



AUTUMN.

THE smiles of the SUMMER are past, The labours of FLORA are o'er; Ah! seasons too charming to last, And almost too fleet to deplore.

Of late, like the sailor so gay, Who sings in the top of the shrouds, The lark from on high tun'd his lay, Now seen, and now lost in the clouds.

Of late how the banks were array'd, Whom'er you rivulets run! Of late, and the swain sought the shade To hide from the rays of the sun.

These seasons are past—O how frail! Like dews of the morning they fly— The flow'rs have forsaken the vale, The tenant of ether, the sky.

What was the wild element wage Chill AUTUMN has taken his stand, And seems as he howls to presage The horrors of WINTER on hand.

Ah me! how august, how sublime! A lesson for wisdom is here! How swift are the foot-steps of time, How transient the dates of the year!

Our summer of life must decay— Its autumn at farthest, is near; Then let us be wise while we may, Ere time steal a march on our rear.

Let us husband, with care, lest it die, The taper of life, while it burns, And learn to improve, as they fly, The days which can never return.

FOR THE STAR.

TO LUBIN—(See page 72.)

O Lubin, since I find thee true, No more with anguish shalt thou burn, For now I will consent to sue To thee for pity in my turn.

Heaven knows, I ne'er did feel The anger which my eyes have shewn— Each sigh which from your breast did steal Was like a dagger to my own.

Come Lubin, then, beloved youth Touch thy melodious lyre again, And answer with thy woe-struck truth Unto my simple sylvan strain.

LITERARY.

CHARACTER OF SPAIN.

Nothing can be more deplorably stupid than the vulgar idea which has been cherished respecting the character and habits of the modern Spaniards. From simple or prejudiced travellers we have heard so much of Castilian jealousy and Castilian laziness, of the insolence of the clergy, and the ignorance of the laity, of inquisitorial horrors, of the broiling Philip and his gridiron Escorial, of the duke of Alva and a devilish Dutchman, of lazy Monks and roguish Nuns, of bad husbandry and bold beggary, that many a sober man, who ought to be ashamed of so preposterous a conclusion, has inferred from the wildest of premises, that literature and the arts, and every high, holy, and honourable sentiment are utterly extinguished in that glorious country, which has been governed by the councils of a Ximenes, extended by the adventure of Columbus, defended by the Toledo of Castile, and illuminated by the genius of Cervantes. Nothing is more common than to listen to very sturdy declamations against the state of letters in Spain, and nothing can be more atrociously false, than these unfounded investives. The fact is, that Learning has her temples in Spain, as well as in Scotland. Literary societies and men of genius are more numerous than ever. Publications of uncommon merit are constantly issuing from the presses in all the cities of Spain. Salamanca sends forth her scholars with all the learning of their predecessors, and ten thousand times more of their liberality. Sentiments truly Catholic pervade the kingdom. The fine and useful arts are sedulously cultivated; and Knowledge, the sage, and Genius the magician, wave triumphantly their wands over an ingenious, an inquisitive, and inventive nation. This vindication of the character of a calumniated country is not a spontaneous burst of feeling, in consequence of her interesting attitude at this eventful epoch; no, it is the deliberate opinion of years. The writer of this article has repeatedly indicated to his countrymen the pure well springs of that Honour, which the noble minded Castilian prizes as an inheritance; and of that literature, which he so often adorns by his example. The topics of common calumny have become perfectly stale. There is as much jealousy in Philadelphia or Boston as in either of the two Castiles. An Aragonian is not more ignorant than a Vermonter. In the vale of Valencia, agriculture is as green and gay as in the county of Bucks, and the mountains of Leon, and the expanse of Estremadura are covered with as white sheep as any to be found in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The monk and the nun are as innocent as the nymphs & swains of primitive Plymouth, or pastoral New Hampshire. The Escorial, though it may look like a gridiron, has, at present, none of its other properties, and the genius of Philip II no longer presides over the Spanish monarchy.—Port Folio.

The Rev. James Conner, of Georgia, has given notice that he is preparing for the press, a Tour of Eight Years over Fifteen States, describing the manners, customs, amusement, &c. Dedicated to Paul Hamilton, Esq. Secretary of the Navy.

FOR THE STAR.

The following observations on Lotteries are from the Monthly Anthology, a periodical work printed at Boston, composed and compiled by a society of gentlemen. * If you think them

worthy of a place in the Star, by inserting them you will oblige a

SUBSCRIBER.

LOTTERIES.

To all Lotteries I am opposed, as it seems certain, they must have an injurious effect upon the public morals. The means are within every man's reach of obtaining a prize, superior to any reward of talents, or remuneration of many years industry. Many an apprentice is tempted to pilfer from his master's counter, many a chambermaid improves opportunities for stealing with impunity, and many a labourer cheats his family of their bread, to adventure upon the ocean of chance in hope of immense profit, which will render such practices unnecessary in future. All private Lotteries are forbidden under heavy penalties, and if public ones only render the evil of gaming more extensive, why are they allowed? It is the meanest way a legislature ever pursues of laying a tax. Hundreds of gambling houses are licensed in Paris and pay large gratuities; the corrupt government that encourages them; thousands of the trumpets also are employed, as spies, and Talleyrand would never diminish their numbers or their utility.— But I hope the perverse policy of France will never be adopted here.

* A band of able and experienced veterans, who have enlisted to attack socialism and dethrone frivolity, and to establish the empire of sound literature and genuine science. Their selections discover a soundness of judgment, a correctness and refinement of taste; their original pieces are distinguished by an elegance of language, an independence and purity of sentiment, which honour American Literature.



RURAL ECONOMY.

FOR THE STAR.

GENTLEMEN—I have long observed with much satisfaction the very useful subjects which have occupied so considerable a portion of the Star, and besides the direct information I have acquired from it, it has given me a habit of observing that I never possessed before; and as I am desirous of turning my observations to some account, to repay you in your own coin for the advantages I have derived from your publications, I submit to your consideration the result of my observations:

I. Of the situation and plan of Dwelling Houses.

The Island of Great Britain is of great extent from North to South, but narrow from East to West. Hence the raw piercing winds of one season and the refreshing breezes of the other come across the Island from the ocean either from east or west. Hence also to have a protection at one time, and to be sufficiently exposed at another, the best situation of houses, in that Island is a west or east front—doors that open to the east and west.— In the cold season the doors and windows next to the wind are closed while the other side has a comfortable front and in the warm season are favourable to the reception of breezes; accordingly that is the fashionable situation of houses, a fashion which has grown out of long continued observation and which is governed by utility.

The United States were settled originally from England; all their habits and fashions have been transcribed into our manners, and transplanted into our soil—among the rest the position of a house. It is difficult to eradicate old habits in common minds; men who do not think and enquire for themselves resist all improvements and consider them as deviations from the standard of correctness. They refuse to be wiser than their fathers. A planter will not use a plough of a different construction from that which he was first taught to use—a mechanic does not enquire whether a proposed alteration will be an improvement, but he instantly rejects it because he was taught differently, because it is against rule; and cannot be right.

Look to the history of the arts and you will find that most of the great mechanical improvements which have been made, did not originate with the professors of the trades themselves.—A penny barber (now Sir Richard Arkwright) invented the Spinning Machine, which have enriched England; and a Schoolmaster (Mr. Whitney) invented the Cotton Gin which has enriched America.

This indisposition in the mind to receive new truths, which makes all men act as tho' they believed that a Polemic Divine once declared, that "an old error was better than a new truth?" has made too many in this country still cling to the good old customs of our forefathers, to still front our houses to the east when our climate and prevailing winds declare so strongly against its propriety.

In this country our cold winter winds are commonly from the north and north-west; a south front is therefore the most agreeable in winter.—In summer our cooling breezes are generally from the south; hence a south front is the most agreeable in summer.—It is that which is suited to all seasons, men of observation have long known this, but the million have it yet to learn.

But there is another consideration which should determine the cardinal points of exposure in a house in this country which has little

relative consequence to influence such a determination in the "fog wrapt isle" of Britain it is the exposure to the sun.

A house which has an east and west front has at all hours the sun's rays pouring with full force into the doors and windows, and upon the body of the house on one side or the other during the whole day. The afternoon's sun in such houses shoots his long beams with burning intensity through their doors and windows upon the whole floor and upon the whole side of the house. This might be a tolerable residence for a Salamander, but is an intolerable one for the human species. It is the nursery of fever and deprives even the healthy of comfort.

— But a house that has a southern aspect with few or no inlets to the sun's rays on the east or west, receives so few directly within it that it seems to be situate in another climate.— Will not these remarks occasion those who read them to observe the advantages and disadvantages of a house having a particular direction of front? If it does a greater innovation than ever will be made upon the English law of custom, and tyrant habit will loose some of his blinded votaries.

II. Of shading Houses and the ground in their vicinity by trees.

Some modern traveller speaks in terms of high satisfaction of the comforts he enjoyed in a summer house by its being enclosed with canvas, upon which servants were constantly sprinkling water. This must have been grateful and healthful in a hot climate and season; but a man who has sense enough to let the natural forest trees remain when he builds a new house, or ingenuity enough to plant some where none at present exist, will derive from their shade and balmy perspiration, all the advantages which the nabob derives from his cloth summer house, water, engines and servants; and at no expence at all. But the health is benefited in the same degree that comfort is promoted. Heat, often times alone, but sometimes in conjunction with other agents, is the common cause of fever. The inhabitants of houses exposed by position and by want of shades, and particularly the unhappy tenants of lodging rooms annexed, as is often times the case here, to the west side of a house, or of a second story that has small or high Windows, are usually its victims, while those better exposed to the summer breezes and better protected from the sun, usually escape. The town of Edenton has been rendered much healthier than formerly by having its streets and houses shaded by trees.

The vicinity of trees to buildings have been objected to, because it is said they will occasion the latter to rot. Indeed!! Then is no health and comfort objects for which houses are built? but it is not the fact that they occasion houses to rot unless they confine the dampness to the north side of a house where they are never wanted; but on every other side, if they are not too close to prevent the circulation of the air, if their branches do not rest upon the house they have a contrary effect. Those then who sacrifice their health and comfort to prolong the existence of a few shingles, manifest a folly and receive a punishment that commonly awaits the narrow principles of avarice.

III. To preserve buildings from danger by fire.

Shingles by being suddenly wetted and as suddenly dried by a hot sun very soon suffer a rot that gives them the nature of spunk—a spark of fire falling on this is very liable to communicate a fire. To prevent this rot the roof of a house in preference to any other part should be painted.—The common oil paint is expensive and besides is not so good as tar. A barrel of new tar that is very fluid, with one keg of Spanish brown, and a small quantity of Lampblack is sufficient to spread one coat over a surface of fifteen hundred feet. Tar is much preferable to pitch, the former will penetrate into and incorporate with the wood, whereas the latter only adheres to the surface & is liable to peel off. If a shingle is fully saturated with tar, the inflammable parts evaporate, the earthy part only remains and is hardly more liable to burn than a brick bat. Sparks and coals cannot set it on fire. The police of all towns as a measure of general safety ought to require that all roofs particularly of old houses should be tarred. I have mentioned the admixture of paint—it makes the appearance more sightly, but as a measure of security it is equally efficacious without it, except that in old roofs, it is said tar without paint will sometimes occasion them to leak. I have said nothing of the durability this gives to a roof, for that, though inconsiderable, to the individual owner is little compared to the safety of a town.

Slate roofs in some towns, and roofs resembling slate in others, are fashionable, but they are unhandsome and give a town a gloomy dismal appearance; for viewed from a distance the roofs of houses are most conspicuous. It has lately been proposed to wash the roofs every three or four years with the composition of new lime, sweet milk and purified chalk, (of which receipts are to be seen in most of the Almanacks and news papers) this would add to their beauty and would guard sufficiently against danger from fires originating on the roof. These hints I hope will be sufficient to attract the notice of the police of towns and engage the attention of individuals. If enough is said to induce either to bestow a thought upon the subject, my object will be effected.

ECONOMIST.

Cumberland County, August 10, 1810.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

Extract of a letter from a young man in Augusta, (Geo.) to his friend in Trenton, N. J. dated July 30, 1810.—"I have sometimes intended to have written friend William Robinson an account of the progress of religion in this country; why I name him is that the revival has been chiefly with the Baptist and Methodist Societies; of the former I have had a circumscribed acquaintance, but being a member myself of the latter, I am knowing of their great increase: the enquiry of "what shall I do to be saved," has been made within this two years more generally than ever was known in this state and Carolina. I have been at several meetings, where I have seen a noble work begun; the prospect brightened, and souls appeared to flock together to call on God: numbers expressed conversion, and by their conduct since evince it: they seem to have been with Christ indeed. Some of the vilest of sinners appear to have repented, and to have turned to God. At some preachings the number who have joined us, has been truly great. One meeting there were several thousand assembled for four days, and about one hundred and sixty joined society; at another near fifty, and almost every meeting smaller numbers. In one circuit, under one preacher, I believe the number that was added last year was near a thousand; there is scarce a meeting where James Russel addressed them but some are awakened; there are many others who have been very successful also. I never knew of so great an alteration in a country in my life. It may be said of many parts of this country, that they have emerged from barbarism to civilization, and entirely by the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Horse racing and gambling, which were so much practised here, are now becoming extinct; dancing is neglected, reading and the improvement of the mind, which were little attended to, are resorted to; religious books, which formerly would not sell, are now in great demand. At County Courts here it formerly was a constant scene of fighting, wrangling and carousing; now there is the greatest order and decorum. Such has been the effect of the gospel of Christ; it has shewn itself here to be the power of God, which alone ought to shame the enemies of christianity.—This must be true philosophy that civilizes and reforms, that moralizes and improves; for it has not stopped here, but the blacks, have cause to praise God for themselves, and not alone, their masters also; for their treatment has become ameliorated by the influence of the gospel; my soul rejoices in the happy work and I pray it may go on."

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

Court of King's Bench, July 2.

BREACH OF PROMISE OF MARRIAGE.

BLANKELY vs. TOMLINSON.

This was an action by which the Plaintiff, who is the daughter of a poulterer in Bloomsbury market, sought to recover from the Defendant, an engraver, a compensation in damages for Breach of promise of Marriage.

It appeared in evidence from letters by the defendant to the plaintiff and her father, and also by parole testimony, that the defendant had offered the plaintiff marriage; and that in the latter end of the year 1808, the bans of marriage between them had been thrice proclaimed in the Church of St. George, Bloomsbury; and that the defendant then drew back, on account of all alleged failure on the part of the father to fulfil a promise made by him relative to the bride's portion. The defendant, however, again made his advances to the plaintiff, was once more received into favour, and the celebration of the marriage was fixed, for the 16th of October, 1807. Within a few days of the marriage, however, the defendant again retracted, after the bridal clothes were purchased, and the dinner was in the course of being prepared.

Mr. Parke, for the defendant stated a variety of circumstances relating to the plaintiff, which having been communicated to the defendant, had deterred him from consummating the marriage, forming altogether a case which Lord Ellenborough declared, could he make out any thing like it, the action could not be sustained.

Several witnesses were then adduced, whose evidence it would be neither profitable nor becoming to detail; suffice it to say, that it was proved, that previous to the final breach on the part of the defendant it had been communicated to him, that the plaintiff had declared that she did not care a den for the defendant. When she was married, she would be kept a lady, would take off her ring, and run into the streets for a bit of fun; and, that she would be drinking her wine, while her sisters of sisters were drinking water.—She was also proved to have talked of improper female acquaintances whom she kept, and had been detected reading one or two books highly unbecoming the perusal of a modest female.

Lord Ellenborough thought it unnecessary to go further.—the defendant, though he might not be absolutely convinced of the truth of the information thus communicated to him, was clearly entitled, even on suspicion of its being correct, to retreat from any engagement he might have formed with the plaintiff. It would be too much to hold that he was bound to make an experiment how far the information was or was not well founded, at the risk of his own misery for life.—His Lordship, at the same time suggested the propriety of the defendant, who had at one time trifled with the plaintiff, consenting to a Jurymen's being withdrawn.

Mr. Garrow for himself, and Mr. Fuller who was Counsel along with him for the plaintiff, stated that they had not proceeded so far without warning their client, who had encouraged them to go on, being confident of a favourable result.

A Juror was withdrawn, the rest of which is to subject each party in payment of their own costs.