

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE PRIVATE LIFE OF MONSIEUR DE LA FAYETTE.

THIS amiable man, and celebrated character is about fifty-four, or five years of age. He went extremely young to America, and his actions have ever been influenced by the purest love of freedom, and public good. Benevolence is the leading trait in his character: his cultivated mind embraces all ranks and sects in its range. His public life is well known. The latter part of his time has been divided between the dungeons of Germany, and complete retirement in France. Five years M. de La Fayette languished in prison. A young lad during that time was his faithful companion and attendant. He never left the master whom he loved, and he is now rewarded by a happy and easy life, the friendship of the family, and the esteem of all who know of his excellent conduct. Madam de La Fayette and two daughters joined the unhappy general in his prison, about the middle period of his confinement. She had found the Emperor of Germany inexorable to her entreaties, and all that herself and children could obtain was permission to share in the captivity of a beloved husband and parent. Madam de La Fayette's health suffered much, and never entirely was restored from the effects of this painful confinement. On Bonaparte's accession to power, it is but just to mention, that he desired and obtained the liberation of M. de La Fayette. This affectionate family returned to France. An estate of Madam's was all that remained: it is situated thirty miles from Paris, in a fertile corn country. Here M. de La Fayette returned, and in the midst of domestic happiness, in the pursuits of agriculture, and in the enjoyment of a select library, and such society as the country afforded, he has since "held the noiseless tenor of his way." He has one son, an amiable young man who is married, and in the army. One of his daughters was also married previous to the year 1802. The most perfect concord reigns through the family; but it has lately sustained a severe loss to its happiness by the death of Madam La Fayette. She was an heiress, and of the Noailles family, one of the first in France. Her sufferings had not abated

the vivacity of her mind, and she detailed her adventures through Germany, her interviews with the Emperor, and her subsequent miseries and privations, with great animation and good temper. Their establishment in the country was at once suitable to their change of situation, and every way befitting a private gentleman. Plenty crowned their board, and a happy union of amusement and useful employment charmed away their time. M. de La Fayette had lost all his own fortune by the revolution, nor could he ever obtain restitution or redress. He was coldly looked on by the present government, and though he acknowledged with gratitude that Bonaparte's interposition had procured him liberty, yet he did not scruple to address a very spirited letter to him on the subject of his Consulship for life. As might be expected, it had no effect, and received no answer. M. de La Fayette latterly estranged himself from Paris entirely, never visited the theatre, and lamented in his retirement over the lost liberties of his country. He was drawn from it in 1802 by the voice of friendship. He came up to town to meet Mr. Fox. These two illustrious men had been acquainted in youth. They had not met for nineteen years. It can be easily imagined that with so much sensibility, and goodness in both, the interview was warm and affecting. The tears that were shed seemed ominous that they were to meet no more. Mr. Fox, Mrs. Fox, general Fitzpatrick, and two of Mr. Fox's friends, passed a week at M. de La Fayette's chateau. It is of very singular appearance, having something of Moorish towers, a large gateway, and a fosse nearly filled up. It is commodious and pleasant, without the grandeur of a more extensive building. An adjoining wood is very beautiful, and according to the ancient mode divided into transverse allies, which are, however, very agreeable, both for shade, for shelter and for meditation. M. de La Fayette's library, though small, is beautifully fitted up, and is ornamented with the busts of all the distinguished characters of the American revolution..... Washington, Franklin, &c. It is a pleasing memorial, that this excellent man's labours in the cause of liberty have not been altogether fruitless.

The active part he took in the American revolution was very conducive to its final success. Without French aid, the Americans could not have accomplished their freedom. In procuring it for them, M. de La Fayette was highly instrumental.

How varied and chequered is the life of some men! That of M. de La Fayette has been remarkably so. Early in life, a youthful warrior, amidst a rude people struggling for freedom; afterwards the idol of the French nation, the friend to monarchy and ration-

al reform: a general at the head of armies: a prisoner in the dungeon of a despot. Finally a private gentleman, an agriculturist and a benevolent friend to his neighbourhood: there are few so distinguished, with so little of fault; few, so having suffered, with so little asperity; few so capable of withdrawing with unclouded temper to private life; few so divested of sordid or interested motives, and not one more estimable as a friend, more amiable as husband, father, and master of a family.

DETACHED ANECDOTES, &c.

OLD FASHIONED BOUTS RIMEZ.

LORD Rivers, who was beheaded at Pomfret, by order of the tyrant Richard, was a man of taste and literature in his day. Among his productions, one is a translation of the moral proverbs of Christian of Pise; which work he turned into a poem of three hundred lines, the greatest part of which he contrived to terminate with the letter E; a striking instance of ill applied application, and of the false taste with which that age was infected. The following lines which are its conclusion may serve as a specimen:

Of these sayynges Cristyne was the auctoresse,
Which in makyn had such intelligence,
That therefore she was mireur and mai-
tresse,
Her works testifie the experiance,
In Frenssh language was written this
sentence,
And thus englished doth hit rehearse,
Antoin Wideyille therle Ryvers.

To this Caxton the printer adds a few lines in the same style.

Go thou lital quayer and recommaund me
Unto the good grace of my special Lorde,
Therle Ryveris, for I have emprinted the,
At his commandement, following every
worde

His copie, as his secretary can recorde
At Westmenstre, of Feverer the xv. daye,
And of Kind Edwarde the xvii. year vraye.

Emprinted by CAXTON,
In Feverer the cold season.

THE FITZGERALD FAMILY.

Genealogists say that the family of Fitzgerald descended from the dukes of Tuscany, who in the reign of King

Alfred settled in England, and from thence transplanted themselves to Ireland. To this the earl of Surry seems to allude in his verses on the fair Geraldine, generally supposed to have been one of the daughters of Gerald Fitzgerald, earl of Kildare; when he says:

From Tuscany came my Ladies worthy
race.

ORIGIN OF THE ORDER OF THE GARTER.

In Rastel's Chronicle, lib. vi. under the life of Edward III. is the following curious passage. "About the nineteenth yere of this kyng, he made a solempne feast at Wyndesore, and a great justes and turnament, where he devysed, and perfected substatnegally, the order of the knyghtes of the garter; howe be it, some afferme that this order began fyrste by kyng Rycharde, *Cure de Lyon*, at the sege of the citye of Acres; wher in his great necessitie, there were but twenty-six knyghtes that fyrnly and surely abode by the kyng; where he caused them all to wear thonges of blew leather about their legges. And afterwarde they were called the knyghtes of the blew thounge.

ANECDOTE RELATIVE TO THE BATTLE OF POICTIERS.

The following Anecdote relative to the taking of John, King of France, at the Battle of Poictiers, is taken from one of the Harleian manuscripts in the British Museum.

"Sir Howell ap Fywall, ap Griffith,