

attachment to this high and hopeful prince. On the night of December 6th, 1688; Mary, queen of James II. flying from Whitehall, with her infant son in her arms, had to take shelter under the walls of Lambeth palace, having no roof to cover her, for upwards of an hour, until a hackney coach was procured, to convey her to Gravesend on her way to France; whence she sailed never to return. This is surely an awful lesson to princes, who make innovations on the rights of their subjects; it very plainly shows the cringing addresses of such as aforesaid, to be of little avail when the affections of the people are alienated. At the beginning of the unfortunate contest between Great Britain and her American colonies, the British house of lords, in their address to his majesty on opening the session of 1768, spoke thus: "We most unfeignedly give your majesty the strongest assurance that we shall ever zealously concur in support of such just and necessary measures as may best enable your majesty to repress that daring spirit of disobedience, and to enforce a due submission to the laws: always considering that it is one of our most essential duties, to maintain inviolate the supreme authority of the legislature of Great Britain over every part of the dominions of your majesty's crown." This address certainly had a most pernicious tendency to the true interest of his majesty and the nation at large, and was one of the series of measures which lost to Great Britain nearly all her American colonies. On taking a view of the addresses of other nations, I find a similitude in them to our own—in October 1791, the President of the National Assembly, in his speech to the King, made use of these words; "Sire, you have reason to be beloved by Frenchmen, the constitution has made you the first monarch in the world!" Yet in about ten months after, they dethroned this first monarch in the world, and his fate is too well remembered to require insertion here. Many others of a later period might be enumerated, but as they all tend to the same purpose, and seem only the echo of the others, I shall not insert them,

but leave the reader to make such remarks as he may think proper, in contrasting the spirit that dictated with that which instigated the authors of the foregoing, to act so very different to the sentiments contained in their addresses. S.M.S.

C. Fergus, Jan. 4, 1810.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE COURT OF JUNO....A VISION.

Continued from p. 36, No. XVIII.

ON entering the library, I found many of the ladies deeply engaged in various studies; and not wishing to disturb them, I proceeded to the first vacant division, and amused myself with some books of ancient drawings, until the return of Serena. After no very long interval, she again joined me, and we immediately went from the library to visit a most spacious cabinet of mineralogy, in which every species of mineral was classed according to its genus, and the country where it was to be found. While viewing the minerals, she explained to me the nature of petrification in rocks, and concretions of various kinds, in all which, it was caused by the agency of metals, in different degrees of oxidation, and she predicted that before long it would be proved that all rocks whatsoever, owed their formation to a similar cause, which seemed highly probable, from the very extended range which the class of metals is now found to possess, and the number of the substances proved to be metallic, which were before supposed to be of very different natures.

From the mineral room we proceeded to a very extensive apartment, in which were preserved models of all the useful engines which had ever been made, and of many which were of new contrivance, and had not yet come into public use. On our way to this apartment Serena informed me that in the short interval of her absence, she had learned, that I was to be admitted that evening to an audience with Juno, and that a messenger would be sent for me when it was proper for me to go.

This messenger did not arrive till it was quite dark, and the whole

of the intermediate period, we spent in the museum of models, and in an astronomical observatory near it, with the exception of the time necessary for refreshment, which was managed in the same manner, as in the preceding day.

Among the curious engines preserved in the repository of models, the following chiefly attracted my notice.

1. A steam engine of most simple construction, without any valves or piston, and which performed its motions without any of the friction or loss of steam, which common engines experience, and which at the same time acted directly to give either rotary, or other movements to mills, without the intervention of any other machinery.

2. An engine for raising water from mines, which operated without any pump rods or descending weight, by which the loss of power consumed in the present methods, in giving motion to vast masses of machinery, was entirely prevented.

3. A crane for raising heavy bodies which was so contrived that the time necessary for elevating each, was in exact proportion to its weight;—whereas those in common use, consume nearly as much time in raising a body of a hundred pounds weight, as in elevating one of five tons.

4. An apparatus for moving vessels for navigation by steam, in which there were no parts projecting into the water, so as to be liable to be destroyed by the increased action of the waves in tempests.

Besides these engines I observed some for spinning, in which the raw material was put in at a certain part, and the thread was delivered at another, without any attention being required, for any intermediate operations; but this seemed to me more a work of curiosity, than of any great advantage.

The astronomical observatory, (in which we spent some time, and again returned to the museum of models) was principally remarkable for an apparatus, by which the stars could be plainly viewed during the day, as well as by night; for the exquisite finish and perfection of the instruments;

for time pieces completed with precision far beyond any thing yet known in common practice; and for astronomical calculations, and lunar and planetary tables, brought to the highest degree of perfection.

In viewing those various curiosities of art, and in listening to the judicious observations of Serena, relative to them, the time passed in the most agreeable manner, till the sun descended below the horizon, and the sable mantle of night enveloped the earth; shortly after which the messenger arrived for me, and I reluctantly quitted Serena for a while, to proceed to the palace of Juno.

After passing the outer gates of the palace, I found myself in a spacious vestibule, adorned with fine columns of Parian marble, in the Doric order, and well lighted; in which several ladies appeared dressed in rich and costly habits. At the upper end were seen folding doors of massy silver, richly sculptured; which seemed to communicate with inner apartments. I had not waited long till those doors opened, and a female figure passed them, and approached me, who seemed superior to the rest; her dress was composed of silks, dyed in stripes of the most vivid colours of all kinds, whose brightness dazzled my eyes. But their order being the same as those which appear in the rainbow, soon gave me to understand that they adorned the person of Iris, the favourite attendant of Juno. Her figure was above the common size, and of that species of beauty which is most expressive of activity; and though she had something more than human in her looks, it was tempered by a mild and encouraging manner, which at once excited confidence and esteem.

She told me I might follow her to the throne of Juno, who would now give me an audience; and I immediately proceeded with her into a magnificent hall, at the upper end of which Juno sat on a splendid throne, surrounded by ladies dressed in a most sumptuous style, among whom Minerva and Diana, were at once conspicuous, from the divinity of their appearance, and the pecu-

liar ornaments of their habits. The roof of the hall was supported by columns of massy silver, beautifully sculptured; between which descended ample draperies of lilac velvet, adorned with silver fringe, which covered the spaces of the windows from the ceiling to the floor. The most exquisite paintings in frames of solid gold, adorned the other spaces between the pillars; the floor was overspread with a beautiful carpet of silk piled tapestry; and the ceiling was entirely covered with vast mirrors, which reflected the light (that issued from a profusion of branches, arranged in the most beautiful figures, and supplied with perfumed gasses) so as to add new splendour to its original brilliancy, and produce the most singular and grand effect.

At each side of the throne were images of peacocks, composed entirely of precious stones, arranged so that their colours corresponded exactly to the natural plumage of these beautiful birds, and by some internal mechanism a degree of motion was given to their necks, and expanded tails, which added greatly to the brilliancy of the effect.

Near to Juno stood Diana, arrayed in simple and elegant attire, her hair was plaited and wreathed so as to lie closely, but yet sufficiently to shade her face, and to produce the best ornament to its noble and expressive beauty; a light quiver was suspended from her side by an embroidered belt, and in her hand she held her silver bow. A little further off stood Minerva, in front of some of the ladies of her household.

But the brilliancy and majesty of the appearance of Juno, soon drew my eyes from all other objects. She was above the middle size; her form was of the finest mold, and the beauty of her arms, which she displayed uncovered almost to the shoulder, was peculiarly conspicuous, and her look was expressive of dignity and authority—her dress was highly superb, and richly adorned with brilliants, and on her head she wore a crown entirely composed of the finest diamonds. When I came sufficiently near to the throne, I knelt to perform my homage to the celestial queen, who

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after having the goodness to permit me to rise, thus addressed me:

“Mortal, the purpose of your approach to my court has been already related to me. It is therefore unnecessary to repeat it. At first I felt so indignant at the conduct of Jupiter, and at the injuries offered to your countrywomen, that I was disposed to go in person to bring him to a sense of propriety, and to hold a court in your country for the trial of all delinquents concerned in the business, of which you require redress: but on more mature reflection, I think it would be inconsistent with my dignity to take this step, and would besides be a superfluous interference on the part of the Irish ladies. I have therefore resolved to dispatch Iris with an epistle to Jupiter, which will not fail to have the desired effect. As to the punishment of delinquents, the Irish ladies have already but too much power for that purpose themselves; favoured as they are by the richest gifts of Minerva and Diana, adorned with all the brilliancy of the most luxuriant feminine charms, and aided by that peculiar softness, frankness, and kindness of manner, more powerful than even their beauty, for which they are so justly esteemed. Fortified by virtue, and supplied with such an armoury of powerful weapons, what aid of mine do they require to punish any man who falls under their displeasure. But I have not yet mentioned all their powers; aided by Minerva, many of them can dispute with the other sex, the field of letters, and if literary champions are wanting, the assistance of man is not necessary to them, they are already sufficient for themselves in this respect. The talents of Edgeworth, of Norris, and Hamilton, and the brilliant, though erring genius of Oweison, are sufficiently well known;—and if the pens of these ladies could require any aid, many who now wield this powerful weapon in private, are well qualified to give it, and are not inadequate even to controversy, and satire if required.

When indeed I consider the formidable powers of so many various kinds, with which those ladies are

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endowed, I am more inclined to pity those who have the misfortune to fall under their displeasure, than to aid in persecuting them, already but too unhappy in being deprived of the smiles of so much worth and beauty.

Perhaps the person who principally has excited their resentment on this occasion, is even deserving of their compassion; may he not be smarting under the pangs of slighted love; the loss of his happiness from faith broken through caprice, by the idol of his soul; or the cruel disappointments of coquetry; and that his sufferings have caused offensive expressions, which should only be considered as the groans of a man on the rack. It is not natural for any man to do any thing voluntarily to displease the fair sex; the few who have ever pointedly done so, may be considered as acting under a temporary insanity; and to endeavour to restore them to their right minds, by those soul-soothing cares, which none know better how to practise than your countrywomen, might be more consistent with their usual humanity and generosity, than by whips and chains, to subdue their disorder to an apparent calm, while in reality it rages more fiercely internally. I would therefore in this spirit advise, that the ladies should terminate the dissension by converting their foe into a friend. Let them select from among themselves a female of that disposition and person, most likely to be agreeable to him, and who will feel no reluctance to the enterprise; let her be introduced to him, and then employ these powers of fascinating kindness for his conversion, which the firmest and wisest men have never been able to resist, and soon shall this adversary be changed into an advocate, eager to employ his pen on the opposite side from that he before assumed, lamenting with anguish his former errors, and emulous to acknowledge them publicly, and to make every reparation in his power. The voice of an amiable, benevolent, sensible woman, the sweetest music in nature to the ears of man, shall soon tune his soul to harmony; and the galling effect of former recollections shall be for ever obliterated by the felicities of well requited love.

tions shall be for ever obliterated by the felicities of well requited love.

Though my meaning may be easily collected from what I have said; it may not be amiss to state explicitly, that I direct this enterprize to be undertaken with honourable and generous intentions, on the part of the lady, to reward that passion which she shall excite, with a just return, in a connubial interchange of mutual endearments; for I shall ever deprecate and discountenance, the unjust acquisition of power over the mind of man, by exciting desires never designed to be satisfied, wherein renovation of hope only prepares for reiteration of disappointment, and the peace of perhaps an honourable and feeling heart is made a bleeding sacrifice to a capricious and insensible vanity.

To farther satisfy the ladies of Ireland, who on many accounts, deserve my approbation, I will add, though it is scarcely necessary, from the little chance there is of what I have advised failing of success, that if their adversary remains unsubdued by the efforts of their kindness thus exerted to convert him to friendship, and persists in employing his pen to their prejudice, I will then have him tried for his offences by a jury of his countrywomen, and inflict on him that punishment, which their justice shall award. And Iris shall be directed to give him notice to this purpose, when conveying my epistle to Jupiter; with which she shall proceed from this, when the next dawn shall illuminate the horizon: and you, mortal, are permitted to return to your country in her company, by that conveyance, in which indeterminate space is traversed with so much facility."

I returned my grateful homage for this condescending speech, but begged leave to observe, that what had been said only related to general literary attacks made on the ladies in a body; and that the case of individual characters exposed to censure, had not been considered, which often gave the sex the highest displeasure.

Minerva replied to me; "That it was beneath the wisdom of my

countrywomen, for which they were so highly esteemed by her, to consider the public statement of a defective female character, as an offence to the sex; that a moment's reflection must show them, that however great the preponderance of all the virtues was in their sex, there must be some delinquents among them, from the very nature of the human lot; and that to arrogate to the sex the incapability of doing wrong in any individual instance, must form a pretension of a nature too indefensible for her to countenance. She therefore in this case recommended to them the example of the male sex, who never imagined or felt the least injury, from the public display of the characters of the wicked, the ridiculous, or the contemptible among them, drawn either from real life, or from the imagination of the writer."

To this she added; "that though she could not but commend my zeal for my countrywomen, yet that after what I heard of the powerful resources of the sex from Juno, I must be convinced of the comparative insignificance of my aid, and that the intrusion of service, where it was so very unnecessary, seldom procured a grateful return."

Diana next addressed me, by observing: "That she could not omit this opportunity of adding her testimony to that of Juno, and Minerva, in favour of the Irish ladies; that they were her chief favourites, and that in no part of the earth, were there to be found women who so well deserved her favour as in Ireland. She thought however she could not better show her good will towards them, than by making that advice general, which Juno had given near the conclusion of her speech, in a particular instance. Those who pursued an opposite conduct, could have no pretensions to her regard; for that she must ever consider that female heart, which placed its glory in the number of matrimonial offers, and in exciting the hopeless passions which led to them, in many lovers, as equally corrupt, though less just and generous than that of the unhappy and degraded wanton, who had indulged the illicit passions of an equal number.

After this Juno signified that I might withdraw, and I was conducted by Iris to the door of the palace in the same manner as I had been led from it. In departing I gave her Neptune's letter to be forwarded as he directed.

I now returned to the residence of Minerva, where I found Serena sitting up for me in the apartment of assembly, all the rest of the ladies having retired for the night.

I felt the most sincere grief at parting from the amiable, accomplished and interesting Serena, and could not resist this opportunity to express it. I assured her that the pleasure I had experienced in her company, for the short period I had enjoyed it, could never be eradicated from my memory; that I felt the most poignant regret at being obliged to resign the happiness of seeing her, and listening to her delightful discourse; and that nothing would give me more satisfaction than the hope of seeing her again; as the highest estimate I could form of human happiness, was to pass my life in the company of a woman of her mental endowments and amiable qualities.

She replied: "That though she was willing to give me as much credit for sincerity as to any man, she could not place any implicit confidence in any one of a sex so prone to flattery; and that the shortness of our acquaintance rendered my assertions at least suspicious."

I answered, that if I could know my own heart I had not mistated its sentiments; which were given with the utmost simplicity of truth; and that as to the shortness of our acquaintance, every man knows when he finds a treasure for which his heart has long been desirous; and that for my part I found in her all those perfections, which the warmest flights of my imagination had ever supposed possible to be united in one lady, but which I had scarcely ever expected to find.

"These kind expressions, she replied, so far deserve my gratitude as to induce me to prove to you by a slight sketch of my history, how totally impossible it is, that your wishes of renewing our acquaintance can ever

be realized; and to remove all vain expectations."

She then (after mentioning that she but occasionally visited the residence of Minerva, and resided in general with her father, who was a Greek priest on a neighbouring island) related a tale replete with affecting incidents, which placed her virtue, her fortitude, and sense of filial duty in the strongest points of view; and increased both my respect and esteem; but of her words it would require too much space to repeat more than the conclusion, which was to the following effect:

"Farewell then, sir, I wish you every happiness, but we part to meet no more; for the chains of filial affection added to those of duty, which singly are sufficient, tie me down to my fate irrevocably. Perhaps indeed it may meet with some variation, but not much for the better; some of the neighbouring Pachas may solicit my hand from my father, and the idea of the rank and splendour to which I should be exalted by the alliance, may cause him to forget his motives for condemning me to celibacy, or induce him to sacrifice his own wishes to what he may imagine to be my happiness: But these Pachas are all either men sunk in the lowest abysses of sensuality, or proud bigots, who think the Koran alone contains all knowledge, and who therefore despise every species of literature and science, equally with the others. Judge then, you who know my taste and my feelings, what happiness I, or any pupils of Minerva, can expect in being united to men of these sentiments. But we must all submit to our lot, and I bear mine with more cheerfulness than you may suppose. In parting I shall however make you a small present, as a token of remembrance, which may be of some use to you; take this glass, by it you shall be able to know truth from false appearances. I know you will not forget me, but I hope that some of your amiable countrywomen will make you soon lay aside the grief with which you seem penetrated, and which cannot serve me."

Saying this she retired, after presenting me with a small optical glass,

resembling those which are used in examining fossils, and left me overwhelmed with grief at her discourse, and full of admiration of her virtues and amiable qualities.

I retired to my apartment but not to rest, the distress I suffered from the circumstances related, banished sleep entirely; and I had not even once closed my eyes, when a messenger arrived from Iris, to let me know that every thing was ready for our departure.

I followed the messenger into a large enclosed court near the palace, where I found an air balloon ready inflated, from which a light car was suspended. The balloon was composed of two compartments, which rendered it more secure; and a large horizontal sail on a light frame, was attached to it, which, by giving it a proper inclination, when the anchor was thrown out, rendered the descent perfectly safe. Ten Peacocks of a prodigious size, with wings as powerful as those of Eagles, were fastened to the car by silk lines, to draw it across the direction of the wind when this was required.

Iris soon came out from the palace; we entered the car, the Peacocks perched round it, the attendants cut the cords, and we mounted rapidly above the earth. It was scarcely light below, but we were soon elevated into a full view of the sun; which shortly after illuminated the hills, the plains, and lastly the sea in succession. By the favour of Eolus the wind blew steadily from the south east, and we passed rapidly over the ocean.

The islands of the Archipelago lay beneath our feet. The blue hills of Asia Minor appeared at a distance to our right, and on the left lay the fertile plains of Greece, once celebrated for the intelligence, the genius and the valour of its inhabitants; but now sunk to the lowest pitch of human misery, by the desolating effects of superstition and despotism.

The tall Minarets of Stamboul, and the dome of St. Sophias, now were seen at a great distance to the north east, and soon again disappeared.

Successively we passed over Mace-

donia, Roumelia, Servia, and Hungary, and at length saw Germany far extended below.

Iris now threw out ballast, we rose to a prodigious height, and then had a more extensive view than before.

The Alps appeared to the left, surrounded by clouds, and penetrating them in many parts; eastward from them proceeded the Danube to terminate its prodigious course in the Black sea; and on the other side was seen the Rhine tracing its devious track from the same mountains, through Germany and Holland to the Northern Ocean.

I here requested from Iris to know the substance of Juno's letter to Jupiter, which she readily permitted me to see, as the contents were not of a private nature. It was written nearly in the following words,

"My Lord, my Sovereign, and my Friend.

Some hundred years ago, when you amused yourself with the young ladies of Greece, I often made myself as ridiculous as you by jealous quarrels, but now it is time for us both to have more wisdom.

I have been informed of your having commenced some of your old freaks in Ireland; I do not wish to interfere with your pleasures, but I request you to consider how little such puerile feats become your dignity and age, and that, instead of spending your time in this manner, you ought to take compassion on the miserable state of mankind, falling rapidly under the hated despotism of the tyrant of France, and which therefore demands your fullest and most undivided attention; if however these considerations cannot move you, I adjure you by our ancient friendship, and the harmony, which has now so long subsisted between us, to cease all further annoyance to the Irish ladies, who are under my peculiar protection, and that of Minerva and Diana, who both join in the request. I know I can depend on your kindness so far, that this last argument would alone be sufficient, and therefore shall conclude with expressing my duty and affection to my lord, my sovereign, and friend.

Juno."

Jupiter sovereign of Olympus, &c. &c.

Shortly after reading this letter we descended near to the earth, and pursued the course of the Rhine. As soon as we got a distant view of the north sea, I recollected the situation of our army then at Walcheren, and requested Iris to bring us as near it as she could; to which she kindly consenting, made the peacocks fly out, who drew us southward from our course sufficiently to bring us over the army. When we came near them, we heard a strange rumbling noise, which we could not for some time account for, till at last we found that it proceeded from the united snoring of the whole army, which through the somniferous influence of Morpheus, who had assumed the form of their general, was so far overpowered, that they slept in all positions, and situations. Several regiments drawn up in the field in rank and file were all fast asleep, and snoring loudly; many squadrons of horse were in the same situation. The sentinels were standing at their posts fast asleep; and round the tent of Morpheus a crowd lay asleep three deep. The very birds as they flew over the camp dropped down in a deep sleep, and I saw several large fishes floating on the surface of the river in the same state. Our peacocks now began to nod, and we also grew very drowsy ourselves, when Iris thought it high time to get beyond the influence of the poppy crowned divinity, and immediately threw out ballast, when we again rose to our former elevation, and proceeded rapidly over the sea towards England; and we soon reached that happy country where liberty makes its last stand before it quits the world for ever; where genius and riches are united to bring all arts to a perfection, no where else approached; and where the men are renowned for probity and industry, and the women for the most perfect and universal beauty.

We passed over London, which lay directly in our way, but it was so enveloped by a thick cloud of smoke, that we could see little more of it but the dome of St. Pauls, and a few of the spires, which pierced through the sooty covering. We were soon afterwards waltzed over the

fertile and highly cultivated fields of Buckingham, Warwickshire and Staffordshire, intersected by numerous canals bearing in all directions their produce, and that of the distant mines and collieries, together with the merchandise of remote nations; altogether producing a scene of fertility and improvement, that most resembled the perfection produced by the hand of Minerva in the island I had so lately quitted.

We next passed across Cheshire, and then launched out over the Irish Sea; we then crossed the Isle of Man, and soon after saw at a distance the lofty hills of Antrim. I now felicitated myself with the pleasures of returning to my native country (which every moment became more distinct to view) and of receiving the approbation of the ladies, who had sent me on this expedition for the zeal with which I had performed their commission, expecting to descend on terra firma in an hour or two at farthest, when I perceived something quit the land, and proceed upwards over the sea, directly towards the balloon; I soon however perceived that it bore some resemblance to the human form, but it was yet too indistinct to be known perfectly. At length it came near the balloon, and exhibited the fine appearance of a beautiful female figure, borne on powerful wings of a resplendent whiteness, her dress was perfect elegance itself, and on her head she wore a blue fillet on which the word *L'Amour* was inscribed in gold letters. She soon afterwards, by permission of Iris, entered the car, when the striking resemblance she bore to Serena astonished me, and made me suppose that this charming lady had acquired that celestial nature, which she before so nearly approached. She spoke to me with the most winning softness and enchanting smiles, and as soon as I could recover from the surprize, which her beauty and loveliness caused, I was going to inquire what errand had brought her from the heavenly regions, when it just occurred to me to make use of the glass which Serena had given me. When in an instant her beauty vanished, and she ap-

peared in the most frightful form I had ever beheld; her mouth became extended from ear to ear, and well furnished with long and sharp tushes; her eyes grew of vast diameter, and seemed to shoot forth sulphurous fires; and her late beautiful wings were turned to the leathern flaps of a demon; her hands, which before were so delicate, were converted into frightful phangs, covered with scales, each terminating in a large and sharp sting, from which black and fetid venom oused copiously; her fine dress vanished, and exhibited a hideous squalid and withered figure to view, her hair was changed into serpents, which hissed fearfully round her head, and the inscription on the fillet presented in the midst of them the word *Coqueretic* in letters of livid flame. I now knew that she was the genius of the tormenting art designed by this word, and trembled at her powers and hideous aspect, when seeming unconscious of the change, that had taken place, she gave a horrid grin, which she intended for a smile, and stretched out her claws with a kind air to take me by the hand; on which starting away from her detested touch, I forgot my situation, darted off too far, lost my balance, and was precipitated from the balloon some thousand feet downwards into the sea. I felt the wind rushing rapidly upwards against me as I fell, and the shock of the water when I touched it caused acute pain; I now sunk many feet beneath the surface of the ocean, and for some time experienced all the horrors of suffocation; at last I arose again above the waves, but there again I beheld the foul fiend, seated on an immense shark, which rushing forward with distended jaws, exhibiting numerous rows of the keenest teeth, threatened me with an instant and painful death; when the complication of terrors under which I laboured caused me suddenly to awake, and I found myself lying quietly on my bed, instead of floating on the ocean, and breakfast prepared for me below, instead of being myself the breakfast of a shark.

NEMORENSIS.