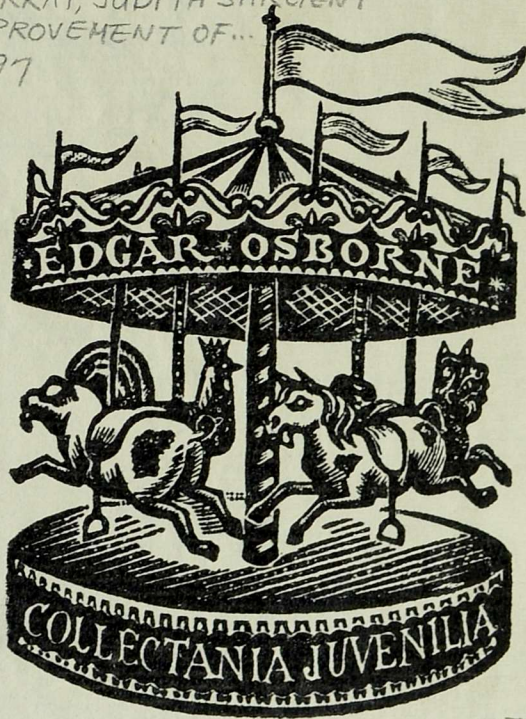




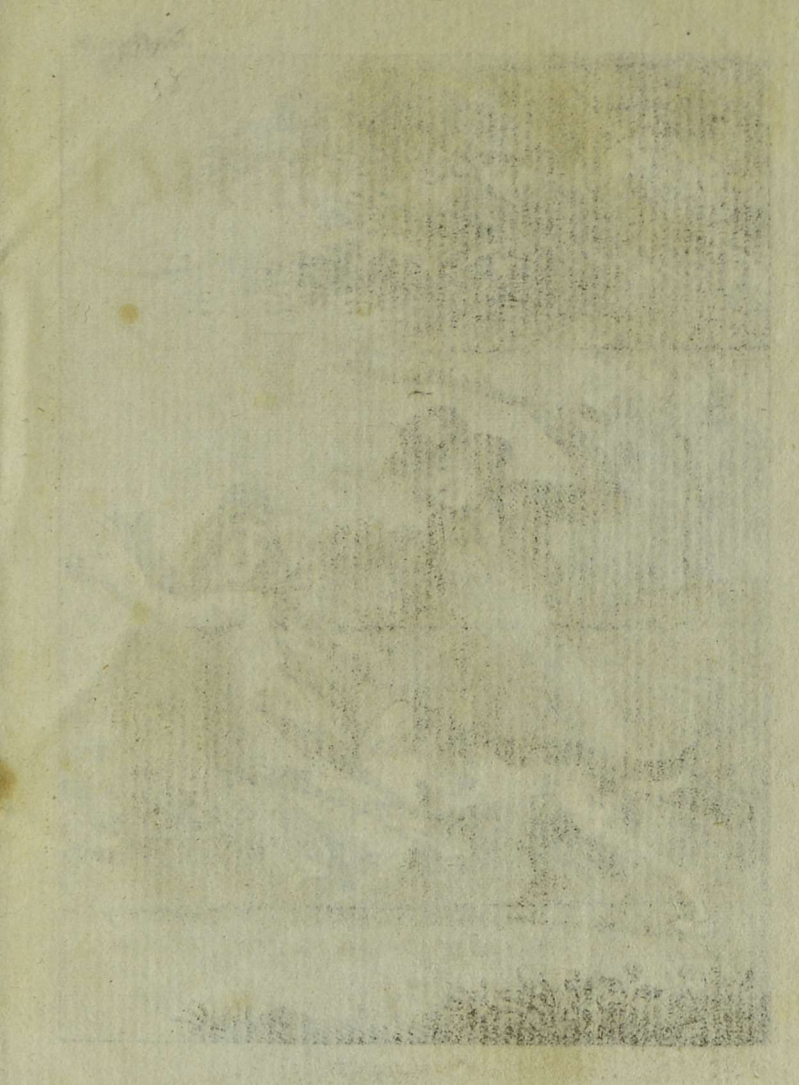
BI
MURRAY, JUDITH SARGENT
IMPROVEMENT OF...

1797



37131 009 550 153

II 702



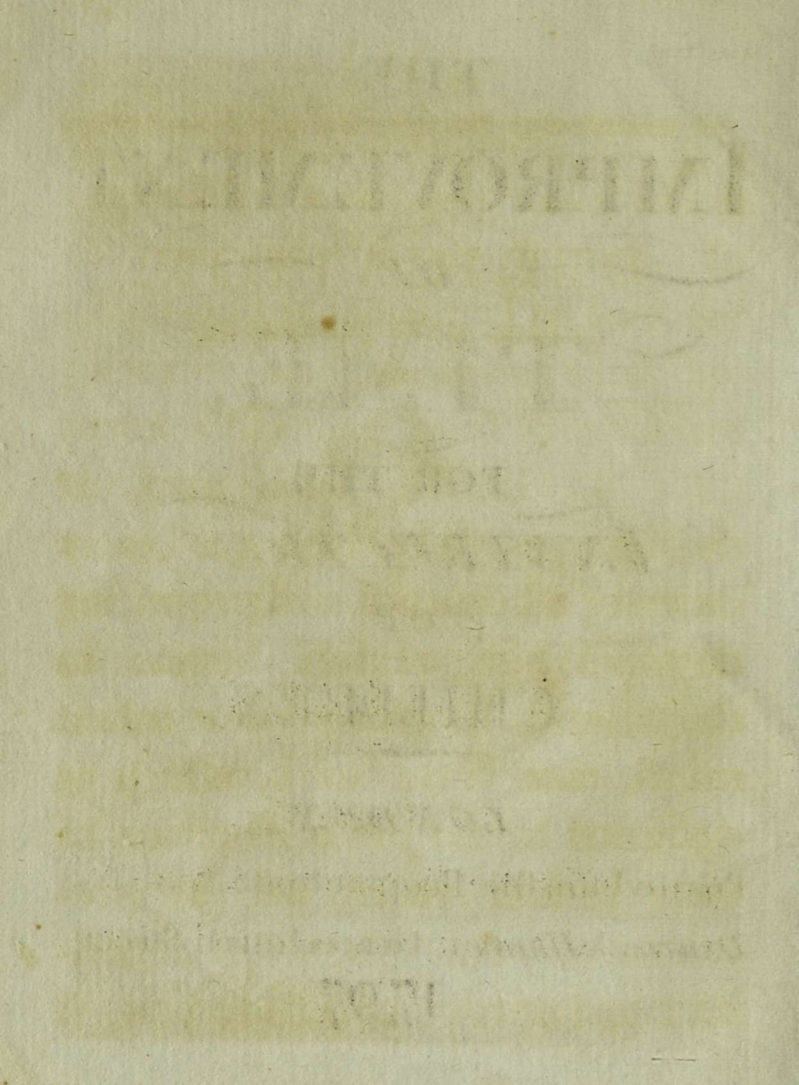


THE
IMPROVEMENT
OF
TIME,
FOR THE
INSTRUCTION
OF
CHILDREN.

LONDON.

Printed for the Proprietor & Sold by
DARTON & HARVEY, Gracechurch Street.

1797



DEDICATION.

To Miss M*** J*****.

SWEET BABE,

LIFE with you, at present, is only like the early dawn of a beautiful and promising day. When reason begins to open, and illumine your infant mind, this little book, which is designed to aid the instruction of your tender years, will be presented to you. Should it contribute to improve or amuse you, it

every amusement; and at the same time, they were careful not to neglect any opportunity of improving their infant minds. These good parents taught them by example, as well as precept, to be affectionate to each other; and so constantly did they practise this useful lesson, that one could not enjoy a pleasure of which the other did not partake. Their house was spacious and elegant. It was inclosed with a high brick wall, which concealed it from the curious eye of the traveller. A beautiful lawn was in front, and a large garden extended to one side. Mr. and Mrs. Storewell took charge themselves of their dear children's education. They mutually instructed them in those duties it was their anxious wish that they should practise all their lives. Mr. Storewell taught them English, French, and geography; and Mrs. Storewell instructed

them in music and drawing. She likewise taught Augusta and Matilda to work.

The account of one week will suffice to shew how happily this family lived. During the summer months, they all assembled in the green-house on the lawn at seven in the morning. On Monday morning they met as usual. After embracing each other, their first employment was to join in rendering thanks to Almighty God for the blessings of the night past, and to implore a continuance of his mercies through the day. This duty fulfilled, Mr. and Mrs. Storewell walked about the grounds, and conversed with their children until breakfast-time. They proved to them the necessity of being obedient and grateful; the wickedness and disgrace of telling an untruth; and how amiable it was to be gentle and

diligent. The breakfast-bell now rang, and they returned to the green-house. Alfred was very fond of reading, and had made as much improvement as was possible at his age. He had a very good memory, and his father, pleased with the inclination he perceived his son had for study, generally brought something for him to learn during breakfast-time. Alfred reminded his father of this kind attention, when Mr. Storewell took out of his pocket the following lines, which he desired Alfred to read aloud.

A THOUGHT ON WAKING.

Lo! in yonder eastern skies,
Sol appears, and bids me rise :
Tells me life is on the wing :
Life has no returning spring.
Death comes on with steady pace ;
Life's the only day of grace.
Shining preacher! happy morning !
Let me take th' important warning.

Rouse then all my active pow'rs
Well improve the coming hours.
Let no trifles kill the day ;
Trifles oft our hearts betray.
Virtue, science, knowledge, truth,
Guide th'inquiries of my youth.
Wisdom and experience sage,
Then shall sooth the cares of age ;
These with time shall never die :
These will lead to joys on high ;
These the path of life display,
Shining with celestial day.
Blissful path, with safety trod,
And it leads the soul to God.

Alfred thanked his father for these pretty lines, and he could repeat them perfectly before the breakfast-table was cleared.

While Mrs. Storewell was making the tea, Matilda enquired, What tea was ; and from whence it came ? Mr. Storewell told her, that it was the dried leaves of a plant, which were brought from the East-Indies ; and Matilda,

added he, I will make you better acquainted with this useful commodity, which is chiefly cultivated in China, and in the islands of Japan. It is an evergreen, and grows to the height of five or six feet. The leaves, which are the only valuable part of it, are about an inch and a half long. Narrow, indented, and tapering to a point, like those of the sweet briar, and of a dark green colour. The root is like that of the peach-tree, and its flowers resemble those of the white wild rose. The stem spreads into many irregular branches. The wood is hard, and of a whitish green colour; the bark is of a greenish colour, with a bitter, nauseous taste. The fruit is small, and contains several round blackish seeds, about the size of a bean or large pea. This plant delights in vallies, is frequent on the sloping sides of mountains,

and the banks of rivers, where it enjoys a southern exposure. It flourishes in the northern latitudes of Peking, as well as round Canton, but attains the greatest perfection in the mild, temperate regions of Nankin. In Japan, it is planted round the borders of fields, without regard to the soil; but as it is an important article of commerce with the Chinese, whole fields are covered with it; it is by them cultivated with much care. The tea which grows in rocky ground is superior to that which grows in a light soil; and the worst kind is that which is produced in a clayey soil. It is propagated by seeds; from six to twelve are put into a hole, about five inches deep, at certain distances from each other. The reason why so many seeds are sown in the same hole, is said to be, that only a fifth part vegetate. Being thus sown,

they grow without any other care.— Some, however, manure the land, and remove the weeds; for the Chinese are very fond of good tea. The leaves are not fit for being plucked till the shrub be of three year's growth.

In seven years it rises to a man's height; but as it then bears but few leaves, it is cut down to the stem, and this produces a new crop of fresh shoots the following summer, every one of which bears nearly as many leaves as a whole shrub. Sometimes the plants are not cut down till they are ten years old.

There are three seasons in which the leaves are collected in the isles of Japan. The first gathering commences at the end of February or beginning of March. The leaves are then small and tender, and not above three or four days old. It is called Imperial Tea,

being generally reserved for the court, and people of rank. It is sold in China for twenty-pence or two shillings per pound. The labourers employed in collecting it, do not pull the leaves by handfulls, but pick them one by one, and take every precaution that they may not break them. However tedious this labour appears, they gather from four to ten or fifteen pounds a day.

The second crop is gathered about the end of March, or beginning of April. Tea gathered at this season is called *Chinese Tea*, because the people of Japan infuse it, and drink it after the Chinese manner.

The third crop is gathered in the end of May, or in the month of June. This kind is the coarsest of all, and is reserved for the common people. The finest and most celebrated tea of Japan,

is that which grows near Ud-si, a small village, situated close to the sea, and not far distant from Meaco. In the district of this village is a delightful mountain, having the same name, the climate of it is said to be extremely favourable to the culture of tea; it is therefore inclosed by a hedge, and surrounded with wide ditches, which prevent all access to it. The tea-shrubs, that grow on this mountain, are planted in regular order, and are divided by different avenues and alleys. The care of this place is intrusted to people who are ordered to guard the leaves from dust, and to defend them from the inclemency of the weather. The labourers gather them with the most scrupulous nicety, and never touch them but with very fine gloves. When this choice tea has undergone the process necessary, it is escorted by the su-

perintendant of the mountain, and a strong guard to the emperor's court, and reserved for the use of the imperial family.

As the tea-shrub often grows on the rugged banks of steep mountains, which are difficult and dangerous of access, the Chinese, in order to come at the leaves, make use of a singular stratagem. These steep places are generally frequented by a great number of monkies, which being provoked, to revenge themselves, tear off the branches, and shower them down upon those who have insulted them.

When the tea-leaves have been collected, they are exposed to the steam of boiling water, after which they are put upon plates of copper, and held over the fire till they are dry and shrivelled.

There are public buildings in Japan

for the purpose of preparing the fresh-gathered tea, which contain a great number of small stoves, raised about three feet high, each of which has a broad plate of iron fixed over its mouth. The workmen are seated round a large table covered with mats, and are employed in rolling the tea-leaves, which are spread out upon them. When the iron plates are heated, they cover them with a few pounds of fresh leaves. The workman then stirs them with his naked hands as quickly as possible, until they become so warm, that he cannot easily endure the heat. He then takes off the leaves with a kind of shovel, and lays them upon mats. The people who are employed in mixing them, take a small quantity at a time, roll them in their hands always in the same direction, while others keep continually

stirring them, in order that they may cool sooner, and preserve their shrivelled figure longer. This process is repeated two or three times, and even oftener, before the tea is deposited in the warehouses. These precautions are necessary to extract all moisture from the leaves.

The people of Japan and China keep their tea a year before using it, because when fresh, it possesses a stupifying quality which hurts the brain. The Chinese pour boiling water over their tea, and leave it to infuse as we do in Europe, but they drink it without milk and sugar. The people of Japan reduce theirs to a fine powder, which they dilute with warm water, until it has acquired the consistence of thin soup. Their manner of serving tea is as follows: They place before the company the tea equipage, and the box in

which this powder is contained; they fill the cups with warm water, and taking from the box as much powder as the point of a knife can contain, throw it into each of the cups, and stir it until the liquor begins to ferment; it is then presented to the company, who sip while it is warm.

Mr. Storewell then shewed the children, in the map of Asia, the situation of China and the Japan Isles, and all the places he had mentioned. Mrs. Storewell gave Matilda a shirt to make for her brother Henry. Augusta was called to say her letters, while Henry read to his father the following alphabet in rhyme.

A.

See the dull Afs, how like in look
The boy that will not mind his book.

B.

Brisk as a Bee 'mong learning's flow'rs,
Employ thy youthful shining hours.

C.

Soon as the Cock salutes the dawn,
Arise thou with the early morn.

D.

Like the sweet Dove, with peaceful mind,
To all around be ever kind.

E.

Let thy soul mount on Eagle's wings,
In homage to the King of Kings.

F.

The fruit of learning thou wilt share,
If, like a Fig-Tree, rear'd with care.

G.

Sweeter than sweetest Grapes you'll find,
That wisdom which adorns the mind.

H.

Who know the gen'rous Horse to train,
Break him while young to bear the rein.

I.

Innocence will e'er rejoice,
Hear the happy Infant's voice.

J.

Let not vain babbling be thy pride.
All men the chatt'ring Jay deride.

K.

Honour the King—E'en birds will bear
Treason, tho' whisper'd thro' the air.

L.

To God let thy first thoughts be giv'n,
Rise with the early Lark to Heav'n.

M.

The Mole works darkly under ground,
Be thou no underminer found.

N.

Sweet as the Nightingale's sweet lays,
Is praise from those who merit praise.

O.

Let not thine actions shun the light;
The Owl in darkness wings his flight,

P.

The Peacock spreads his swelling train,
Of no false merit be thou vain.

Q.

Like Sheba's Queen, ye British fair,
T'adorn your minds bend all your care.

R.

Let virtue in thy mind disclose,
Like the fragrant blooming Rose.

S.
Like the true Spaniel, to his master just,
Be thou still faithful to each sacred trust.

T.
Trouts wanton in the purling stream,
Ne'er trifle thou life's waking dream.

V.
The Vulture darts upon his prey;
But Virtue bears the palm away.

W.
In the Whale's belly Jonah pray'd;
God heard, and sent his prophet aid.

X.
See Xerxes' tears, and hear them speak.
The props of human trust, how weak!

Y.
To serve that God be thy delight,
Whose Yoke is easy, burden light.

Z.
Nor, when he calls thee, stop thine ear;
But with Zaccheus joyful hear.

While Henry was still reading, Mrs.
Storewell perceived that Matilda had

let fall her work, and was crying. This good mother, always concerned to see her children uneasy, earnestly inquired the cause of her tears. Matilda answered, that she had pricked her finger. Mrs. Storewell rejoiced to hear that she was not ill: she advised her, in future, not to cry for every little hurt; and the story she desired her to read, imprinted on her mind the necessity of guarding against this childish fault.

A STORY.

A little girl, who used to weep bitterly for the most trifling hurt, was attacked by a furious dog. Her cries reached the servants of the family; but they paid little attention to what they were so much accustomed to hear. It happened, however, that a countryman was passing by, who, with great huma-

nity, rescued the child from the devouring teeth of the dog.

Be always cheerful and happy: this disposition will make you loved and esteemed; every one will be ready to share your sorrow, and wipe the tears that flow from real affliction.

They now quitted the green-house, and returned in to dinner. In the afternoon they walked to a farm-house, about a mile distant, where they drank tea. The farmer was one of Mr. Storewell's tenants, and a very worthy man. The children were very fond of him, and Alfred carried to him, with his father's permission, a fine melon from the hot-house.

The farmer was very glad to see them, and took them into his fields. Here he explained to them the use of

his farming implements. The plough, he said, is used to furrow the land, and prepare it to receive the grain. This instrument is sometimes drawn by horses, and sometimes by oxen. The spade is a flat piece of iron, fixed into a strong wooden handle, and used to turn the earth. The use of the rake and the harrow is to cover the seed with earth, that has been scattered on the ground. When the different seeds that are sown, spring up, they produce wheat, rye, barley, and oats; and to reap them, the sickle is used by the reapers in time of harvest. The scythe is used to mow the grass.

The farmer conducted them into a field, where his goats were feeding. The children inquired for what purpose he kept these pretty creatures. He told them, that they were very useful animals; and that he brought them

from Wales. Their produce is valuable; and the food of this animal costs next to nothing, as it can support itself upon the most barren mountains. Many of the inhabitants of Carnarvonshire kill them merely for the sake of their fat, which makes candles of a superior quality to the common. Of their horns excellent handles are made for pen-knives. The skin is peculiarly well adapted for the glove manufactory, especially that of the kid, as it takes a dye better than any other skin. The flesh is of great use, and affords a cheap and plentiful provision in the winter months, when the kids are brought to market. The haunches of the goat are frequently salted and dried, and supply all the uses of bacon; by the Welsh it is called hung venison. The milk of the goat is sweet and nourishing, and an excellent substitute for

asses' milk. The cheefe that is made of goat's milk has a peculiar taste and flavour, though much valued in some of the mountainous countries. These animals are sensible of careffes, and capable of a considerable degree of friendship. They are stronger, more nimble, and less timid than sheep. They have a lively, capricious, and wandering disposition; are fond of high and solitary places, and frequently sleep on the very points of rocks. They are more easily supported than any other animal of the same size; for there is hardly an herb, or the bark of a tree, that they will not eat. Neither are they liable to so many diseases as sheep; and they can bear heat and cold with less inconvenience. The natural fancifulness of goats is expressed by the irregularity of their actions; they walk, stop short, run, jump, show and hide

themselves, as it were, by mere caprice, and without any other cause than what arises from the natural vivacity of their temper. The whitest wigs are made of their hair, their usual colour being white. There are many other sorts of goats; those of France and the Alps are short-haired, reddish, and the horns small.

The farmer used his utmost endeavours to amuse his young friends. After shewing them, in his farm-yard, his pigs and his poultry, they were returning into the house, when their attention was drawn by a large dog, chained to his kennel. On the farmer's assuring them that Trusty would not hurt them, they ventured nearer, and caressed this noble animal. The farmer said, he kept him to drive his herds of cattle, and to guard his flocks. It is so well trained for these purposes, as to attend

to every part of the herd, be it ever so large, confine them to the road, and force in every straggler, without doing it the least injury. Of all kind of dogs, this sort is reckoned the most sensible. With regard to the natural disposition of the dog, in a savage state, he is fierce, cruel, and voracious; but, when civilized, and accustomed to live with men, he is possessed of every amiable quality. He seems to have no other desire than to please and protect his master. He is gentle, obedient, submissive, and faithful. These dispositions, joined to his almost unbounded sagacity, justly claim the esteem of mankind. Accordingly, no animal is so much caressed and respected: his fidelity and vigilance are daily employed to protect our persons, our flocks, or our goods.

The children were much amused in

this visit; and the good farmer requested Mr. and Mrs. Storewell to bring them again very soon. In making this promise, they parted; and returned home about eight o'clock. Matilda, Alfred, Henry, and Augusta retired to rest.

S E C O N D D A Y .

A G A I N assembled in the greenhouse to study, Mr. Storewell took down a book from a recess he had had made in the wall for the children's library. He opened to a letter, which he begged Mrs. Storewell would let Matilda copy and learn by heart. Alfred and Matilda had made great progress in writing, for the time they had

learned. Henry and Augusta knew not yet how to hold a pen.

In about an hour, Matilda brought the letter, which was in rhyme, copied without one mistake.

A L E T T E R

To the Right Honourable Lady Margaret Holles Cavendish Harley.

My noble, lovely, little Peggy,
 Let this my first epistle beg ye,
 At dawn of morn and close of even,
 To lift your heart and hands to heav'n.
 In double beauty say your pray'r,
 Our Father first, then Notre Pere.
 And, dearest child, along the day,
 In every thing you do and say,
 Obey and please my lord and lady;
 So God shall love and angels aid ye.
 If to these precepts you attend,
 No second letter need I send;
 And so I rest your constant friend }

Matthew Prior.

Mr. Storewell then desired Alfred to bring a collection he had made from Percival and other authors. His father desired him to attend very closely to the useful instruction these lessons recommended. Alfred promised he would, and read



LESSON I.

You have seen the husbandman scattering his seed upon the ground. When it springs up, it is gathered into his barns, and crowns his labours with joy and plenty. Thus the man, who distributes his fortune with generosity and prudence, is amply repaid by the gratitude of those whom he obliges, by the approbation of his own mind, and the favour of God.

Henry assured his father that he would always be good and diligent. His father embraced him, and promised to teach him French and writing with his brother, as soon as he could read English perfectly.

Augusta had not been idle; she had learned to spell a dozen words of one syllable; and the handkerchief she was hemming, was just finished, when the bell summoned them in to dinner.

The afternoon was too warm for walking. It was therefore determined that they should stay at home. Mrs. Storewell was at no loss to amuse her children. She had in the drawing-room an excellent piano forte. She excelled in music herself; and Alfred, who could play several tunes by ear, was learning of his mother to improve his talent for music. Alfred and Matilda practised for one hour. Mrs.

Storewell then played and sang several songs. Matilda, who had a pretty voice, accompanied her mother in singing.

After tea, the children went into the great hall, to play at battledore and shuttlecock. When they were told it was bed-time, they cheerfully quitted their diversion; and enjoyed till morning those refreshing slumbers, which are ever shared by health and innocence.

THIRD DAY.

ON Wednesday morning, after breakfast, Mr. Storewell called Augusta, and told her that he was so much pleased with her diligence, the

preceding day, that he had brought her a very easy fable. She smiled, and kissed her father; and begged him to let Henry read it first; for she wanted to know what it was about. Mr. Storewell consented; and Henry read as follows:

A F A B L E,

In Words of One Syllable.

THE CHILD, THE WASP, AND THE PEACH.

The day was fine, the sun shone bright; each peach on the long brick wall was ripe. A child saw the fruit; and the bloom that caught his eye, made him put up his hand to take a peach; when a wasp, who knew not how to part with the sweet juice he thought his own right, darts, with rage, his sharp sting on the poor child's

hand, who let fall the peach, and long wept for the pain he felt from the wound.

M O R A L.

Dearly your peace of mind is bought,
If e'er by glitt'ring wealth you're caught.
In folly's path then folly leave;
And no false shows will you deceive.

Augusta listened attentively; and said she would never gather the peaches in the garden. She took the fable, in hopes of soon being able to read it herself.

When Alfred had finished his translation and exercise, Mr. Storewell desired him to repeat the division of the globe in verse, which he had written for him himself.

THE DIVISION OF THE GLOBE.

Of land and of water our globe is compos'd ;
 Attend, my dear child, and hear how they're dis-
 pos'd.

The learned divide in four parts the firm land :
 First Europe is mention'd, on which you now stand,
 United to Asia upon the west side,
 Which an isthmus from Afric does only divide.

Across the Atlantic America lies,
 A country first fam'd by Columbus the wise.
 Traversing the oceans, you'll know them much
 better ;

Th' Atlantic, Pacific, th' Indian, et cet'ra :
 But o'er the wide seas if you like not to roam,
 With maps and with books you may travel at home.

Henry, during breakfast-time, wish-
 ed his lesson were in verse ; and Mr.
 Storewell, ever ready to gratify the
 wishes of his children, wrote down the
 following lines for him, which his me-
 mory retained very correctly.

Sage Zeno's philosophic mind,
Shews a bright pattern to mankind ;
With soul serene, he still could share
Each change that fortune made him bear.
A distant age he did adorn,
Five hundred years ere Christ was born.
This was his precept, learn it well,
Hear twice as much as thou dost tell ;
For, mark the wise decree of Heav'n,
Two ears and but one tongue are giv'n.
'Twas Zeno's wisdom thus explain'd
The law which Nature has ordain'd.

Matilda asked her father what he had brought for her to learn. Mr. Storewell said, that although he did not wish her to learn by heart what he had brought for her, he begged she would read it with attention, and remember as much as she could of the account

OF THE SUGAR-CANE.

Sugar is a sweet solid substance, obtained from the juice of the sugar-cane.

The sugar-cane is the principal production of the West Indies, and the great source of their riches. As it is so important in a commercial view, from the employment which it gives to seamen, and the wealth which it opens for merchants; and, besides, is now become a necessary of life, it may justly be esteemed one of the most valuable plants in the world. It is a jointed reed, commonly measuring from three feet and a half to seven feet in height; but sometimes rising to twelve feet. When ripe, it is of a fine straw colour, inclining to yellow, producing leaves, or blades, finely indented. The joints in one stalk are from forty to sixty in number, and the stalks rising from one root are sometimes very numerous. As the cane requires a great deal of moisture to bring it to maturity, the properest season for planting it is in

September and October, when the autumnal rains commence, that it may be sufficiently luxuriant to shade the ground before the dry weather sets in.

The sugar-cane is propagated by the top shoots, which are cut from the top of the old ones. The usual method of planting it is this: the quantity of land intended to be planted, being cleared of weeds, is first divided into several plats of certain dimensions, commonly from fifteen to twenty acres each. Each plat is then subdivided by means of a line and wooden pegs. The labourers are then placed in a row on the first line, one to a square, and directed to dig out, with their hoes, the several squares, commonly to the depth of five or six inches. An able man will dig from one hundred to one hundred and twenty of these holes for his day's work of ten hours; but if the land has been

previously ploughed, and lain fallow, the same man will dig nearly double the number.

The sugar-cane is liable to be destroyed by monkeys, rats, and insects. The upland plantations suffer greatly from monkeys: these creatures, which now abound in the mountainous parts of St. Christopher's, were first brought thither by the French, when they possessed half that island. They come down from the rocks, in silent parties, by night, and having posted centinels, to give the alarm, if any thing approaches, they destroy incredible quantities of the cane, by their gambols and greediness. It is in vain to set traps for these creatures, however baited; and the only way to protect the plantation, is to set a numerous watch, well armed with fowling-pieces, and furnished with dogs.

The negroes perform this service cheerfully, for they are very fond of monkies as food.

The canes are eighteen months in growing; and the English cut them in March and April. The time of crop, in the sugar-islands, is the season of gladness and festivity to man and beast. So palatable, salutary, and nourishing, is the juice of the cane, that every individual of the animal creation, drinking freely of it, derives health and vigour from its use. The meagre and sickly among the negroes exhibit a surprising alteration, in a few weeks, at this season. The labouring horses, oxen, and mules, though almost constantly at work during this period, yet, being indulged with plenty of the green tops of this noble plant, and some of the scummings from the boiling-house, improve more than at any season of the

year. Even the pigs and poultry fatten on the refuse. In short, on a well-regulated plantation, under a humane and benevolent director, there is such an appearance, during crop-time, of plenty and busy cheerfulness, as to soften, in a great measure, the hardships of labour in so hot a climate.

Matilda was much amused with this account; and the employments for this morning ended.

The annual fair of this village was held to-day. Matilda and Alfred talked of the last with delight, and looked forward to this with anticipated pleasure. Henry and Augusta had never yet been to a fair; and they were as impatient to partake of this amusement as their brother and sister.

At length the happy moment arrived. Mr. and Mrs. Storewell accompanied their children themselves to the fair.

These indulgent parents had given them an additional supply for their pocket-money. They bought with this dolls and toys of all sorts. Possessed of an ample fortune, Mrs. Storewell was liberality itself. She taught her children to be generous, and not selfishly spend the whole of their allowance on themselves. Alfred, who was the eldest, had remembered this counsel, and did not forget to purchase for the servants, ribands, nutmeg-graters, watch-chains, &c. They returned well satisfied with their evening's amusement. When Matilda saw the pretty things her brother had brought home for the servants, she was exceedingly sorry that she had spent all her money in dolls and toys, and had nothing to give to Anne and Betty. Alfred begged of her to accept from him a riband for the nursery-maid, and a nutmeg-grater for

the cook. Matilda overjoyed at this offer, thanked and embraced her brother; and they all went to bed rather more fatigued with their excursion to the fair, than to the farm-house.

F O U R T H D A Y .

THIS morning, Mr. and Mrs. Storewell and their little family met, as usual, in the green-house, at seven o'clock. Embracing each other, and fulfilling the first important duty of the day, they breakfasted. The children were then desired to prepare for a visit. Alfred and Matilda expressed great surprise; Henry and Augusta jumped about, and were sure that they would be first ready.

On the preceding evening, Mr. Storewell had received an invitation from Lady Louisa, his sister; who resided at Emdon Park, about ten miles distant. She informed Mr. Storewell that his brother-in-law, Major Dauntless, was just returned home. The major was a very brave officer; he had often hazarded his life for the welfare of his country. Esteemed by all who knew him, and beloved by his family, great joy was manifested at his safe return from the late perilous enterprise he was engaged in.

The carriage was now at the door, and the coachman was ordered to drive to Emdon Park. The children were overjoyed with the expectation of seeing their uncle and aunt.

When they had proceeded about three miles, Mr. Storewell, Alfred, and Matilda walked up a steep hill. Mrs.

Storewell, Henry, and Augusta ascended it in the carriage. They had not walked many paces, when a poor woman begged of them. Mr. Storewell was pleased to see that not only Matilda and Alfred were giving her some of the money he had replenished their purses with that morning, but that Henry and Augusta were calling the poor petitioner to take some half-pence they were holding out for her.

Mrs. Storewell looked with an eye of compassion on a little infant she held in her arms, and felt interested for this beggar. She stopped the carriage, and inquired the cause of her distress. The poor woman informed her, that she was a widow; that her husband had been a common seaman; had sailed with Admiral Jervis; and had lost his life in the late engagement. As soon as her husband had quitted her, she

had set out for Newcastle, to see her mother, who was very ill, and had died two days after her arrival. The money she had carried down with her was expended on her mother's funeral. She was now returning to London, in hopes of seeing her son, who had been in the same fleet with her husband. To support herself and her infant, she had parted with some of her apparel; but, for several days, she had depended wholly on the bounty of travellers.

Tears flowed from the eyes of Alfred and Matilda at this relation. Mr. Storewell, giving her a few shillings, told her, that if her story were true, he would afford a more ample relief to her distress. In the mean time, Mrs. Storewell desired that she would call on her the following evening.

Mr. Storewell was a large subscriber to the laudable charity, lately instituted

by many humane members of society, for the widows and children of seamen, who had suffered in the last engagement. If, upon enquiry, Mr. Storewell found this poor woman a deserving object, he intended that she should benefit by the subscription.

They were now arrived at Emdon-Park. Major Dauntless and Lady Louisa received them with that heartfelt joy, which is only known to sincere friends after long absence. The major was as pleasing a companion, as he was an useful member of society. Before the war commenced, he had obtained leave of absence for two years: during this time, he had travelled in Sweden, and resided for six months at the court of Stockholm.

After dinner, he related some interesting particulars of Gustavus the Third, late king of Sweden, who suc-

ceeded his father, Adolphus, in the year 1771. The major's residence in Stockholm, had given him a personal knowledge of this monarch.

In the year 1772, a revolution took place in the government, by which this king, from being one of the most limited, became one of the most despotic sovereigns in Europe.

The revolution was effected in the following manner: On the 19th of August, 1772, a considerable number of officers, and other persons, known to be attached to the royal cause, had been summoned to attend his majesty. Before ten, he was on horseback. As he passed through the streets of Stockholm, he was more than usually courteous to all he met, bowing familiarly to the lowest of the people.

On the king's return to his palace, the detachment, which was to mount

guard that day, being drawn up, together with that which was to be relieved, his majesty retired with the officers into the guard room. He then addressed them with all that eloquence, of which he was a perfect master. He assured them that his only design was to banish corruption, to restore true liberty, and revive the ancient lustre of the Swedish name. That if they would be faithful to him, he would risk his life for their welfare, and that of his country.

The officers, most of them young men, took an oath of fidelity to him. Three only refused. One of these, Frederick Cederstrom, captain of a company of the guards, alleged that he had already, and very lately, taken an oath to the States; and consequently could not take that which his majesty exacted of him. The king, looking at him

sternly, answered, Think of what you are doing. I do, replied Cederstrom; and were I capable of breaking the oath by which I am bound to the States, I should be likewise capable of breaking that your majesty now requests me to take. The king then ordered him to deliver up his sword, and put him in arrest. Shortly after, his majesty told Cederstrom, that, as a proof of the opinion he entertained for him, he would return him his sword, without insisting on his taking the oath.

As the king passed through the streets, he declared to the people, that he only meant to defend them, and save his country; and that if they would not confide in him, he would lay down his sceptre, and surrender up his kingdom. So much was the king beloved, that the people, some of whom even fell down on their knees, with tears in their eyes,

implored his majesty not to abandon them. In less than an hour, he made himself master of all the military force in Stockholm.

In the mean time, heralds, by proclamation in the several quarters of the city, summoned an assembly of the States the ensuing morning, and declared all members traitors to their country who should not appear.

Thither his majesty repaired in all the pomp of royalty, surrounded by his guards, and holding in his hand the silver sceptre of Gustavus Adolphus. In a very forcible speech, he lamented the unhappy state to which the country was reduced by the conduct of a party ready to sacrifice every thing to its ambition; and reproached the States with adapting their actions to the views of foreign courts, from which they received the wages of perfidy. If

any one of you dare contradict this, let him rise and speak. Conviction or fear kept the assembly silent, and the secretary read the new form of government, which the king submitted to the approbation of the States. It consisted of 57 articles. When all the articles were gone through, the king demanded if the states approved of them, and was answered by a general acclamation.

He then dismissed all the senators from their employments; adding, that in a few days he would appoint others; and concluding this extraordinary scene, by drawing out of his pocket a small book of psalms, from which, after taking off the crown, he gave out the *Te Deum*. All the members added their voices to his, and the hall resounded with thanksgivings.

The king employed the power he had obtained for the good of his sub-

jects. He took care that the law should be administered with impartiality to the richest noble and the poorest peasant. He gave particular attention and encouragement to commerce; was a liberal and enlightened patron of learning and science, and laboured strenuously to introduce into his kingdom the most valuable improvements in agriculture that had been made in foreign countries.

But while active in promoting the arts of peace, he was not inattentive to those of war. He reformed the army and navy, which had been neglected; and, in his war with Russia, gave proofs of undaunted courage and military conduct, until peace was restored between the courts of Stockholm and St. Peterburgh.

It is unquestionable, that the revolution he effected in his own country

was calculated to promote the general good of the people. The nobles, however, continued discontented, and a conspiracy was planned against Gustavus under his own roof. He had entered into an alliance that was formed against the revolutionary government of France, and to raise an army, which he was to lead in person, to co-operate with the emperor and the king of Prussia; he was obliged to negotiate large loans, and to impose on his subjects heavy taxes. The nobles took advantage of that circumstance to prejudice the minds of many people against the sovereign, who had laboured so long for their real good.

On the 16th of March, 1792, he received an anonymous letter, warning him of his immediate danger, from a plot that was laid to take away his life, requesting him to remain at home; and

assuring him, that if he should go to the masquerade, for which he was preparing, he would be assassinated that very night. The king read the note with contempt, and at a late hour entered the ball-room. After some time, he sat down in a box with the Comte d'Essen, and observed that he was not deceived in his contempt for the letter, since, had there been any design against his life, no time could be more favourable than that moment. He then mingled, without apprehension, among the crowd; and just as he was preparing to retire, in company with the Prussian ambassador, he was surrounded by several persons in masks, one of whom fired a pistol at the back of the king, and lodged the contents in his body. The conspirators, amidst the general tumult and alarm, had time to retire to other parts of the room; but one of them had previously drop-

ped his pistols and a dagger close by the wounded king. A general order was given to all the company to unmask, and the doors immediately closed; but no person appeared with any particular distinguishing marks of guilt. The king was conveyed to his apartment; and the surgeon, after extracting a ball and some slugs, gave favourable hopes of his majesty's recovery.

An order was issued, directing all the armorers, gunsmiths, and cutlers in Stockholm, to give every information in their power to the officers of justice concerning the weapons. A gunsmith, who had repaired the pistols, readily recognised them to be the same which he had repaired some time since for a nobleman of the name of Ankerstrom, a captain in the army; and the cutler, who had made the dagger, referred to the same person.

The king languished from the 17th to the 29th of March. At first the reports of his medical attendants were favourable ; but on the 28th a mortification was found to have taken place, which terminated his existence in a few hours. On opening his body, a square piece of lead and two rusty nails were found unextracted within the ribs. During his illness, and particularly after he was made acquainted with his approaching dissolution, Gustavus continued to display that unshaken courage he had manifested on every occasion during his life.

A few hours before his decease, he made some alterations in the arrangement of public affairs. He had before, by his will, appointed a council of regency ; but convinced, by recent experience, how little he could depend on the attachment of his nobles, and

being also aware of the necessity of a strong government in difficult times, he appointed his brother, the Duke of Sudermania, sole regent, till his son, who was then about 14, shall have attained the age of 18. His last words were a declaration of pardon to the conspirators against his life. The actual murderer alone was excepted; and he was excepted only at the strong instance of the regent, and those who surrounded his majesty in his dying moments.

Ankerstrom was apprehended. Suspicions, at the same time, fell on the Counts Horn and Ribbing, Baron Pechlin, Baron Ehrensoard, Baron Hartsmandorf, Von Engerstrom, the royal secretary, and others: these suspicions were confirmed by the confession of Ankerstrom,

After a very fair and ample trial, this man was condemned to be publicly and severely whipped, on three successive days; his right hand and his head to be cut off, and his body impaled; which sentence he suffered on the 17th of May. His property was given to his children, who, however, were condemned to change their name. The Counts Horn and Ribbing were condemned to lose their right hands, and to be decapitated. All the conspirators were degraded from the rank of nobles, and their property declared to be confiscated. Baron Hartsmändorf was to forfeit his rank in the army, and to be imprisoned for one year. Engerstrom was to suffer perpetual imprisonment. Four others, accused of being concerned in the conspiracy, were pardoned, and some were acquitted.

Major Dauntless received the thanks of the whole company for this interesting account. Alfred had listened with great attention, and lamented the unfortunate fate of this great prince, and the loss young Gustavus sustained in being deprived of his father. Tears of joy succeeded those of sorrow, in reflecting on the blessing he himself enjoyed from the protection of two good parents.

Captain Clearcoast, an intimate friend of Major Dauntless, was of the party, and expressed great approbation at the behaviour of Alfred, Matilda, Henry, and Augusta. He invited them all to go on board his ship, which was at Woolwich. He did not tell them that there was to be a launch; he meant to surprise them with this beautiful sight. Mr. and Mrs. Storewell accepted Captain Clearcoast's polite invitation.

They now returned home; the children retired to rest, and peaceful slumbers closed their eyes till morning.

FIFTH DAY.

MR. Storewell advised Alfred to apply with double diligence to his studies this morning; as the hours always allotted for improving his mind were yesterday employed in amusement. Alfred assured his father that it was his wish, and should be his constant endeavour to advance in learning. He inquired for his first lesson, which was generally in rhyme, and learned during breakfast. It was immediately given to him; written by Mr. Storewell himself for his son Alfred.

Industrious youth, thy early days
With care and prudence still employ ;
So shall thy conduct merit praise,
And crown returning years with joy.
Possess of virtues which thy friends revere,
A happy man through each succeeding year.

Has bounteous nature form'd your mind
Noble, gen'rous, good and wise :
In grateful gladness own her kind,
Nor e'er neglect the valued prize.
But humbly own, from gracious God must flow,
Each gift and blessing we poor mortals know.

When Matilda had finished reading, she wrote four copies ; this was a double portion, as yesterday's writing had been neglected.

At one they usually returned into the house ; but, to-day, reading, writing, and working employed them until two. Henry was learning to write, and succeeded very well in his first attempt. Augusta had hemmed two handker-

chiefs instead of one, and the business for this morning concluded, they were summoned by the dinner-bell to return into the house.

The poor woman, Mrs. Storewell had appointed to come in the afternoon, was now shewn into the hall. Mr. Storewell upon inquiry had found the whole of her story strictly true. He therefore procured her the assistance her present distress entitled her to.

Her infant, who was a girl, was clothed from Matilda's and Augusta's wardrobe. Mrs. Storewell desired that the poor woman might have some bread and meat; and Alfred asked leave to gather some fruit for her. This childish request was readily granted. The poor woman now took her leave; with a thousand thanks and blessings to this amiable family. Alfred rejoiced that

he lived in a great house, and should always have plenty of money to give to beggars.

Mrs. Storewell told her son, that to relieve distress was certainly the most desirable use that could be made of riches; but that he must not place too much dependance on wealth and affluence, as a thousand accidents might deprive him of those advantages he now possessed. She then took out of her pocket-book some lines written by herself, which Alfred requested he might keep.

If Fortune smiles, if Fortune frowns;
If you she favours, you she crowns;
Nor yet despise, nor yet depend
On Fortune as a constant friend;
For, sometimes cruel, sometimes kind,
She's ever changing like the wind;
With each revolving sun may you
Be favour'd like her favour'd few.

At eight o'clock the children went to bed. They rejoiced at the approach of to-morrow's amusement. It would indeed be quite novel to them, not one of them ever having been on board a ship.

SIXTH DAY.

THE following lines were Alfred's lesson: written by Mr. Storewell.

In youth how bright does all appear!
You welcome each returning year;
In summer, autumn, winter, spring,
You laugh, you dance, you play, you sing;
But heart-felt mirth, and trifling toys,
Happy days, and transient joys,

Time on his pinions bears away,
Nought can his rapid flight delay ;
Then in his course improve your mind
With treasures which the fages find.
Succeeding years your life shall crown
With fame, with honour, and renown.

Henry was now called to read a lesson from Percival.

A boy, who was a great destroyer of birds' nests, had carefully preserved one, that he might enjoy the cruel pleasure of confining in a cage the poor birds, who had the same natural right to liberty with himself. A hungry cat discovered the nest, and devoured the unfeathered brood. The boy bewailed his loss, and vowed revenge on the cat, not reflecting on the many nests which he had wantonly plundered whilst the cat was impelled by the

dictates of nature, to satisfy a craving appetite.

When Alfred had done his exercise, he was desired by Mr. Storewell to teach Augusta to repeat the following pretty lines by Cotton.

TO A CHILD OF FIVE YEARS OLD.

Fairest flower, all flowers excelling,
Which in Eden's garden grew;
Flow'rs of Eve's embowered dwelling,
Are, my fair one, types of you.

Mark, Augusta, how the roses
Emulate thy damask cheek;
How the bud its sweets discloses,
Buds thy opening bloom bespeak.

Lilies are, by plain direction,
Emblems of a double kind,
Emblems of thy fair complexion,
Emblems of thy fairer mind.

But, dear girl, both flow'rs and beauty
Blossom, fade, and die away.
Then pursue good sense and duty,
Evergreens that ne'er decay.

While Matilda read, great attention
was paid by the other children. Au-
gusta had a favourite large white cat,
and Matilda read from Gray

ON THE DEATH OF A FAVOURITE CAT,

Drowned in a Tub of Gold Fishes.

'Twas on a lofty vase's side,
Where China's gayest arts had dyed
The azure flowers that blow,
Demurest of the tabby kind,
The pensive Selima reclin'd,
Gaz'd on the lake below.

Her conscious tail her joy declar'd,
The fair round face, the snowy beard,
The velvet of her paws;
Her coat, that with the tortoise vies,
Her ears of jet, and emerald eyes,
She saw, and purr'd applause.

Still had she gaz'd, but 'midst the tide
 Two angel forms were seen to glide,
 The genii of the stream.
 Their scaly armour's Tyrian hue,
 Through richest purple, to the view
 Betray'd a golden gleam.

Eight times emerging from the flood,
 She mew'd to ev'ry wat'ry god
 Some speedy aid to send.
 No dolphin came, no Nereid stirr'd,
 Nor cruel Tom, nor Susan heard :
 A favourite has no friend.

From hence, ye beauties undeceiv'd,
 Know, one false step is ne'er retriev'd,
 And be with caution bold;
 Not all that tempts your wand'ring eyes,
 And heedless hearts, is lawful prize,
 Nor all that glitters gold.

The hapless nymph, with wonder saw
 A whisker first, and then a claw.
 With many an ardent wish,
 She stretch'd in vain to reach the prize ;
 What female heart can gold despise ?
 What cat's averse to fish ?

Presumptuous maid! with looks intent,
Again she stretch'd, again she bent,
Nor knew the gulf between.
Malignant fate sat by and smil'd,
The slipp'ry verge her feet beguil'd,
She tumbld headlong in.

Matilda had completed the shirt for her brother, she had begun on Monday; and Augusta was finishing the sixth handkerchief she had hemmed since the beginning of the week.

This morning's business ended, the carriage was ordered, and they set out immediately for Woolwich. They arrived about twenty minutes before the Centaur, a 74 gun ship, was launched. On each side of this noble man of war, booths were erected for the company. Captain Clearcoat had been so kind to take places in one of them for Mr. Storewell and his family, that they

might have the best view possible of the launch.

They employed the short time that remained, before the Centaur went off, in examining the figure at the head of this ship, from which she took her name; its cradle, and the different flags that were hoisted on board. These were all the colours that grace the British fleet; they were explained by the captain to Alfred, who looked with amazement at the majestic size of this beautiful ship.

The crowd beginning now to assemble, they went into the booth. Above a thousand spectators were present, in silent expectation. The tide was now fast rising, while the sound of the hammers informed them that the ship would shortly be on float. With gentle motion she now glided into the water,

amidst the huzzas and acclamations of the surrounding multitude.

Captain Clearcoast had received a good education, and although an open, honest sailor, had very mild and gentle manners. He felt great emotion on seeing the Centaur begin to move in the water; and he feelingly expressed his anxiety for her future welfare in traversing the wide ocean.

Mr. Storewell said, that he had always considered the royal navy as the greatest ornament and defence of England. Captain Clearcoast replied that it certainly was; and that the useful art of navigation had been assiduously cultivated from the earliest ages; and that while it extended our commerce, it gave us an opportunity of being one of the most powerful nations in the world. He then spoke of the advantage of commerce: at first, it only con-

sisted in the exchange of things necessary for life; the ploughman gave his corn and his pulse to the shepherd, and received milk and wool in exchange; but now the intercourse which one nation holds with another, procures to almost all the inhabitants of the whole globe, not only the conveniencies, but the luxuries they enjoy.

It is not precisely known when traffic by buying and selling first began; nor when the several coins of gold, silver, and copper had their origin. The first money consisted of wood, leather, or iron; and even at this day it is the custom in some parts of both Indies, to give the value of merchandise, drugs, &c. in cocoa-nuts and sea-shells.

Captain Clearcoast then gave an account of Stockholm, the capital of Sweden. This city is a sea-port, and remarkable for its romantic scenery.

It is very long and irregular, and occupies, besides two peninsulas, seven small rocky islands, scattered in the Maeler, in the streams which issue from that lake, and in a bay of the Baltic. The castle, though commodious, and covered with copper, has neither strength nor beauty; but accommodates the royal court, and the national courts and colleges. A variety of contrasted and beautiful views are formed by numerous rocks of granite, rising boldly from the surface of the water, partly bare and craggy, and partly dotted with houses, or feathered with wood. Except in the suburbs, where several houses are of wood, painted red, the generality of the buildings are of stone, or of brick stuccoed white.

They were all much amused with this account of Stockholm, and wished much to visit Sweden. Captain Clear-

coast told them, that he purposed making a voyage there the ensuing summer, and that he would be happy in the company of such an agreeable party, if they could resolve to quit England, and be surrounded by the troubled ocean for a few weeks.

They now walked about the dock-yard, and then went in a boat to the Phosphor, Captain Clearcoast's ship.

After dinner they quitted the Phosphor to return home, delighted with the pleasure this day had afforded.

Alfred inquired of his father whether there really were such creatures as centaurs. Mr. Storewell told him, that the centaurs were a people of Thessaly, half men and half horses. Their existence is fabulous, and this fable of their being supported on the four legs of a horse, arises from the ancient people of Thessaly having tamed horses, and

having appeared to their neighbours mounted on horseback, a sight very uncommon at that time, and which, when at a distance, seems only one body, and consequently one creature.

Mr. Storewell told Alfred that when he was better acquainted with fact, he should read fiction. Saying this, the carriage stopped. As it was late, they retired immediately to repose on the downy pillow of innocence.

FINIS.

BOOKS printed and sold by DARTON and HARVEY,
Gracechurch Street, London.

MENTAL IMPROVEMENT, or the BEAUTIES
and WONDERS of Nature and Art;

In three Volumes, price 4s. 6d. half bound,

By PRISCILLA WAKEFIELD.

“ These little Volumes direct the young mind, in a very pleasing Manner, to a Variety of useful and curious Subjects, and the Manner of Dialogue has been very judiciously adopted: and although the Work is professedly intended for young Persons, we are persuaded that there are many grown ones, who, by a perusal of it, would discover in themselves a Degree of Ignorance they little suspected.” *Critical Review, November 1795.*

By the same Author,

LEISURE HOURS, 2 vols, 3s. and

JUVENILE ANECDOTES, 1s 6d.

Where also may be had,

The BEE, a Selection of Poems from the best Authors,
price 2s. bound. *Vide Critical Review.*

The BOUQUET, a Companion to the BEE, in prose,
price 2s. bound.

The POWER of RELIGION on the MIND, price 1s.

The VISIBLE WORLD, or the chief Things therein
drawn in Pictures, price 1s.

Le PETIT GRANDISSON, par M. BERQUIN, avec
Figures, price 2s. 6d. sewed.

BARBAULD's LESSONS in French, the four vo-
lumes in two, price 2s. sewed.

