

THE MOUSE'S PETITION.

Found in the trap where he had been confin'd
all night.

Parcere subjectis, & debellere superbos.—Virg.

Oh! hear a pensive prisoner's prayer,
For liberty that sighs;
And never let thine heart be shut
Against the wretch's cries.

For here forlorn and sad I sit,
Within the wry grate;
And tremble at th' approaching morn,
Which brings impending fate.

If e'er thy breast with freedom glow'd,
And spurn'd a tyrant's chain,
Let not thy strong oppressive force
A free born mouse detain.

Oh! do not stain with guiltless blood
Thy hospitable hearth;
Nor triumph that thy wiles betray'd
A prize so little worth.

The scatter'd gleanings of a feast
My frugal meals supply;
But if thine unrelenting heart
That slender boon deny,

The cheerful light, the vital air,
Ate blessings widely given;
Let nature's commoner's enjoy
The common gifts of heaven.

The well taught philosophic mind
To all compassion gives;
Calls round the world an equal eye,
And feels for all that lives.

If mind, as ancient fages taught,
A never dying flame,
Still shifts thro' matter's varying forms,
In every form the same:

Beware, lest in the worm you crush,
A brother's soul you find;
And tremble, lest thy luckless hand
Dislodge a kindred mind.

Or, if this transient gleam of day
Be all of life we share,
Let pity plead within thy breast
That little all to spare.

So may thy hospitable board
With health and peace be crown'd;
And every charm of heart-felt ease
Beneath thy roof be found.

So when destruction lurks unseen,
Which men, like mice, may share,
May some kind angel clear thy path,
And break the hidden snare!

approaching triumph.

8. In the mean time, the popular
are formed; political ideas center them-
selves, the patriotic party unite and more
closely connect themselves; they gain a for-
midable majority in the legislature; the abase-
ment of commerce, the slavery of navigation,
and the audacity of England, strengthen it.
A concert of declarations and censures against
the government arises: at which the latter is
even itself astonished.

9. Such was the situation of things towards
the close of the last and at the beginning of
the present year. Let us pass over the dis-
contents which were most generally expressed
in these critical moments. They have been
sent to you at different periods, and in detail.
In every quarter are arraigned the imbecility
of the government towards Great-Britain,
the defenceless state of the country against
possible invasions, the coldness towards the
French republic: the system of finance is at-
tacked, which threatens eternizing the debt,
under pretext of making it the guaranty of
public happiness; the complication of that
system which withholds from general inspec-
tion all its operations—the alarming power of
the influence it procures to a man whose prin-
ciples are regarded as dangerous, the prepon-
derance which that man acquires from day to
day in public measures, and in a word the
immoral and impolitic modes of taxation,

BON MOT.

A bachelor observed, that he would marry,
if certain of a wife perfectly good. A by-
stander begged him to bespeak one, as none
such were to be had ready made.

STORY OF THE COUNT DE SAINT JULIEN.

The count de Saint Julien was descended
from a very ancient family; and was only at
the age of twenty, when the death of his fa-
ther made him master of a considerable sum
of money, and of an estate in Dauphine,
which might have supported him in the same
affluent manner his ancestors had lived in,
had not an unbounded love of pleasure taken
an early possession of his heart. Dauphine
became soon too confined a sphere for him to
move in, the dissipation of Paris better suited
the gaiety of his temper, where his figure,
his expence, and his lively parts quickly in-
troduced him into the poliest assemblies. He
was brilliant in all places of public resort,
ostentatious in his gallantries, and was ad-
mitted to many of the petits soupies of the
esprits forts; which are coteries, composed
of wits and free thinkers, who have too
much vanity to agree in the received notions
of mankind; but by their art, and the plea-
santry of their ridicule, often operate too
powerfully on weak minds, by undermining
the good principles they may have imbibed,
and substituting their own pernicious ones in
their place.

Saint Julien had soon after his arrival at
Paris, taken an Italian figure dancer of the
opera into keeping; who bore him one son
whom he named Frederic;—a youth of fine
parts, formed by nature with great sensibility,
and with a mind so happily disposed, as might
have rendered him a worthy and shining cha-
racter, had not all these advantages been
overshadowed by a false education, and their
movements corrupted by the bad example of
a father, who having, in a long course of
dissipated connections lost his own morals,
gave himself little concern about those of his
son;—conceiving that the exterior accom-
plishments of a gentleman, comprehend every
thing that was most material to carry him
successfully through the world. The infide-
lity of Saint Julien's mistress in a few years
totally dissolved the attachment; and Frede-
ric, by the time he attained the age of nine-
teen, became a companion to his father in all
his vices, and was likewise encouraged in such
as he had a propensity to himself—the dig-
nity of a parent being as much forgotten by
the one, as the respect of a son was by the
other.

Pleasure and extravagance gradually waste
the amplest fortune. The count's had, dur-
ing the twenty four years he had quitted
Dauphine, been annually decreasing;—nor
could it, by the course of his expences, have
lasted so long, but for his abhorrence of every
kind of play; and had not some beneficial
bequests from deceased relations, retarded it's
dissolution. He constantly expended far more
than his income, and his estate had dwindled
away by sales of an hundred acres at a time,
till necessity compelled him to abridge many
of his expences. The contract for the old
family mansion, with all the remaining land
about it, was just completed, and the four
thousand louis d'ors, which the purchase
amounted to, paid into his banker's hands,
when the following event gave a new turn to
his life and fortunes.

Among les filles entretenues, there was at
that time at Paris the Clairville, who then
lived under the protection of one of the far-
mer's general, whom I shall speak of by the
name of d'Avignon. She was a woman of
much beauty, and great intrigue; but by her
address, constantly flattered his vanity and
weakness; and by the success of her art, kept
her gallantries concealed from him. Saint
Julien had made repeated overtures to this
lady, and had been treated by her with a dis-
dain his pride could not brook; she had how-
ever bestowed a more favourable look on his
son, whom she had met in the Thuilleries,
and frequently had conversed with; and
whose youth and elegant figure had made a
sensible impression on her heart. Nor there
was still an amiableness of character about
him, nor could his assumed air of licentious-
ness disguise a certain ingenuousness of mind,
which must continue to please as long as na-
ture hath a charm.

It chanced that Frederic, coming one even-
ing out of the French comedy, found the
Clairville in one of the passages of the thea-
tre, waiting for her coach; which by some
accident among the carriages was prevented
from drawing up. With his usual address,
he offered to see her safe out;—and the result
of half an hour's attendance and assiduity,
was an appointment with him to meet at the
masquerade, which was to be a few nights
after, where she gave him to understand she

should be found only with a female friend
intimating at the same time that Avignon
business which would call him some days
from Paris, and notifying the dress by
he might discover her.

Frederic, who had been constantly
by his father, that gallantry was the
compliment of a gentleman, never
to communicate to him the progress
in any he was engaged in; he therefore
his accustomed familiarity, informed
the assignation he had made with the
ville.

Saint Julien concealed the surprize
at this intelligence—the contempt which
been shewn him by that lady, recurred
fresh poignancy, from the mortification
high spirit suffered by the preference
Frederic; he however so sufficiently pro-
himself, as not to appear in the least dis-
posed, and advised him by all means to
sue the affair.

When a father is so unprincipled as to
come a rival to his son, in a matter of
nature, it argues a mind so totally de-
as to require but little apology to be made
the despicable meanness of the count in
ing this occasion to revenge himself of
man, and by exposing her infidelity to
non, ruin her power;—not in the blind
of his passion foreseeing the ill conse-
that might happen to his son in this busi-

The farmer general receiving an an-
mous letter, which hinted to him, “the
next masquerade might discover, if he
sessed the affections of his mistress so far
he imagined,” doubted for some time
he should pay any attention to its writ-
but jealousy is a passion easily awakened
men of debauched characters; and more
dominant in advanced years. He retraced
his intended journey; but took care
back to Paris time enough to be pre-
the masquerade. As he was ignorant of
Clairville's dress, he might in so large
assembly have probably returned with-
finding her, had he not, after more than
hours of anxious search, at last discov-
her, by means of some jewels in her
which he had presented her with him-
He saw her whole attention given to
gentleman who was with her, observed
she conversed with no other, and had
little reason to scruple the intelligence he
received. He watched them with earnest-
and rage, the whole night, till they
the ball; nor lost sight of her, till he
her enter with her gallant the house he
for her. The servants observing a man
low almost immediately their mistress
friend, concluded it to be one of the party
—but the instant that d'Avignon had reach-
the garden apartment, which was his
supper room, and whither she had conduct-
her lover; he threw them both into the
most consternation, by discovering himself
them; with ungovernable passion reproach-
the lady for her inconstancy; and drawing
sword, which he had concealed under
dress, ran with fury upon her paramour,
Frederic throwing off his domino, had
seized one of d'Avignon's own swords, which
hung with a hat and belt, in the room
they were; and thus armed, used every
deavour to appease his antagonist by words;
but the other pressing on him with a vio-
lence which would listen to no palliation,
the unsuccessful youth found himself com-
pelled to defend his own life; and in
rencontre mortally wounded the farmer
neral. Clairville fell in a swoon, and
deric fled instantly out of the house,
that precipitance and perturbation which
ever be natural to so unhappy a situation.

This unfortunate event happening
in the morning, d'Avignon did not stay
many hours. Though Saint Julien en-
in idea, the secret triumph which this tri-
gem gave him over a woman, whose conduct
toward him had provoked so unmanly a
sentment; yet he apprehended from it's
cess no other result, than her disgrace; never
conceiving that from such a connection
d'Avignon had with her, any point of honour
would have stimulated him, to oppose
arm of age to the vigour of youth. He
himself, however, when the time arrived,
no means in an easy situation—it was a
suspense, between hope and fear—he was
alarmed for the difficulties in which he might
possibly have involved his son, and fearing
also that the great influence of the farmer
general, when he should know who had
supplanted him in the affections of his
tress, might be highly prejudicial to
future interests of Frederic.

(To be continued.)