled by the most ambitious, and powerful competitors. Servile imitation has only evinced the complete perfection of the model; and exposed the imbecility of those adventurers who attempted to outstrip him.

When the suffrages of mankind, are superadded to the cool decisions of philosophical criticism, argumentation should end, for want of reason to bear it out in opposition. The world has pronounced Hume and Johnson, to be models of perfection, in their separate departments of composition. None therefore attempt to soar above them; and all are satisfied, if they can but faintly resemble copies, so perfect, celebrated, and admired.

The truth of the following article from the Dublin Evening Post of June 8, is amply corroborated by all the accounts received from Ireland. The love of country is deeply implanted in the human breast.—To the spot where we drew our natal breath, where we spent our childhood and youth, and which contains the ashes of our relatives and friends, we are attached by the most tender ties and the most delightful associates, of which the human mind is susceptible, and which neither distance nor the lapse of time can entirely obliterate.—The native of the frozen regions of the north looks with indifference or contempt on climes more congenial than his own; the most simple music makes the hardy Swiss pine for his native rocks; the poor enslaved African looks forward, in fond anticipation, to a period when he shall once more visit the lamp of his forefathers. How powerful, then, must be the causes, which can induce people, passionately attached to their native soil, not only voluntarily and deliberately to quit it forever, but to look forward to the period of separation, with the most anxious solicitude, as the consummation of all their hopes!

**Junot's Library.**—The splendid library of Marshal Junot has recently been sold at auction in London. Some of his books were splendid copies published by Didot, and printed by him and Bodini, of Parma, upon vellum; they sold for high prices. The works of Crebillon 4 vols. were knocked off at about \$118.—Homer's Iliad, in the Greek language, 3 vols. sold for about \$88. Horatio Opera, with beautiful original drawings by Percier inserted, and a set of proof plates, went off at \$992.—La Fontaine's Fables, in 2 vols. sold for \$753. The splendid bible which Junot seized upon and carried away from Portugal, was not offered for sale. It is said, the government of Portugal, anxious to redeem this great curiosity, offered Madam Junot 80,000 livres for it; who declined the offer, saying she could not part with it for less than 150,000 livres.

### THE IRISH ANGLER.

An Irishman fishing one day in the Liffey, Which runs close by Dublin's great city so fine, A smart shower of rain falling, Pat, in a jiffy, Crept under the arch of Queen's bridge with his line.  
"Arrah, that's not the way to accomplish your wishes"  
Cries Dermot; "there Devil a bite will you get"  
"Ogal bother," says Pat, "don't you know that the fishes Will creep under here, to keep out of the wet."

*The Sailor's prayer in a Storm.*  
Lord I beseech thee for this time,  
Be merciful to me;  
Forgive me now for thou know'st well  
I seldom trouble thee.

A gentleman lately crossing a narrow bridge in New-Jersey, which was not railed on either side to secure passengers from falling, said to a countryman whom he met "I think this narrow causeway must be very dangerous my honest friend; pray are not people lost here some times?" "Lost! no sir," replied the man, "I never knew any body lost here in my life; here have been several drowned indeed, but they were always found again."

### 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. 15, 1816.  
N. B.—I wish to hire two first rate packers for 3 or 6 months. tf.

### 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 Lands to any person wishing to purchase, and will receive proposals for the same.  
ROBERT BALKLEY,  
DUNCAN M'RA,  
ZACH. CANTEY,  
July 19, 1816. 17tf.

### 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 NOTED HORSE

**Wrangler,**  
Who stand this season at the stable of the subscriber, on Beaver Creek, at the reduced price of \$5 the season, \$2 50 city 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 seasonable 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. }  
GROVE 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.

++ 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.

We are authorized to state that Col. ADAM M'WILLIE is a candidate for the Legislature.

\*\* We are authorised to state that Capt. WILLIAM DRAKE-FORD is a candidate for the office of Sheriff of Kershaw District.

### NOTICE.

THE petitioner humbly solicits all his friends in Kershaw District, to aid and assist him in trying to acquire a majority of votes in his favour, for the Sheriff's place, at our next election, as he assures them that he is a real candidate.  
WM. BRASINGTON.  
Camden, Aug. 21, 1816. 21tf

### Wanted to Hire.

A GIRL of good disposition and character, to attend as child's nurse, for which liberal wages will be given.—Enquire of the printer.  
Aug. 29. 22tf.

### NOTICE.

BENNET & WALKER having this day dissolved their Co-partnership in trade. They earnestly call on all those who are indebted to them to come forward and make payment, and all to whom they are indebted to present their accounts, &c. to be discharged.  
Swift Creek Mills, Sept. 5, 1816. 23tf

### NOTICE.

FOR Sale, Two LOTS, one situate on the corner of Broad & Rutledge streets the other adjoining it fronting on Rutledge str't 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

### Just Published

And for Sale at this Office, At Mr. Clark's and at Mr. Mathis' Stores, and at the Post Office, (Price 12½ cents.)  
**A Sermon,**  
Preached in Camden, on the death of the Rev'd FRANCIS ASBURY, One of the Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America.  
By HILLIARD JUDGE, Elder, M. E. C. Considerable allowance made to those who buy a quantity.  
August 22, 1816.

### In the Common Pleas.

ROYAL BULLARD, }  
Endorse, } Case in attachment.  
ALEXANDER SPEARS. }  
WHEREAS the Plaintiff, in this action, did on the 13th day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, file his declaration in the Office 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 Defendant do appear and plead to the said declaration, on or before the sixteenth day of April; which will be in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventeen; otherwise, final and absolute judgment will be given, and awarded against him.  
OFFICE of COMMON PLEAS,  
Thomas Salmond, C. C. R. D.  
Kershaw District, April 15, 1816.

### Patent Medicines.

For Sale at the Store of  
ALEXANDER YOUNG,  
Broad-street, Camden.  
DR. DYOTT'S Stomachic Elixir of Health,  
— Vegetable Nervous cordial,  
— Gout & Rheumatic drops,  
— Patent Stomachic Wine Bitters,  
— Worm Destroying Lozenges,  
— Anti Biliou Pills,  
— Patent Itch Ointment,  
— Infallible 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.  
— LIKEWISE —  
Elixir of Paregoric, Laudanum, Spirits of Lavender, Spirits of Hartshorn, Spirits of Nitre, Calomel, Jalap, Rheubarb, Ipecacuanha, Tartar Emetic, Peruvian Bark, &c.