

POETRY.

ON TIME.

How short the time to human life assigned.
How mixed with woe is man's most happy hour,
How oft we see the frost of death unkind
Nip the fair bud ere blown into flower.

Who can withstand death's all destroying power!
What arm repel his swift unerring dart?
Can iron panoply, or 'battled tower
From his fell shaft protect the fated heart!

Ah no! this life is but a fleeting dream
Which for a moment flits before the view;
To man's fond eye bright the fairy scene,
Decayed by false joys in pleasure's loveliest hue;
But ah! the splendid vision scarce is seen
Ere death, relentless, proves its bliss untrue.

FAITH, HOPE, CHARITY.

Faith, Hope, and Love, were questioned
what they thought
Of future glory, which Religion taught?
Now Faith believ'd it firmly to be true;
And Hope expected so to find it too.
Love answered, smiling with a conscious
glow.
Believe, expect; I know it to be so.

Miscellany.

FROM THE PORTICO.

View of the present state of Polite Learning.
CHAPTER VIII.
Of Criticism, Rhetorick, and the Belles Lettres.

It has been observed by philosophers, that there is nothing pernicious in itself, and that it is solely by perversion and excess, that objects become baneful in their consequences. A genuine criticism, on subject is more beneficial to learning conducive to taste. It is the guardian genius of the paradise of letters, appointed by reason to prevent the entrance of all that is foolish, licentious and unbecoming. It strips false learning, and depraved genius of their specious covering, and dispenses honours, rewards, and immortality to the votaries of chaste imagination, solid erudition, and correct judgment; while it awards disgrace and shame to the rebellious, the dull and the corrupted.

In every age, legitimate criticism, as the offspring of truth and nature, has maintained a contest with affection for sovereignty. At the middle of the last century, it still preserved an unexampled supremacy. From the time of Dryden, Addison, Steele, and Pope, in England, and of Rollin in France, to that of Burke, Bentley and Warburton in the former, and of Voltaire in the latter, we may safely allege that criticism flourished in the highest beauty and vigour. It was manifested in classic productions, and beneficial effects, and if it succeeded in inspiring a refined passion for the elegancies of learning, it sufficiently proved its title to perfection. But it did more than this, it encouraged the infant struggles of timid worth, and cherished and fanned the feeble glimmerings of reserved genius.

The caprice and ignorance of unknown individuals, could not at that time form a standard of taste or prescribe the works on which they disgorge their envy and malice. Such indecent ebullitions of wounded pride, or mortified vanity, were viewed with contempt, as the spume of passion, not considered with reverence, as the decree of judgment and the flash of genius. In all questions affecting the principles of taste and the abilities of an author, experience was appealed to for its decision; and sterling productions of established character were analysed to elicit precedents for composition, and afford precedents for censure, condemnation and applause, where the voice of nature was not sufficiently distinct in its approval.

Beauty and sublimity produce an

instantaneous impression on the feelings, when the taste is delicate and natural. The passionate fondness, with which mankind regard ancient productions, is not a blind concession on their part to the dictation of a few. They have not acquiesced in classick excellence, without inquiry, nor tamely with the force of fashion, from silent ignorance, or a fearful imagination. The works of antiquity were tested by their conformity to reason, and their resemblance to nature. The world perused them with delight, and the general feeling was fortified and confirmed by the result of calm, philosophical inquiry, and the more certain criterion of imperishable applause.

Such was the purity and value of the criticism which favoured the age to which we refer. Nor was rhetorick and the belles lettres less estimable for the advancement they afforded to the mind, less pure in their nature, or less splendid in their preeminence. The essay of Burke on the sublime and beautiful, can never be excelled, perhaps can scarcely be equalled. The essays of Hume must always remain a lasting memorial of great genius, and critical acumen; nor polite labours of Gibbon be suffered to sink to the humble level of comparative excellence. Goldsmith will always maintain an illustrious rank, in the age which he laboured to improve, and contributed to embellish. Although he produced no formal treatise, in the department of the Belles Lettres; yet he must always be ranked among those who have incidentally improved it. The beautiful simplicity of his style, in an age when refinement was fast spreading, tended to correct and preserve the publick taste; while the vigour of his genius executed models of perfection, for the example of succeeding writers. No work remains, of this frank and polished author, which may not be referred to, as a standard of excellence; and imitated with improvement and applause. Those who have the felicity to resemble Goldsmith, need aspire to no higher distinction, for fame, or immortality!

It is to Blair and Campbell, however, that we are indebted for professional treatises on those important topics. From the former, we have derived models of sound criticism, and rhetorical excellence, which justly vie with the most brilliant productions of Athenian or Roman genius. His style is classick, and his principles orthodox; nor can any deny him perspicuity in his reasoning, beauty of illustration, or copiousness of diction. His induction of useful consequences, from particular facts, is both striking and instructive; and conveys delight to the fancy, and knowledge to the mind.

Philosophical criticism, was the peculiar province of Campbell. This part of polite learning, he abundantly enriched, and beautifully embellished, by a mind teeming with luxuriance, and armed with acumen. Were his work made the study of the present age, many barbarisms would be exploded, many errors ejected, and many false refinements banished, both from language and composition:

If we compare the age in which these illustrious authors flourished, either, with previous or subsequent periods, we shall perceive no symptoms of inferiority to the ancients; and will be compelled to allow, very conspicuous proofs of supremacy, over more recent eras. This age, therefore, must be universally confessed to combine the greatest constellation of excellence in the above branches; for it was distinguished,

both for a genuine taste in classick productions, and an unparalleled advancement in polite learning.

Boot & Shoe Making.

THE Subscriber informs his customers and the public, that he has moved his shop up Broad-street, to the house lately occupied by Francis Allen, tailor, where he intends carrying on business in future. Those who will favor him with their custom may depend on having their work done in the best manner, and newest style. He has on hand an assortment of

Boots & Shoes,

of different sizes, qualities, &c.

Wanted, one or two Boys, as apprentices to the above business, who will be well taken care of, and thoroughly instructed in the business.

JOHN W. JONES.

Camden, Sept 16.

Just Published.

And for Sale at this Office,
At Mr. Clark's and at Mr. Mathis' Stores,
and at the Post Office,
(Price 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents.)

A Sermon,

Preached in Camden, on the death of the Rev'd FRANCIS ASBURY,
One of the Bishops of the Methodist Episcopcal Church in America.

By HILLIARD JUDGE, Elder, M. E. C.
Considerable allowance made to those who buy a quantity.

August 22, 1816.

LEE & DeLEON

HAVE on hand a general assort-
ment of seasonable and

Fashionable Goods.

Also, a good supply of GROCERIES,
which they will sell low for cash or pro-
duce.

Camden, May 9, 1816.

MILL SAWS.

THE Subscriber has a few Philadel-
phia made MILL SAWS, for sale
on good terms.

HENRY ABBOTT.

Camden, August 8, 1815. 20ft

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COTTON in the seed will be received
and expeditiously picked and pack-
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Camden.

J. LYON.

Aug. 15, 1816.

N. B. I wish to hire two first rate pack-
ers for 5 or 6 months.

ts.

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. 17fr.


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 cts 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.

NOTICE

I S Hereby Given, to all persons indebted to JOSEPH H. HOWELL, that unless they make payment to the Subscriber by the 19th October, they will find their notes in an officer's hands.

JESSE POPE.

September 17, 1816.

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Stomachic Elixir of Health;

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Which has proved by thousands, who have experienced its beneficial effects, to be the most valuable medicine ever offered to the public, for the cure of Coughs, Cold, Consumption, the Hooping Cough, Asthma, Pain in the Breast, Cramps and Wind in the Stomach, removing Costiveness, sickness at the Stomach, Head Ache, loss of Appetite, Indigestion, &c. &c.

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A safe and effectual cure for the gout, rheumatism, lumbago, stone and gravel, swelling and weakness of the joints, sprains, bruises, and all kinds of green wounds—the cramp, pain in the head, face and body, stiffness of the neck, chilblains, frozen limbs, &c.

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A Medicine highly necessary to be kept in all families.

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For the prevention and cure of bilious and malignant fevers.

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They are particularly serviceable in Female disorders and especially in the removal of these obstructions which are the great source of their complaints at certain periods, they possess, this eminent advantage over most other purgatives, while they operate gently, they produce neither costiveness, debility nor too great excitement.

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