

not know how much I might scribble, if I was not afraid to trespass too much on your patience. Sir, with the most profound respect to the Magazine company, I remain your humble servant.

TABITHA SIMPLE.

*For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.*

IN obedience to Miss Tabitha's command, her letter has been forwarded to Nemorensis, who sends the annexed reply. The powerful adjuration towards the close of her letter, caused an eager search to find a compliment fit for insertion, according to her desire, but none could be discovered equal to her approbation expressed in her own language, and therefore it remains unaltered.—The alteration in the words *cacoethes scriblendi*, from the usual expression, is too happy to have been a mistake, in fact the *cacoethes* is much oftener that of *scriblendi* than of *scribendi*. It would be presumptuous to give opinions on the other delicate subjects on which she requires them, without more experience, but perhaps the Sage \*\*\*\*\* may be so obliging as to undertake the task, as he is a friend to the

B.M.M.

TO MISS TABITHA SIMPLE.

MADAM,

The isle of Venus is far remote: the residence of Minerva it is not my fate to visit so often as I could desire, and Morpheus, instead of detaining has been more desirous to dismiss me, than I could wish, on many nights of late. The causes for the delay of the Court of Juno, had no reference to these *ci devant* divinities, and were chiefly a fear of the former part not having been agreeable, where it was most desired it should be so, and that the rest would, besides having the same fate, seem too tedious from the extent necessary to complete the design, being so much greater than was first imagined; some private occurrences also I must own, unfitted my mind from attending to such subjects at the time.

I hope you will excuse my differing in opinion with you, on the peculiar sensibility of literary men to flattery? but if for this word you insert female approbation, the charge

will then be undeniable. What manly heart can be insensible to the good opinion of one or other of the fair sex? I know of none; and literary men can least of all be so, meeting as they do, in the course of their studies, such perpetual instances to remind them of the influence of the ladies; and for my part, of all the chapters of the bible, I believe that of Esdras most firmly, which so beautifully describes the power of women.

I shall now conclude with hoping that my obedience to your wishes, in continuing Juno, may have the good fortune to please you better than before. I am madam your most devoted servant,

NEMORENSIS.

*For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.*

THE COURT OF JUNO....A VISION.

*Continued from No. XVI. p. 355.*

AFTER the tables were cleared, a coffee was served in, and the ladies having taken a few dishes, separated to pursue various exercises and amusements in the open air, for the remainder of the afternoon. Some rode out in carriages, of the kind before mentioned, in various excursions to different parts of the island; others accompanied them on horseback; a third party furnished themselves with various fishing apparatus, and proceeded to a large lake, that extended from the extremity of an adjoining grove, to the residence of Diana, where a number of elegantly formed boats, were ready to receive them; which they managed with the greatest skill and dexterity; some skimming over the glassy expanse with extreme velocity, from the admirable construction of the boats, and formation of the sails; and others, for the sake of more healthful exercise, contending with light oars in various courses; and when sufficiently tired, amusing themselves with taking the finny prey, which the lake seemed to furnish in the greatest abundance. A third party preferred the more gentle exercise of walking, and divided for this purpose into several groups; some of which went to visit the favourite plants, which they cultivated in adjacent gardens; others to seek new plants,

through the winding paths of the neighbouring woods; and others merely to contemplate the beauties of nature, from the lofty hills, whose bases sloped upwards gradually from the palace, till their tops rose high above the plains, and commanded extensive prospects over the variegated landscapes of the island, on the one side, and over the ever changing ocean on the other, whose bosom perpetually ploughed by ships of all nations moving in every direction, and agitated by the winds, formed a beautiful contrast to the repose of the terrestrial view.

How gladly would I have accompanied any of these parties, at any other season, but the fatigues of the past day rendering more exercise painful, the amusement of contemplating the party on the lake from one of the large windows of an adjoining saloon, from which the most of it could be seen, seemed just then preferable to any other. The amiable Serena did me the honour to participate with me in this more placid occupation; but fearing that she remained behind from a polite attention to the charge she had received, I offered to accompany her to any of the parties she most preferred; but she assured me that to remain at home was no ways inconvenient or disagreeable, as she had been on a long excursion that morning to a distant part of the island, and very seldom found any inclination for a second in the same day. She said that all the ladies made it a rule to spend some part of the day in exercise in the open air, to which they principally owed that firm health which I might observe to bloom forth on almost every countenance, and that the rest was devoted to the pursuit of various studies or arts; but that instead of being all out at once, they found it more convenient for some to make their excursions in the morning and others in the evening, and that for her part she found the morning parties better suited to her other occupations. She then favoured me with accounts of the lake, the habitation of Diana, of which we could just discern some faint traces at a great distance, and of various other places,

which we beheld from the window, interspersed with observations which showed her good sense, the soundness of her judgment, and the goodness of her heart. After some time spent in this manner, she proposed that we should visit the library and such other parts of the building as I should prefer, as soon as I had sufficiently amused myself with the scene on the lake, in order to occupy the interval till the return of her companions. I assured her I was ready to accompany her that instant, and left it entirely to her, what we should first visit. Only requesting that the greatest part of the time, might be devoted to the library; then said she, to remind you of the strict union of the animal part of man, to his immortal mind, from the imaginary separation of which in this life such strange errors have arisen in human systems, falsely denominated philosophical; you shall see our kitchens, and our illuminating apparatus first, which will not require much time, and we will then proceed to the library without delay, and thus you will be able to contemplate almost at once, our repositories for corporeal and mental food. She then obligingly pointed out the way, and after proceeding through several spacious apartments, we arrived at a staircase which seemed to have something uncommon in its construction; but as it was covered with a beautiful carpet, I could not perceive how it was formed, till we had passed the first flight, when I found it was made entirely of cast iron, shaped in the lightest and most elegant form, with suitable balustrades of the finest scroll work. Serena observing me examining the stairs, informed they were made in this manner to prevent accidents by fire, and that all the floors of the apartments were supported by iron rafters, for the same reason, and were in other respects so secured that no fire could penetrate from one chamber to another. Along all the passages and the sides of the staircase were formed niches at regular intervals, in which were placed statues of the most exquisite forms; some allegorical, representing the various virtues, and commendable passions; and others

representing those of both sexes who had most excelled in them, or who were eminent in any science or art, or who had produced any useful invention, or improved any before invented; between those niches, as well as on the walls of most of the apartments, were arranged a variety of beautiful paintings, finished with the finest taste and skill, in the colouring, drawing, design, and management of the subject. Some of them represented those brilliant actions which history has handed down to us, wherein the mind of man seems to have risen above its level, and to have participated in the divine nature: others presented to view, scenes in various parts of the world, remarkable either for curious exhibitions of nature or of art; a third sort equally entertaining, though less sublime, minutely described the processes of numerous arts and manufactures, wherein the figures were drawn with so much life and grace, as to be no less admirable for the art with which they were executed, than for that which they represented. Serena explained the most remarkable of these paintings, as we proceeded, but as it would take weeks to examine them all as minutely as they deserved, I was forced to be satisfied with a very hasty view.

At the bottom of the stairs, we proceeded into a large apartment, which from the notions I had formed of kitchens in general, I supposed would be at least partly like some of the best of them; but how great was my surprize at entering, to find it as elegantly finished and constructed, as any apartment in the palace. Several pairs of large folding doors appeared in different parts of the walls; on opening these, in some of the recesses behind them were constructed sand baths, of the same kind as those used for chemical purposes; in others were only shelves with steam pipes running behind them, with various branches extending downwards; and in others were seen the external part of ovens of various sorts and sizes, adapted to the different processes of baking or roasting. On the sand baths, and in the steam apparatus, only glass or china vessels were used; and all odours or superfluous vapours,

were carried off by appropriate funnels. Heat was supplied for the different processes by the combustion of gases conveyed through pipes from external reservoirs, as was also the steam; both of which were produced by one fire, in an adjoining chamber; where was erected an extensive steam and gas apparatus, which besides supplying the kitchen, could be conveyed to every part of the building by tubes concealed in the substance of the walls; so as to afford an equable warmth by the one in the colder part of the year, and an abundant supply of brilliant light, by the combustion of the other, whenever wanted. The gas was purified, chiefly by passing it several times through water, so as to be entirely deprived of all disagreeable smell, and was sometimes rendered aromatic by the introduction of perfumes into the gas-holders.

After a short explanation by Serena of the parts of the apparatus that were least obvious to view, we passed across an open court, and ascended a flight of finely formed stone stairs, which led to the library. This was an apartment of prodigious length, lighted by extensive windows at both sides, between which partitions projected outwards, so as to form as many deep recesses as there were windows, in each of which the books were arranged on shelves in regular order, according to their subjects and dates, so that by the assistance of a well contrived catalogue, each volume could be found without delay. The fronts of the recesses, and the rest of the inside of this library were adorned with architectural decorations to correspond with the external appearance of the building, and the whole presented a beautiful view, in which utility and elegance were admirably united.

Serena having mentioned that great numbers of volumes had been saved from the wreck of the famous Alexandrian library, and placed in this, I expressed much eagerness to see them, but observing her face on the point of laughter, I found I must lower my expectations. She then kindly informed me that much trouble had been taken in examining them, and

that very few had been found of any use, that they mostly consisted of theories spun from the fertile brains of the Greek philosophers, which a few facts since known, showed to be absurd; of commentaries on these theories; and of explanations of the commentaries: that the books of history among them were in general so blended with fable, as to make the discovery of truth in them, nearly impossible; that however there were some few exceptions, which she would show me; and that she could not help smiling at a mistake on my part, which she had often before witnessed in others, and had been informed frequently occurred before she came to the island. She pointed out to me as chiefly worthy of notice, a history of the ancient empire of Iran from whence had emanated, the powerful governments of Egypt, China, Indostan, and of the Assyrian empire, in nearly the same manner conjectured by Sir William Jones, as she informed me; and of which the ancient Sanscrit language, originally spoken at its court, and the inscriptions on some antiquated monuments in the uninhabited parts of modern Persia, were the only memorials that remained. The work was in the Greek language accompanied by an explanation in Latin, and seemed to be a translation from some more ancient language. After I had sufficiently examined this curious book; she showed me a complete collection of Livy's works including all the books, which are wanting in our editions. She then led me to a curious collection of all the works of Hero Alexandrius, few of which are known to our literati, containing drawings of numerous engines, and fabrications of antiquity, among which I chiefly remarked sections and plans of the Roman and Grecian galleys, which showed how very absurd most of the explanations were of the names *triremes*, *biremes*, *octoremes*, &c. by which they were known. Last of all she reserved as the greatest curiosity, the whole of the works of Archimedes, and the drafts, made by his own hands of the numerous machines, by which he had defended Syracuse so long against one of the greatest generals of his time.

I passed some most delightful hours in examining those venerable monuments of genius, with Serena, and in hearing her sensible remarks on them. The time stole away insensibly in her enchanting company, and the sun had already touched the horizon, before his descent was perceived. It was not however till the light diminished too much to view the books with any facility, that I could prevail on myself to lay them aside. Just then we heard the noise of the carriages of the ladies returning from their excursion, and Serena brought me by another passage into the last apartment in which they had assembled, in order to meet them. They soon afterwards entered in several separate groups, with their countenances animated by the glow of healthful exercise, and in high spirits from the amusement it afforded; several went up to Serena to show her the fine fish they had caught, and others exhibited various curious plants and flowers, which they had gathered in their walks. They continued discoursing on the various classes to which these belonged; till Serena expressing a wish for lights, one of the young ladies went to a niche at one end of the room, in which stood a small statue of Hymen with his torch pointed outwards. She held a little wax taper before the torch, and turned a winch in the pedestal, and immediately a blaze darted from the torch to the taper. I thought this but a scanty light for such a large apartment; but I soon found I had mistaken the first step in the business for the whole; for the young lady passing across the room, with the taper, set fire to some filaments of flax which descended from the ceiling, and instantly the flame ran along a slight band of the same material, which I had not before noticed, wound along the extremities of a number of elegant branches appended to the ceiling; and at the same moment a brilliant light, splendidly illuminated the chamber, from the combustion of a fine gas proceeding from the ends of the branches; which as caused to flow into them by turning a valve the handle of which was at one side of the pedestal of the little statue,

the light was clear, steady, and mild, and its being overhead, prevented its brilliancy from offending the eyes.— The quickness, and elegant management by which the whole was lighted, had a very fine effect.

Their evening repast was now spread for the ladies, and different tables were prepared to suit their different inclinations; one was furnished with tea, coffee, chocolate and a variety of fine cakes, and the equipage fit for serving them: and on another were laid several dishes of wild fowl and other game, which had been sent in by the nymphs of Diana, a variety of fine shell fish from the coasts of the island, a few dishes of the fish caught by the ladies, some very fine pastry and rich cream, and a profusion of exquisite fruit, some choice wines were also placed on the table, but of these the ladies partook with the greatest moderation, and for the most part mingled with a large portion of water, merely as a wholesome beverage.

Serena presided at the tea table, and the other ladies entertained us with an interesting account of the various little adventures that had occurred in the several amusing exercises in which they had been engaged.

After a short time spent at the tables, the whole was removed, and the ladies seated in a circle, amused themselves with various little works of embroidery, netting, or useful needlework, while they listened attentively to the recitation of a poem composed by Serena on the progress of Reason, Science and the Arts, and and the various states of society caused by their extension.

While Serena recited this poem her countenance was highly animated by the enthusiasm with which the subject inspired her, and she looked, all she felt. The measure of the poetry was perfectly correct, the language elegant, the subjects happily assorted, and the whole was delivered with a harmony of voice, and a gracefulness of action that is undecipherable. It would not be possible to give but a slight sketch of this admirable production, but even that may be acceptable.

She first described the state of man-

kind before science had illuminated their minds, or the arts bestowed on them any of the numerous comforts, which even the lowest classes of civilized society enjoy (such as we now find them on the coasts of New Holland and the Southern extremity of America, and such as the ancient poets have all represented them) without houses, without cloaths, without foresight, gathering scanty meals from the casual productions of the woods or the shores, and perishing by famine at every unusual deficiency of them; sheltering under rocks, and in excavations made in banks by their nails and fingers alone; and imagining angry divinities raging in the storm, the conflagration, and the flood, darting terrific lightning, and rolling deafening thunder, to astonish and destroy them.

She touched slightly on the still more dreadful state that occasionally occurred, when man overcome by un pitying hunger, hunted his fellow man as a prey and feasted on his flesh; a state almost incredible, was it not but too well attested by those European crews, whose mangled companions have fallen in this manner, on the shores of New Zealand; and, did we not witness the promptitude with which man, in even his most civilized state starts forth to embrace his hands in the blood of his fellow creatures, for the most trivial interests, or for imaginary injuries; the eagerness with which the cold blooded villain in private life, twists the laws, and exerts his diabolical cunning to deprive his neighbour of his means of subsistence, to add perhaps to a mass of wealth before too great, and leaves him to perish without remorse, and the avarice with which the still bolder miscreant, by unfeeling speculations of avarice on the necessities of life, dooms thousands to perish by excruciating famine in countries less favoured by justice than ours.

She next described the happy change made by the introduction of the primary arts, when men learned to protect themselves from the elements by cottages, and tents, to cloath themselves with skins, and to support themselves by the produce of their flocks and herds.

She afterwards related the improvements made by the invention of agriculture by which the same country admitted of a population increased a thousand fold; and its inhabitants were enabled to live in those large collected masses, in which the human intellect arrives to its greatest perfection.

She then recounted the happy period when Minerva descended to give to man the sciences, and the more sublime arts, by which his comforts are so greatly extended, and his understanding so much exalted. She traced the effect of each art and science, on mind and manners as they were introduced, with precision and judgment; and dwelt on the wonderful influence of the whole combination at present, when man makes all the elements his servants, compels the waters, and the winds to work for him, and to transport him to the most distant regions, and the devouring flame to modify all substances to his use, and to put in motion the most ponderous engines, and even makes the air bear him aloft on its soft substance above the flight of the eagle.

She represented ignorance, superstition, avarice, and ambition, as a crew of infernal spirits, leagued against the happiness of man, opposed to Minerva, and contending by every artifice to check the progress of science and the improvements of art, and the extension of truth; raising persecutions against those who devoted their lives to those studies for the good of mankind, and where persecution could not extend, blackening their characters, and rendering their lives miserable, by every misrepresentation which falsehood could suggest; sometimes openly impelling the infatuated multitude against these their best friends, and sometimes directing against them the secret machinations of concealed malice. At other times assuming the mask of an austere religion, and a rigidly partial morality, raising an outcry against some frailty inseparable from humanity, or the neglect of some trivial ceremonious ordinances, that their own infernal vices might the better escape detection, while the public gaze was stupidly turned on the assigned

objects, and under this hypocritical cover privately patronizing gluttony, fraud, rapine, injustice, treachery, and the very follies and vices they condemned in public; exciting heaven and earth to oppose the progress of truth, to injure its votaries, and to compel mankind to judge all things, by the distorted, and erroneous standards which they set up in its place, and which would best serve their own vile interests.

She drew a melancholy picture of the many exalted characters, who had suffered by the malice of these fiends, for their love of science and of truth, from the earliest ages to the present time; beginning with Orpheus, torn to pieces by a savage multitude for striving to instruct them in the rudiments of science and the arts; proceeding through many similar instances, to show us Galileo pining in the prisons of the inquisition, and forced to deny the testimony of his senses to obtain his liberty; and lastly in our own times, exhibiting Priestley compelled to fly to the extremity of the earth from his ungrateful country, by a storm of unmerited calumny and persecution; and Lavoisier falling beneath the bloody axe of the worst of these vile fiend's votaries, those monsters who have so much degraded human nature.

She then traced the injuries done to truth, and science, and the happiness of mankind, by the errors of zeal in their cause without knowledge: but over the few worthy, though mistaken characters who had erred in this way, she drew the veil of compassion, and sighed for the imperfection of humanity.

She concluded with the representation of the happy state the world might be in, from the farther advancement of truth, science and art, showed that by them disease, famine, and human misery might be nearly extirpated, and even the infernal scourge of war banished for ever, in the final overthrow of ignorance, avarice, superstition, and ambition. But while she hoped much progress might be made towards this happy state, she doubted if it ever would arrive, or if it did, it could alone take place at a very distant period.

When she had finished, the other ladies all arose and embraced her, lavishing on her those encomiums she had so well merited; and declaring their happiness in having her for their companion, and their directress under their celestial mistress. When they had sufficiently expressed their delight in this manner, Serena took her harp, and several of the ladies accompanied her on various other instruments, in a concert of one of the most exquisitely harmonious pieces of music I had ever heard. When this was ended most of the ladies retired to their private apartments for the night, and Serena with a few others remaining, offered to conduct me to that intended for me, observing that the various fatigues I had lately suffered required rest, and that much worth rising early for, remained to be seen on the island. I thankfully accepted her kind offer, and she and the ladies who remained, on the way to their own apartments, shortly after showed me one near the library, wished me good rest, and informed me I would find them in the morning in the chamber from which we last parted.

I found the bed and the whole furniture of this room, elegant, commodious, and of admirable contrivance, and immediately lay down, and soon fell asleep amidst the most pleasing contemplations of the various excellencies of the admirable Serena, which made more impression on my mind than all the extraordinary scenes I had witnessed.

I wakened early next morning more refreshed by sleep, from the exhilarating nature of the air of the island, than ever I had been before, prepared myself for going to the ladies, and soon joined them in the saloon. A few of them were sitting at a table on which breakfast was prepared, at the upper end of which sat the lovely Serena in a riding dress, which showed her admirable form to the greatest advantage. The rest of the ladies had gone about the usual occupations of the day.

Serena told me that she intended to show me first that day the chemical apparatus, which for reasons, which would be obvious when we arrived at it, was situated at the foot of the

mountain, a few miles distant, and that on our return we might visit the residence of Diana. I returned my best acknowledgments for the trouble she took on my account, and shortly after we had done breakfast, we proceeded to the gate of the palace, where two beautiful horses, of great spirit and docility, were ready equipped waiting for us. I assisted the lovely Serena to mount her horse, which she effected with much gracefulness, and we immediately rode off at a brisk pace.

The road lay through a country presenting various beautiful views, from the several combinations of the woods, the fruitful fields, and the lake seen from different points; but an entertainment vastly superior to what they would yield, was afforded by the conversation of my fair companion. In the course of which she informed me, that Minerva had laid the cause of the Irish ladies before Juno, who had expressed great displeasure at the conduct of Jupiter, and had resolved to go herself to see justice done to my amiable countrywomen, and to bring her spouse to a due sense of the impropriety of his conduct; that Minerva and Diana were to consult farther with her that day about the business, and that one of them, if not both, would accompany her; and that when the time of departure was fixed I should be admitted to an audience.

We now approached the foot of the mountain, where some handsome buildings were erected, at no great distance from the sea, a small inlet from which extended in that direction. The laboratory, and some works of more importance, were situated here; but Serena informed me we must go on to the top of the mountain for reasons which she would afterwards explain; and accordingly after a long route through a winding road of gradual ascent we at length got within a short distance of the summit, which was then hid from view by a cloud, which seemed to hover over it in an extraordinary manner.

From this place we had a fine view of the Grecian seas, and of the various fine islands with which they were covered; with a distant, and faint

prospect of the Continent of Asia on one hand, and that of Europe on the other.

After stopping here a few minutes we proceeded upwards and soon became surrounded with the thick vapours of the cloud, which confined our view to short bounds. We now approached the foot of a lofty and extensive tower; the top of which seemed overshadowed by trees spreading out their branches in every direction.

Serena told me that this tower contained at once the source of the defense of the island, and of most of their chemical operations, and bidding me remark well its height, and the extensive spreading of the branches, at its top, said, as we were descending she would explain its use and vast power. A small time sufficed for this examination: for having rode round it, and perceiving that its only aperture had been built up with a solid wall, so that it could not be entered, and knowing that my curiosity respecting it was so soon to be gratified, it appeared superfluous to ask any questions about it, or to spend more time in looking at it.

We accordingly proceeded to descend, and then Serena spoke to me as follows. "This tower, the source of so many extraordinary operations, is not as you suppose covered with trees; what seems to you trees, is in reality composed of vast ramifications of copper, from which massy bars of the same metal extend downwards under ground to the buildings at the foot; these bars are cased with a composition that excludes all moisture, and terminate in the manner which you will soon perceive. From what I have said, you will easily conceive how this fabric operates as a collector of electricity on a vast scale. The clouds are almost always in a different state of electricity from the earth; the great elevation of the tower places it on a level with them; and as they approach, the ramifications of the copper bars, which all terminate in points of platina, attract the electricity from them, and it thence passes downwards in the greatest abundance to the works below, where vast reservoirs for it are prepared; some on the principles of what you

call electrical batteries, and others on better constructions more lately discovered. These batteries we can discharge in any proportion we please, so as to pass their fire round the island by the bars, which you might have observed inlaid in the rocks all round it; we can also manage it so, that a discharge will take place, through any living beings or other conducting substances, which form a communication between any two of them, or between any one and the sea. You can hence conceive how the island is impregnable by any armies however great, since to destroy a thousand invaders at one shock, requires only an operation that a child may perform. All the mariners in the neighbouring seas, dread the effects of this apparatus, which some of them have sufficiently experienced to confirm the opinion of its certainty, and they hence carefully avoid the island. The discoveries which have lately been made by European chemists, of the efficacy of electricity in chemical operations will give you some insight into what is done here; if you only conceive, that instead of the minute portions of matter, on which you have seen experiments performed, we operate on vast masses at once; and that our processes are extended to numerous operations, which your greatest chemists have not yet thought of, though in this island they have been in use for ages. One farther effect of the apparatus I have yet to state: which is, that by it we can cause rain to descend in the vicinity of the mountain when we please, by letting the electricity have a free discharge below into the earth and sea, which occasions the clouds to collect so fast, and draws their electricity off so quickly, that their waters fall in copious rain; which on ordinary occasions only trickle down the copper branches on the tower, and form a small stream at its foot."

Shortly after this we entered the buildings at the foot of the mountain, where I viewed in detail all the wonderful operations of which Serena had given a general description; but to describe them particularly would require a volume to itself. I shall there-



fore only say, that by these extensive electrical processes, the ores of all the metals were reduced to the metallic state in large quantities, and the metals themselves combined so as to form alloys, which no common processes can effect. Soda and Potash were extracted from a variety of stones which contain them, and the metals of these alkalis were made to combine with others, so as to yield many useful substances, besides assisting in the reduction of common metallic ores. The metals of lime, siliceous alumine, and of the other earths, were also produced in great abundance, and many other curious operations were performed which brevity compels me to pass over.

I could not forbear to inquire, whether any progress had been made in the great objects of the ancient alchemists: and if we might ever hope to have the king of metals in greater abundance, or perfection, or the art of prolonging life improved.

Serena smiling archly at my question replied that the king of metals might now be had in an inexhaustible abundance, and that they had lately found means to much improve its quality. That the art of prolonging life had also been much improved; that she would give me a phial of a liquor, an exclusive use of which for drink, observing the directions on the paper which enclosed it, would much extend the usual span of human life: and she would also show me some of the improved metal, and if I could find any way of transporting it would give me as much of it in its ordinary state, as I chose to take; with these words she entered a large apartment, where several ladies were employed in conducting various chemical processes; and brought out to me two papers, one containing the metal, and the other the phial. I unfolded that containing the metal first, and found in it only a piece of very bright iron of a somewhat whiter colour than usual. The other paper enveloped a phial of pure water, and the words written within it were: temperance, cleanliness, exercise, air, warmth, foresight, calmness, prudence.

I imagined at first that Serena had only been jesting with my prejudices but a moment's reflection showed me that she in reality had given me a useful lesson; for is not that metal which subdues and modifies all things on the earth, which is at once the most useful and most powerful, properly speaking the king of metals? and on the other point, does not most of our diseases arise from neglect of a proper attention to the precepts surrounding the phial? and to the use of spirituous and fermented liquors, in place of that most wholesome and natural one contained within it? Instead then of joining in a laugh against myself, as I first intended, I thanked her sincerely for the precepts she had so prettily conveyed to me; and requested information relative to the uncommon colour of the iron. She replied that it was the improved metal she had talked of, that it was iron deprived of its tendency to rust, which was chiefly effected by combining it with platina, by the operation of their powerful apparatus, and that in this state it was in reality superior to all other metals.

Having now examined the various wonderful processes going on at the laboratory as accurately as time would permit, Serena proposed we should return to the palace: and on our way there, we pursued a different road, which led to the farther end of the lake where the residence of Diana was situated.

The grounds of this charming retreat were all laid out, in that happy taste, which selects the various natural beauties most appropriate to their outline, and disposes of them so as to produce the finest and most novel effects, by that enchanting art, which first originated in China, and has since been carried to so much perfection in England. Here umbrageous woods, cooling streams, resounding cascades in contrast with the still surface of the lake, verdant lawns in rich variety of sloping and level surfaces, and numerous wooded islands, some connected to the shore, and to each other by rustic bridges, and

others detached at a distance. The shores of the lake, and round the islands sometimes rough with precipitous rocks, and again advancing far into the water their verdant slopes, altogether formed one of the richest scenes of rural beauty I had ever beheld. The buildings which were mostly situated on the islands, were constructed on the most improved species of Chinese architecture, on platforms a little raised above the ground, but without any second stories. The pillars which supported the roofs were covered with a damask work of gold foliage on a green ground highly varnished, and the spaces between the windows, which were very large, with folding sashes, were also finished in the same style; but were for the most part concealed either by flowering shrubs trained along lettice work in front; or by curious plants placed in moveable vases before them; the furniture was all extremely elegant in the design and rich in the materials, but made nearly devoid of ornament. In several places fine tents were erected, which Diana frequently preferred for their coolness, and the facility of transportation to accommodate distant excursions.

Various enclosures here were laid out in extensive gardens, but so contrived that the walls were all concealed, either by banks sloped up to them, or by other devices. In these all the plants that the earth affords were collected according to their classes; and for such as required a temperature above that of the island, ample hot-houses were erected on plans prepared by Minerva herself. Diana was at that time gone to the palace of Juno, and most of her ladies were either amusing themselves with the chase, or looking after the various sylvan animals which they reared in distant parks. Those who remained were engaged in the cares which the numerous plants of the gardens required. There was a frankness in

the manner of these ladies, that was highly pleasing, and their countenances glowed with all the charms of exuberant health; and their conversation respecting their plants and animals was extremely entertaining: but it wanted that rich variety, and that depth of observation which gave such delight in the discourses of the ladies of Minerva. After visiting a park on the most elevated part of the grounds, where the newly arrived llamas were kept, and admiring these beautiful, gentle, and highly useful animals; we took leave of Diana's ladies, and set out again to the palace: on the way to which, Serena informed me that Diana spent most of her time in botanical pursuits and studies at present, and in collecting and rearing all the animals of an innocent and useful nature, which she could hear of: that she did not hunt near so often as formerly, and when she did, frequently returned without killing the animals which she ran down, having dogs trained to take them alive, whenever she pleased. That though the ladies of Minerva never joined her nymphs in the chase, they spent much of their time in company with them in their other pursuits, and most of their leisure hours were passed in the delightful grounds we had just visited.

We now reached the palace, and on our arrival, Serena told me that she must give some directions about the works then going forward, but that she would soon join me again to show me the other matters which deserved most notice, of those I had not yet seen, and that in the mean time I might amuse myself, either in viewing the occupations of the ladies in the hall of the arts, or in making farther researches in the library. I preferred the latter, wishing for an opportunity to submit to reflection, and imprint on my memory, the various remarkable matters I had seen that day.

NEMORENSIS.

*To be Continued.*