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On the PLEASURE of REFLECTION.

THAT the enjoyments of the intellects exceed the pleasures of sense is a truth, confessed by all who are capable of thinking in their full vigor. But by these pleasures are generally understood sublime contemplations on subjects of science and abstruse disquisition—contemplations which can only be the result of uncommon powers and extraordinary efforts.

But there are intellectual pleasures of another kind; to the enjoyment of which, neither abilities nor learning are required. These are no other than the pleasures of reflection, which are open to the illiterate mechanic, as well as to the sage philosopher, and constitute the sweetest satisfactions of human life.

There are few who have not felt pleasing sensations arising from the retrospective view of the first period of their life. To recollect the puerile amusements, the petty anxieties, and the eager pursuits of childhood, is a task in which all delight. It is common to observe, that on no subject do men dwell with such pleasure, as the boyish tricks and wanton pranks which they practise at school. The hoary head looks back with a smile of complacency, mixed with regret, on the season when health glowed on the cheek, when lively spirits warmed the heart, and when toil strung the nerve with vigor.

Cicero has remarked, that events the most disagreeable, during their immediate influence, give an exquisite satisfaction when their consequences have ceased; Æneas solaces his companions, under the hardships they endured, with the consideration, that the remembrings of their sufferings, ~~on a cloudy day~~ give them satisfaction. That these sentiments are just is well known to those who have enjoyed the conversation of the soldier, battles, skirmishes, and sieges, at which, perhaps, he trembled during the action, furnish him with topics of conversation, and sources of pleasure, for the remainder of his life.

Reflection is the most proper employment, and the sweetest satisfaction, in a rational old age.—Destitute of strength and vigor, necessary for bodily exertions, and furnished with observations by experience, the old man finds his chief employment, and his greatest pleasures, to consist in wandering in imagination over past scenes of delight, in recounting the adventures of his youth, the vicissitudes of human life, and the public events to which he is proud of having been an eye-witness. Of so exalted a nature are these enjoyments, that Theologians have not hesitated to assert, that to recollect a well spent life is to anticipate the bliss of a future existence.

The professors of philosophy, who will be acknowledged to have understood the nature of true and substantial pleasure better than the busy, the gay, and the dissipated, have ever shewn a predilection for privacy and solitude.—No other cause have they assigned for their conduct in forsaking society, than that the noise and hurry of the world is incompatible with the exertion of calm reason and dispassionate reflection.

The apothegm of that antient, who said, "he was never less alone than when by himself," is not to be considered as a mere epigrammatic turn. In vain was it to pursue philosophy in the Saburra—she was only to be courted, with success, in the sequestrian shade of rural retirement.

Were the powers of reflection cultivated by habit, mankind would at all times be able to derive a pleasure from their own breasts, as rational as it is exalted. To the attainment

of this happiness, a strict adherence to the rules of virtue is necessary; for let it be remembered, that none can feel the pleasures of reflection, who do not enjoy the peace of innocence.

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STOCKHOLM, July 26.

WE learn from Abo, that Lieutenant-General Baron de Carpenen died there in his 6th year; in 1717 he served as ensign in the guards, under Charles the twelfth, at the siege of Frederickshall.

LONDON, August 24.

A negotiation, it is said, has been carrying on between the Republic of Venice and Constantinople, by which it is said to be stipulated, that a junction is to take place between the Venetian and Turkish fleets, and an immediate invasion of the Emperor's dominions in Italy, on condition that the Turks pay the Republic an annual subsidy, and cede to them for ever the island Candia.

The Austrian and Russian Ambassadors have both presented spirited memorials on the subject; and to this may possibly be owing the warlike preparations at present carrying on by the King of Sicily, as foreseeing a war in Italy.

A Russian agent has contracted at Cork for 2000 tons provisions, *i. e.* fresh cured pork, beef, flour, peas, oatmeal, &c. to be shipped on or before December next, to a port in the Mediterranean; and a like quantity every six months, pending a Russian Squadron being in the Mediterranean.

The Algerines have sent six ships of war to Constantinople, and two thousand men under the command of Kegi Mackmet, a renegade Jew.

Thomas Sheridan, Esq. who died at Margate a few days ago, was a credit and honour to the profession it was his lot in early life to embrace; and in the literary world his works on elocution and education prove him a good scholar and an able writer. His English Dictionary has long been held in the highest estimation, and admired by foreigners to be the best book which has hitherto appeared for acquiring a just pronunciation of the English language; and we are happy to hear that a new edition is in great forwardness, with the author's last corrections and improvements. But what is higher praise than any compliment which can be conferred on him as a writer, he was a man of the strictest honour, and of the most unblemished integrity. He was educated at Westminster School, a cotemporary with the present Archbishop of York; afterwards at Trinity College, Dublin, where he was esteemed one of the best scholars ever bred in that learned seminary. Mr. Thomas Sheridan was son to the celebrated Dr. Sheridan, Swift's distinguished friend, and father to Charles Sheridan, Esq. now secretary at war in Ireland, and R. B. Sheridan, Esq. Member for Stafford.

August 26. The last accounts, as published in the *Royal Gazette*, announced the two hostile fleets of Sweden and Russia were nearly in sight. The next advices will, in all probability, contain particulars of a second battle, in which, like the last, from the equality of the struggle, the victory will be claimed on both sides.

Scarcely has the great Constitutional question concerning the assembling the STATES GENERAL in France been decided in favour of the people, and the ferment raised upon that head began to subside, when a fresh occurrence has served to set the public mind in a flame.

The resistance of the Turks at Choczim would have done honour to the British troops, who so gallantly defended Gibraltar, against the combined efforts of France and Spain; and if the former had been as securely situated as the latter, there is no doubt but the allied army of Russia and Austria would not have to boast of a victory after a siege of several months, of an ill-constructed fortress, defended by only 4000 men, and not one of those versed in the art of war, and only possessed of native courage to defend themselves.

This place, to which the Russians have affixed a great importance, after having all its works almost totally demolished, its town, magazines and arsenals entirely consumed and destroyed by the bombs of the enemy, the garrison considerably reduced and menaced with famine, was compelled to surrender on the 29th of July last, to the Prince de Cobourg; and we are sorry to add, that the Turks have received two checks in Transylvania, which though trifling in themselves, may be attended with serious consequences, by checking their ardour, and inspiring courage in their enemies. We cannot, however, avoid remarking the excessive caution of the Imperial Joseph during the whole of this contest; he keeps aloof most cautiously with 100,000 men to guard his most sacred person, while he plans attacks which he never means to execute, and dreams of conquests which he neither deserves, nor is calculated to obtain. In this manner he has exhausted the patience of his troops, wasted an entire campaign almost, and insulted the understanding of his best Generals, who are all retired from the grand army, under the pretence of illness; and if the Swedes should gain ground in Finland, or be assisted by Prussia, the Turks will still be able to face the united wisdom and united courage of the two Imperial Courts, and keep the Crimea, in spite of all their efforts to wrest it from them.

The COUNT DE GALVEZ has been sent from the Court of Madrid as Ambassador to Petersburg. It is said to be a special commission, for the purpose of mediating between the belligerent powers.

The return of the taxes for the last week, as delivered into the Exchequer, amounts to the sum of 207,113l. 15s. 4d.

The KING of FRANCE, knowing the influence of the Clergy over the lower orders of the people, has written to the *Archbishops*, desiring them to enjoin residence among the several Pastors, that their exhortations to a peaceable demeanour may be exerted.

September 6. According to letters from Constantinople, the treaties of peace and commerce between the Ottoman Porte and the Swedish nation are revived for fourteen years; in which his sublime highness the sultan, also stipulates for the regencies of Algiers, Tunis, Tripoli, &c. for the same period of time.—The subjects of the King of Sweden are in consequence thereof to enjoy the same protection, privileges, and immunities as the most favoured nation in the dominions of the Porte.—The guarantee treaties of 1740 and 1772, are also revived; and by the additional articles made in the new treaty, the Turks and Swedes are mutual guarantees to each other for their respective dominions in Europe against every power whatever. The Swedish Ambassador, who has had the negotiating this treaty, is presented with some valuable presents; and twenty purses of gold have been distributed to his household.

Captain Brown of the *Ceres*, who arrived at Liverpool on Saturday from Petersburg informs, that four Russian men of war came into Cronstadt, after the late engagement with the Swedes.