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Wendover
1790-1796.
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TRANSCRIPTION, pp. 120-127

J. B. C_____H. [John Barker Church]

Though Mr. Church blazes a meteor of the first splendour at the west end of the town, he reluctantly dates his origin from the city ; but he would willingly expunge from his life that part which he spent east of Temple Bar. He commenced his career with a small fortune, and a considerable share of the shrewdness and effrontery. The slow gains of a tradesman were despised by his aspiring genius; and he determined either rapidly to rise into opulence, or to reduce himself to bankruptcy : he attained the latter alternative ; and after several mornings spent unsuccessfully at the Stock Exchange, and as many nights passed equally unpropitiously at A---n's coffee-house, in Fleet Street, he found himself a considerable sum worse than nothing. In this situation he determined to save government the expense of transporting him to America ; and with what little he could scrape together, he embarked for New York, leaving his creditors to lament their credulity.

He arrived in the colonies at the moment when the impolite measures of Lord North [Chancellor of the Exchequer, Prime Minister, 1767-1782] had kindled a flame which the best blood of Britain was lavished to extinguish. To a desperate man any revolution must be advantageous. A fluent tongue, and an unblushing countenance, served him in the place of more extensive talents. He was not cautious in aspersing that mother country from which he deemed himself forever exiled. The boldness of his language introduced him to the acquaintance and the table of [American] General Schuyler [Alexander Hamilton's future father-in-law]; he availed himself of the weakness of the daughter of that officer to obtain her affections; and Schuyler himself, involved in a contest, to the event of which he looked forward rather with apprehension than with hope, did not suffer himself long to be importuned for his consent.

It now became the interest of the General to push that of his son-in-law ; and he recommended him as an useful man to be employed in supplying the troops with provisions. No caution was necessary to him who had nothing to lose ; and Mr. Church not only entered into large contracts, which the General's credit enabled him to fulfil [sic], but became an immense speculator in the paper currency.

As the struggle daily inclined to the side of America Mr. Church advanced in importance, and launched into more extensive projects ; and when the court of Versailles threw off the mask, and signed eventual its own fate by espousing the part of the colonists, Mr. Church had influence to obtain the situation of Commissary to the French army. He did not neglect the opportunities that offered of exerting his talents in a profession, that is a mystery of iniquity too complicated to be unravelled [sic], too black to be conceived but upon experience ; suffice it to say, that his cupidity [greed for money and possessions] seemed to augment in proportion to his acquisitions ; and the hope that he began to entertain, from the probability of a speedy

peace, of returning again in splendour [sic] to a country which he so lately quitted in disgrace and indigence, added double keenness to his natural propensity to extortion.

The long-wished moment at length arrived ; the strength of Great Britain was exhausted in the long struggle ; and her rebellious sons triumphed over a parent who had too tenderly cherished them. A general amnesty was passed ; and all offences, by the policy or clemency of the British government, were buried in oblivion. Mr. Church seized the advantage of it; he applied himself assiduously to reduce to order his various concerns ; and with a few months after the definitive treaty was signed he embarked for England with a fortune of ninety thousand pounds [£14.5 million in 2022].

He landed in his native country with views and sentiments far different from those with which he quitted it. He was careful to shun those who had known him as the humble tradesman, and indigent bankrupt. With a disgraceful reluctance he parted with a small portion of his immense wealth, scantily to reimburse a few hundreds that he had borrowed before his departure, and to satisfy some claims at play which he had left unpaid ; but the bulk of his creditors had signed his certificate, and could make no legal demand ; and the honour [sic] of a gamester is superior to every transaction but what regards the gaming-table.

His former companions at A----n's [coffee-house on Fleet Street] were now passed by unnoticed ; or at the best only honoured [sic] by a distant bow. An elegant villa near Windsor, and a town house in Sackville-street, were immediately purchased ; his entertainments vied in prodigality with those of the most opulent nobility ; public breakfasts and fêtes-champêtres [outdoor entertainment] were given ; and were rendered more celebrated by the presence of the H----r A----t. He despised the honest partner of this bed, whose fond partiality had been the basis on which his fortune had erected ; he supported in the most splendid style a practiced courtesan, whose meretricious [apparently attractive but having in reality no value or integrity] skill once extorted the praise of superiority from the old Q---, and whose extravagance had considerably deranged the finances of a young Earl ; he was elected a member of Brooke's, of Payne's, and of the Whig Club ; and this man, who had acted as commissary to the old and open enemies of his country, who out to have shunned infamy in obscurity, had not only the assurance to fix his residence close to that of the sovereign, against whom he had taken so active a part, but carried his wanton insolence to the height of declaring his intention of offering himself as representative for the borough of Windsor. Windsor indeed was lost—but Wendover was more compliant ; and Mr. Church cannot fail of being an advocate for a parliamentary reform, when he is sensible that the gold acquired in the hostile service of France, procured him a seat for an English borough.

Large as the sum of ninety thousand pounds is, we are sensible that it is not inexhaustible ; and the numerous demands which seemed daily to increase on Mr. Church's purse, seemed to promise a speedy period to it. But while acting as commissary with the French army, it was not only the providing for the troops that occupied his attention ; and he was careful to provide in

future for himself, by diligently studying the whole art of play. Under such masters his native genius rapidly advanced ; and he soon became celebrated for that finesse at every game, for which the French have been so long distinguished. What he learned in the French camp he successfully practiced in London ; and adroit as Mr. St—pn—y is at piquet and backgammon, he found in Mr. Church an adversary who left him nothing to vaunt of. It is at least certain that Mr. Church boasted, that the first year he was admitted at Payne's, he closed his accounts a gainer twenty-seven thousand pounds; and his maiden campaign at Brooke's^[1] is reported to have been scarce less advantageous.

Yet amidst all these successes, amidst his sensual enjoyments, Mr. Church is supposed to have some moments of uneasy reflection. He feels that he may be envied without being esteemed ; that he may extort the admiration of the weak and profligate, but that he cannot command approbation of the good and considerate. The bankrupt is not forgotten in the senator ; nor the French commissary in the English patriot ; and it is plain to be perceived, that, notwithstanding his riches, the worthy part of his countrymen, are more select in the choice of their company, than the Whig Club are in their members.

¹ The club that was to become Brooks's was founded in March 1764 by twenty-seven prominent [Whig](#) nobles including the [Duke of Portland](#), the [Duke of Roxburghe](#), [Lord Crewe](#) and [Lord Strathmore](#). [Charles James Fox](#) was elected as a member the following year at the age of sixteen. The club premises at 49 Pall Mall was a former tavern owned by [William Almack](#) as was the neighbouring 50 Pall Mall where the society had previously met and so the club become simply known as Almack's. These fashionable young men, known as [Macaronis](#), would frequent the premises for the purposes of wining, dining and gambling.

RESEARCH

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[**John Barker Church**, MP, Wendover 1790-1796. (1748-1818). Biography, ed. R. Thorne, 1986 (UK). The History of Parliament: The House of Commons 1790-1820. Reproduced for educational purposes only. Fair Use relied upon. Source: <https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1790-1820/member/church-john-barker-1748-1818>]

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Published in *The History of Parliament: the House of Commons 1790-1820*, ed. R. Thorne, 1986
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Constituency

WENDOVER

Dates

1790 - 1796

Family and Education

bap. 9 Nov. 1748, s. of Richard Church of Great Yarmouth, Norf. by Elizabeth, da. of John Barker of Lowestoft, Suff.¹ m. June 1777, Angelica, da. of Maj.-Gen. Philip Schuyler of Albany, New York, 3s. 2da.

Offices Held

Biography

Church was set up in business in London by his wealthy uncle, John Barker of Mansel Street, a director of the London Assurance Company. According to a defamatory account of his career published in 1794, Stock Exchange speculation and gambling were responsible for his bankruptcy in August 1774, when he was described as a grocer, with premises in Mark Lane.² To escape his creditors he went to America where, under the alias of John Carter, he was one of three commissioners appointed by the Continental Congress on 26 July 1776 to audit the accounts of the army in the northern department. He obtained leave to resign his commission on 15 Sept. 1777, with the plea that 'important business requires his immediate presence in Boston'.³ Three months earlier he had eloped with the daughter of Philip Schuyler, one of Washington's major-generals, who, being ignorant of Church's 'family, his connections, and situation in life', found the match 'extremely disagreeable'. Mrs Schuyler's parents, the Van Rensselaers, interceded to bring about a reconciliation and Church was accepted into the family. He established a close friendship with Alexander Hamilton, who married his wife's sister in 1780.

In Boston, Church embarked on a variety of business ventures, including banking and shipping, and speculated in currency and land. He and his business partner, Colonel Jeremiah Wadsworth of Hartford, Connecticut, secured a contract for provisioning the French forces in America in 1780, and two years later they were contracted as sole suppliers to the American army as well. Church prospered, and James McHenry, Washington's former secretary, noted in 1782 that he had 'riches enough, with common management, to make the longest life very comfortable'.⁴



Biography Detail

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He went with Wadsworth to Paris in the summer of 1783 to settle his accounts with the French government and for the next two years travelled between Paris, where he became friendly with Talleyrand and renewed his acquaintance with Lafayette, and London, where he secured his discharge from bankruptcy in November 1783 and purchased a town house in Sackville Street. He returned briefly to America in 1785 to wind up some of his business affairs and dissolve his partnership with Wadsworth, and entrusted the management of his remaining interests in bank stock and land to Hamilton. In 1786 he bought a villa near Windsor. The Churches lived in extravagant style and their doors were always open to distinguished American visitors. A dedicated and skilful gambler, he became friendly with the Prince of Wales and Fox, to whom he lent at least £9,000.⁵

Church, who was 'recommended to the Whig party' by John Sawbridge*, contested the vacant seat at Maldon in February 1787, not with any hope of immediate success, but 'in order to spend a few hundreds to prepare his way for the general election'. He joined the Whig Club in April and considered standing at the Windsor by-election in June 1787, when George III remarked that 'his principles are so avowedly enemical [sic] that his political conduct may easily be judged'. His wife told Hamilton, 2 Oct. 1787, that his 'head is full of politics, he is so desirous of making once [sic] in the British House of Commons'; and the following year he bought the Verney property at Wendover, for which he returned himself at the 1790 general election.⁶

In the House, Church, who privately condemned Pitt as 'a very great rascal', sided with his Whig gambling cronies. He was involved, with the French ambassador, in some unsuccessful stock speculation during the Nootka Sound crisis, and on 3 Nov. 1790 he wrote to Hamilton that 'a mad credulity prevails here just as it did at the commencement of the American war, we despise our enemy, and dream of nought but victory'.⁷ Although he voted against government on the Spanish convention, 13 and 14 Dec. 1790, he approved Pitt's plan to pay off the debts incurred in rearmament and suggested, 15 Dec., that, rather than tamper with the unpaid Bank dividends, government might investigate the large sums lying idle in the hands of the trustees of public lands, of which he was one. Pitt thanked him for drawing attention to the matter, which was raised again by William Curtis with a motion for inquiry into the funds in the possession of the trustees of Ramsgate harbour, 3 Feb. 1791, when Church welcomed the idea and was appointed to the select committee. He voted in the opposition minorities on the Oczakov question, 12 Apr. 1791 and 1 Mar. 1792, was listed favourable to repeal of the Test Act in the former month, joined the Friends of the People and voted for Grey's motion of 7 May 1793 for inquiry into parliamentary reform, on which he held advanced views. He did not vote for Fox's amendment to the address, 13 Dec. 1792, but opposed the French war and voted regularly with the Foxite minority for the rest of his parliamentary career. In 1795 Gouverneur Morris, the former American minister at Paris, described Church as one of 'a party of English Jacobins' who, if they acted up to their professions, would be 'compromised to the extreme'. On 17 Apr. 1794 he tried, by pre-arrangement with Fox, to have the House counted out to forestall discussion of the emigration bill.⁸ He defended the proceedings at the Middlesex county meeting called to petition against the proposed repressive legislation, 24 Nov. 1795. Church, who gave hospitality to French *émigrés* after the Terror, subsidized Talleyrand's journey to America and was involved in the attempt to effect Lafayette's escape from prison, had sold his property at Wendover by 1796, when he retired from the House.

He returned with his family to New York the following year. When Robert Morris went bankrupt, Church, who had lent him large sums, took over the security, 100,000 acres of undeveloped land in western New York state, and gave a half-interest to his eldest son Philip, who developed it and founded the town of Angelica. He continued to engage in speculative enterprises, but lost heavily in buying up spoliation claims against the French government and eventually his share of the western lands was sold for the benefit of his creditors. In 1799 he fought a duel with Aaron Burr, the future vice-president, and ironically it was with Church's pistols that Burr and Hamilton fought their duel, in which the latter died, in 1804. At least £2,500 of Fox's debt to Church remained unpaid by 1806, and he made a number of attempts to recover it both before and after Fox's death. Lord Robert Spencer* admitted that his claim was strong, but it became clear that it could not be met directly in cash and Church instructed his son, who was in England in 1811 and 1812, to try to secure a compensatory 'provision' through William Adam's influence with the Regent. When Philip Church returned to America in October 1812 it was 'without taking any steps respecting' his father's claim, although he did not feel justified in 'formally abandoning it', and he thanked Adam for his efforts to promote

an unspecified 'object', which he considered 'as fully obtained as the circumstances of the time will permit'.⁹

Church returned to England about 1814, after the death of his wife, but was evidently unable any longer to cut a figure in society. He was buried at St. James's, Piccadilly, 2 May 1818, and his effects were assessed at a modest £1,500.¹⁰

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Author: David R. Fisher

Notes

This biography is based in part on information supplied by Keith Hutchison of Durham, Connecticut. Professor Donald R. Gerlach of the University of Akron, Ohio provided additional information about Church's marriage and his activities in America in the 1770s. Accounts of Church's life are given in C. J. Palmer, *Perlustration of Gt. Yarmouth*, ii. 321-8, and J. S. Minard, *Jnl. of American Hist.* ii (1908), 48-63, but both contain some inaccuracies.

1. *Par. Reg. Lowestoft, 1650-1750* ed. Crisp, 41, 121; *Cal. Freeman of Gt. Yarmouth, 1429-1800*, p. 235.
2. *The Whig Club* (1794), 120-1; *Gent. Mag.* (1774), 391.
3. *Jnls of Continental Congress* ed. Ford, v. 612; vii. 327, 341; viii. 744.
4. *Autobiog. of John Trumbull* ed. Sizer, 93-94; *Writings of George Washington* ed. Fitzpatrick, xxv. 244-5, 263; *Alexander Hamilton Pprs.* ii. 677; iii. 129.
5. *Hamilton Pprs.* iii. 417, 507, 565, 603, 605, 627, 651, 657; *Thomas Jefferson Pprs.* viii. 498; *Gent. Mag.* (1784), i. 155; Add. 51466, Fox to Church, 26 Mar. 1789, [20 Aug. 1791].
6. Essex RO, Strutt mss, J. H. Strutt and Rev. Bate Dudley to J. Strutt [Feb. 1787]; *Geo. III Corresp.* i. 373; *Hamilton Pprs.* iv. 279.
7. *Diary and Letters of Gouverneur Morris*, i. 527-8; *Hamilton Pprs.* vii. 136-7.
8. *Morris Diary*, ii. 101; Harewood mss, Canning jnl. 17 Apr. 1794.
9. Arundel Castle mss, Adam to Norfolk, 4 Jan. 1794; Palmer, 323-4; Add. 51469, Fox to Church [early 1806]; Blair Adam mss, Church to Adam, 3 Jan. 1807, Spencer to Adam, 27 Sept. [1811], 23 Aug., P. Church to Adam, 21 Jan., 19 Feb., 1 Oct. 1812.
10. PCC admon. act bk. 1818.

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John Barker Church

John Barker Church, a.k.a. **John Carter**,^{[1][2]} (October 30, 1748 – April 27, 1818) was an English born businessman and supplier of the Continental Army during the American Revolution. He returned to England after the Revolutionary War and served in the House of Commons from 1790 until 1796. He was known for his marriage to Angelica Schuyler Church, of the prominent American Schuyler family, and being the brother-in-law of Alexander Hamilton, who died in a duel in 1804 with Aaron Burr, with whom Church had also had a duel in 1799.^[3]

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In office1790–1796	
Preceded by	Robert Burton
Succeeded by	John Hiley Addington
Personal details	
Born	30 October 1748 <div>Lowestoft, England</div>
Died	27 April 1818 <div>(aged 69)</div> <div>London, England</div>
Resting place	St. James, Piccadilly
Political party	Whig
Spouse(s)	Angelica Schuyler Church <div>(m. 1777; died 1814)</div>
Children	8

Early life

John Barker Church was born on October 30, 1748, in Lowestoft in eastern England, the son of Richard Church (1697–1774) of Great Yarmouth, Norfolk by Elizabeth Barker (1701–1800), daughter of John Barker.^[3]

Career

Church was set up in business in London by his mother's brother, a wealthy uncle named John Barker who was a director of the London Assurance Company. It was reported that speculation on the stock exchange and gambling were responsible for his bankruptcy in August 1774.^[4]

To escape his creditors he went to America, where he became one of three commissioners appointed by the Continental Congress in July 1776 to audit the accounts of the army in the northern department.^[3] There he operated under a *nom de guerre* as John Carter.^[1] He resigned his commission in September 1777,^[5] and moved to Boston, Massachusetts. In Boston, he began a variety of businesses, including banking and shipping, and speculated in currency and land. In 1780, along

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Barker_Church

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with his business partner, Col. Jeremiah Wadsworth of Hartford, Connecticut, he secured a contract for provisioning the French forces in America, becoming Commissary General. Two years later, they were contracted as sole suppliers to the American army as well, and ended up making a fortune.^[3]

Return to England

After the war from 1783 until 1785, Church and his family lived in Paris while he performed his duties as a U.S. envoy to the French government. After briefly returning to America in 1785, Church and his family left for England the same year. In 1788, the Churches bought the Verney property at Wendover so that he could run for Parliament, which he did in 1790, when he was elected a Member of Parliament for Wendover.^[6] Prior to his election, he was involved with the Marquis de la Luzerne, the French ambassador in some unsuccessful stock speculation during the Nootka Crisis,^[3] a dispute between Great Britain and Spain.^[7]

Member of Parliament

In December 1790, during his time in Parliament, he voted to approve Prime Minister William Pitt's plan to pay off the debts incurred in rearmament, after having previously been against the government on the Spanish convention. After his vote, he suggested the government should investigate the great amount of money held by trustees of public lands, himself included, not being utilized rather than interfere with unpaid Bank dividends. The Prime Minister thanked him for highlighting the issue. In 1791, William Curtis raised the issue again with a motion for inquiry into the trustees of Ramsgate harbour over their possession of funds. Church was appointed to the select committee as he supported the idea.^[3]



Verney property at Wendover

In 1791, he voted in favor of the unsuccessful attempt to repeal the Test Act in Scotland. Also in 1791 and again in 1792, he voted with the opposition in the Oczakov debates concerning the Russian occupation of the Turkish port of Ochakiv on the Black Sea.^[8] In 1793, he joined the Friends of the People and voted for Grey's motion for inquiry into parliamentary reform, which did not achieve success until 1832. In December 1792, he voted against his fellow Whig, and party leader, Charles Fox's Libel amendment, but opposed the French war. Thereafter, Church regularly voted with the Foxite minority for the rest of his parliamentary career.^[3]

In 1795, Church was described part of "a party of English Jacobins" who if acted upon their statements, would be "compromised to the extreme," by Gouverneur Morris, the former American minister to France. In 1794, he tried with Fox, to stall discussions of an emigration bill in the House.^[9] In 1795, Church defended the proceedings at the Middlesex County meeting that was called to petition against the proposed legislation that he deemed repressive. Church was known for his hospitality of French émigrés after the Reign of Terror, paying for Talleyrand's journey and tour of America, and being involved in an attempt to free the Marquis de Lafayette from prison. By 1796, he sold his property at Wendover to the Right Hon. Robert, Lord Carrington,^[6] and retired from the House of Commons.^[3]

Return to the United States

The Church family returned to America for a visit in 1797, and then returned permanently in 1799 to New York, where Church became a founding director of the Manhattan Company^[10] and a director of the Bank of North America.^[11]

In May 1796, Church accepted a mortgage on 100,000 acres (40,000 ha) of land, a portion of the Phelps and Gorham Purchase in present-day Allegany County and Genesee County, New York, against a debt owed to him by his friend Robert Morris.^{[12][13]} After Morris failed to pay the mortgage, Church foreclosed, and his son Philip Schuyler Church acquired the land in May 1800.^[12] To take possession of the land, Philip Church traveled to the area, near the Pennsylvania border, with his surveyor Moses Van Campen.^[14] Philip Church selected specific acreage along the Genesee River for a planned village, which he laid out to be reminiscent of Paris, including a village park in the center of town, enclosed by a circular road with streets radiating from it to form a star, and five churches situated around the circle. Philip settled there in a log cabin, and built a house when he married in 1805.^[15] He named the village Angelica, New York, after his mother.^[15]



Wood engraving from a portrait of Philip Schuyler Church, son of John and Angelica Church

John and Angelica Church befriended many French upper-class refugees from the French Revolution, helping them settle in Allegany County and elsewhere throughout the United States. In 1806, the Churches began construction on a thirty-room mansion near the village of Angelica, called Belvidere, which still stands as a privately owned home on the banks of the Genesee in Belmont, New York.^[16] Although they had intended to make it their summer home, it instead became the residence of their son Philip and his wife when it was partially completed in 1810.^[16]

In 1800, Church was admitted as an honorary member of the New York Society of the Cincinnati.^[17]

Burr–Hamilton duelling pistols

Church was an experienced duellist, and owned the Wogdon pistols used in the 1804 Burr–Hamilton duel. The weapons had already been used in an 1801 duel, in which Hamilton's son Philip was killed. Following the duel, the pistols were returned to Church, and reposed at his Belvidere estate until the late 19th century.^[18]

Later legend claimed that these pistols were the same ones used in a 1799 duel between Church and Burr, in which neither man was injured.^[19] This makes sense according to the accepted rules of the 'code duello', in which the challenged (in this case, Church) had the right to choose the weapons.^[20] However, the same rule was apparently ignored in the 1801 duel, where Philip Hamilton was the challenger and also supplied the weapons borrowed from his uncle. Also, Aaron Burr claimed in his memoir that he owned the pistols used in his duel with Church.^[21] Hamilton biographer Ron Chernow accepts Burr's version of the story.^[22]

Personal life

In 1776, Church met Angelica Schuyler (1756–1814), a daughter of General Philip Schuyler, during a visit to her father's house, the Schuyler Mansion.^[23] Knowing that her father would not bless their marriage because of his suspicions about Church's past, Angelica and John eloped in 1777. It is not

clear when her parents learned of their new son-in-law's actual name, as General Schuyler complained, "Carter and my eldest daughter ran off and married on the 23rd inst. Unacquainted with his family, his connections and situation in life, the match was exceedingly disagreeable to me, and I had signified it to him."^[24]

Together, John and Angelica had:

- Philip Schuyler Church (1778–1861),^[25] served as aide de camp to Hamilton,^[26] who married Anna Mathilda Stewart (1786–1865), daughter of General Walter Stewart; and was a founder of the Erie Canal and Erie Railroad^[13]
- Catharine "Kitty" Church (1779–1839), who married Bertram Peter Cruger (1774–1854)^[27]
- John Barker Church II (1781–1865)
- Elizabeth Matilda Church (1783–1867), who married Rudolph Bunner (1779–1837)
- Richard Hamilton Church (1785–1786), died young
- Alexander Church (1792–1803), died young
- Richard Stephen Church (1798–1889), who married Grace Church
- Angelica Church (b. 1800)



Mrs. John Barker Church, Son Philip, and Servant, oil on canvas, John Trumbull, c. 1785

Belvidere, the Church family estate in rural western New York,^[13] was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972 as a prime example of Federal style architecture.^[28]

After the death of his wife in 1814, Church returned to England. He died in London on April 27, 1818, after a short illness,^[29] and was buried at St. James, Piccadilly. By this time, his estate was only worth a modest £1,500.^[30]

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Notes

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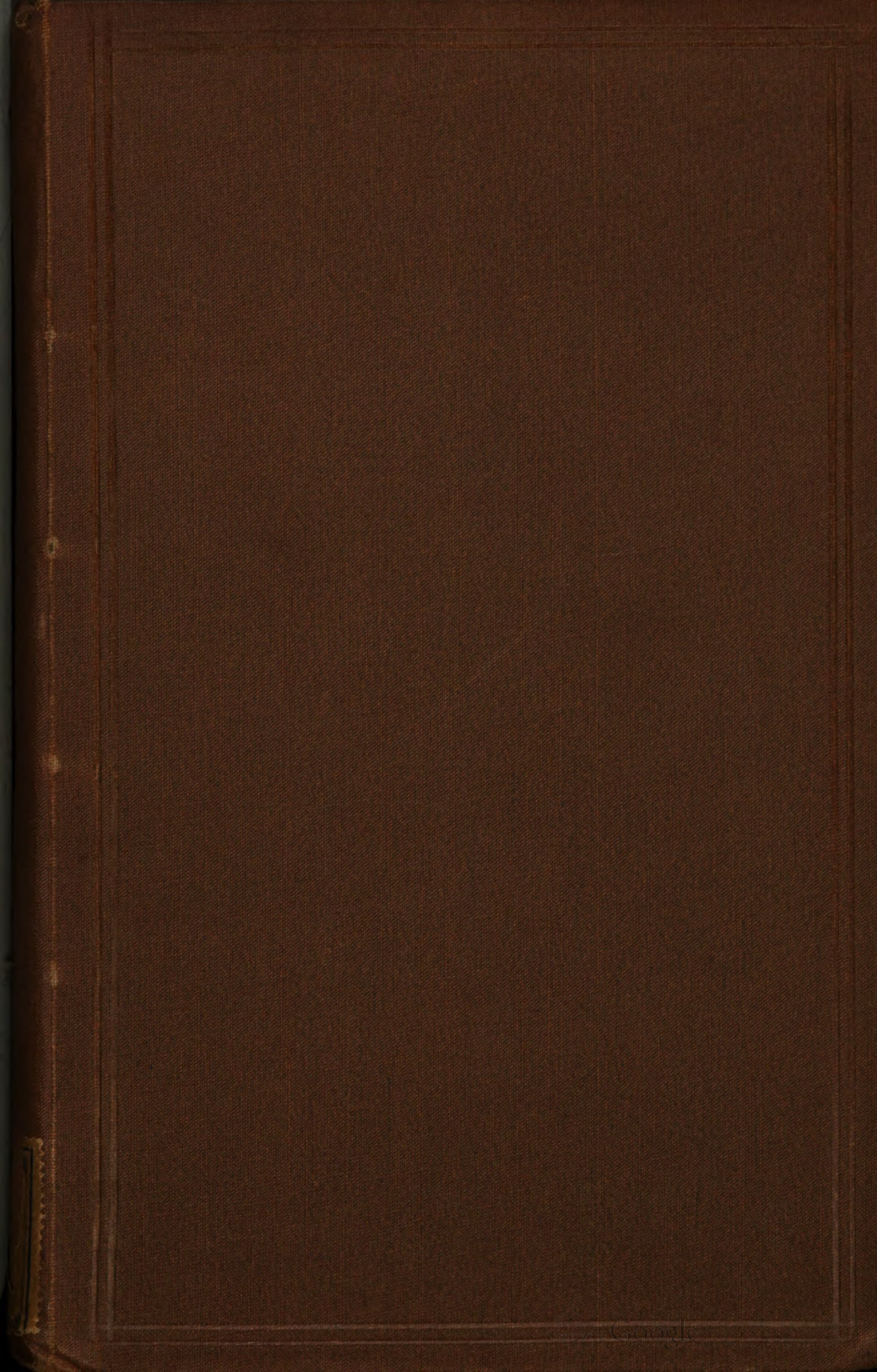
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THE WHIG CLUB:

OR, A

Sketch of Modern Patriotism.

COMPRISING THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERS:

Mr. F—x.	L—y C—le.	Mr. W—n.
Lord H—d.	Sir C. B—y.	Lord G—y.
Mr. G. S—n.	Lord Wm. G—n.	Mr. H—ll W—n.
Miss P—lh—m.	Sir J. L—de.	Lord G—d.
Mr. S—n.	Captain M—s.	Mr. F—s.
Mr. G—y.	L—y S—pe.	Mr. C—t.
Sir H. G—y.	Mr. E—d.	Mr. G—t.
Mr. S—t.	Mr. G. S—m.	Mr. H—gs.
Mr. W—d.	Mr. H—y C—be.	Mr. A—m.
Mr. L—n.	A—n S—r.	M—r M—d.
Mr. T—n.	A—n P—r.	Lord L—le.
Lord B—ve.	A—n S—ge.	D—e of N—d.
Colonel F—k.	Miss B—n.	Colonel M—d.
D—e of B—d.	Miss S—n.	Colonel T—n.
D—fs of B—d.	Mr. W—s.	Mr. T—n.
Lord E—y.	Mrs. M—y.	Mr. B—l.
Mrs. G—dn—r.	Ld. C—r of I—d.	Mrs. B—n.
Lord Wm. R—ll.	Lord W—tm—h.	The M—ne.
Lord J. R—ll.	Mr. C—h.	Lord Rt. S—r.
D—e of N—k.	General S—r.	Lady C—s S—r.
Sir J. H—n—d.	Mr. S—y.	Mr. R—d B—d.
Captain P—ne.	Lord M—d.	Mr. Rt. A—r.
Mr. B. H—d.	Lord A—le.	Mrs. B—ll.
Mr. H. H—d.	Lord C—n.	Doctor P—rr.
Lord D—y.	Mr. C—y.	

&c. &c. &c.

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THE

WHIG CLUB.

AMIDST the various sources of that revolution which still engrosses the attention, and menaces the safety, of all Europe, it cannot have escaped the most superficial observer, how great a share of the anarchy of France must be attributed to those political associations, which she inconsiderately has cherished in her bosom. The clubs of the Jacobins, the Feuillans, and the Cordeliers, have successively aspired to influence the public opinion. But the Jacobins have almost invariably maintained the ascendancy ; the weight of their sentiments

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has been acknowledged in the decrees of the national assembly and the convention ; their sanguinary proscriptions have been accompanied by immediate execution ; whoever has been bold enough to expose himself to their resentment, has been compelled to seek his safety in exile, or to expiate his temerity on the scaffold ; and that resentment has been constantly levelled against those who have presumed to recommend the re-establishment of order, and a decent submission to the will of the legislature.

Yet this club, whose bloody dictates and savage controul have rendered its very name an object of detestation and reproach to the surrounding nations, was founded rather in weakness than in guilt. It owed its origin to Mr. Alexander Lameth, a man whose chief crime consisted in aspiring with inferior talents to a superior station, in imagining himself capable, at pleasure, of inflaming and restraining the human passions ; whose intentions were good, but whose capacity was weak ; whose wishes were for freedom, but whose views extended not beyond a limited monarchy ; who
has

has suffered that punishment which those in some measure deserve, who obtrude themselves into situations for which they are unequal; and who has himself been crushed by the very engine he erected.

When Mr. Lameth, with his associates, Fayette, D'Aiguillon, Barnave, &c. found the Jacobins disdained the rule of their founders, they quitted the society, and established a new club, under the name of the Feuillans; they established it too late to save themselves, but in sufficient time to give a lesson to posterity, how dangerous it is to create any political association, which, in a manner, holds itself independent of, and considers itself a check on the conduct of, the legislature. Though the polished writings, keener arguments, and superior character of the Feuillans commanded, for a moment, the attention and respect of their countrymen, these were soon drowned by the words of *liberty* and *equality*, which the Jacobins thundered in the ears of the populace. The Feuillans, in endeavouring to restore order, lost the only means by which they could hope to restore it; the

confidence of the multitude. The moment they became suspected, their fall was inevitable, and their fate may be recorded in a few words—they have been plunged into dungeons, they languish in exile, or they have perished by the guillotine. Ought their destiny to excite our compassion? Surely not. The untutored bear, who is wrecked in the boat he attempts to navigate, only becomes the object of derision: but, if he has allured others by his vaunts to be the companions of his enterprise and calamity, a stronger sensation than that of contempt arises. Do we lament, that the general whose incapacity has exposed his army to destruction, should himself be involved in the slaughter? Punishment with justice follows close on presumption; we cannot but approve the chastisement, though we should be unwilling to be the instrument of it. The leaders, who suffer from their own rash folly and adventurous ambition, cannot be subjects for pity; we reserve it for the millions who have been allured into misery by their visionary and ill-concerted projects.

One

One obligation however we owe to these men: they have left us their example; and, if we know how to avail ourselves of it, the bequest is not inconsiderable. Even in this country, clubs have arisen from an inconsiderate and similar spirit for reform. The Society of Friends to the People, Friends to the Liberty of the Press, the London Corresponding Society, &c. all pretend to dictate to parliament, to correct the abuses of government, and to regenerate the constitution.

The influence of these clubs is overshadowed by that of another, which has arisen rapidly to celebrity. The Whig Club was originally formed in the year 1780, to answer an electioneering purpose, and to support the pretensions of Mr. Fox to represent the city of Westminster. But the leaders of the party that established it soon found that it might be extended to greater designs. Men of splendid talents, high birth, high fortune, became members of it; it was considered as the organ of those who acted in opposition to administration; its sentiments, and even its toasts,

2

were

were industriously circulated through the kingdom; its resolutions not unfrequently claimed the attention of parliament; it maintained from the capital a political correspondence with the distant counties, and the Whig Club of Dublin, and of Southwark, with a variety of other clubs in the provincial towns of the kingdom, may be considered as the offspring of this prolific parent.

In common with the Jacobin Club, the Whig Club contained many members, whose views extended no further than to guard the ancient barriers of the constitution from encroachment. Many of these gentlemen, who may be considered as the Feuillans of their party, have withdrawn themselves from a society, whose designs they could no longer approve. I trust that they have not, like the Feuillans of France, withdrawn themselves too late, and that they may yet retrieve their error. Some yet remain of integrity, but rather from a feeble and indecisive temper, which permits them not to separate from long formed connexions, or to revoke openly a confidence which they had
in-

inconsiderately granted ; they remain indeed, but it is as the passive spectators of a system which their probity will not allow them to countenance, and their weakness will not allow them to condemn ; and hence the names of Cavendish and Bentinck are still to be found on the same roll with those of Fox and Sheridan.

But it is purged of these, that the Whig Club stands forth the object of observation ; it is in the public and private characters of its chiefs, that its designs are to be traced ; from their conduct or condition, we may form some conjecture of what they aim at. That liberty of the press, of which they have declared themselves such zealous assertors, I doubt not they will readily acquiesce in, even when exercised in tracing their own features ; and that they will receive what is here offered them without resentment, as a proof of that moderation which they would observe, should ever, unfortunately for this country, their sincerity, in a ministerial capacity, be put to the test.

The obscure mercer in Chandos-street may be gratified in being hailed as father of
this

this club; but it is he for whose support it was erected, and whose genius appears to pervade the whole, who will ever be considered as the chief, and that man is

CHARLES FOX.

His father was himself a younger branch of a young family, and first established his fortune, at the expence of a salacious Englishwoman, more to the credit of his vigour than his morals. He introduced this son so early into life, that the very spirit of the constitution was wounded by his being returned to parliament before he had attained the age of twenty-one, and consequently before he could legally take his seat in the house. His talents were known before they were felt in debate; and either the opinion of his capacity, or the weight of his connexions, obtained almost immediately for him a seat at the Admiralty Board; the duties of his station could not occupy a mind volatile like his:

" Shall parts so various aim at nothing new?
He'll shine a Tully and a Wilnot too."

Ardent

Ardent in all his pursuits, he was not more zealous in pursuing the ruin of his country than his own; in his harangues in the house he was strenuous to defend that decision which had precluded the electors of Middlesex from choosing their own representative; in his amusements at the club, he was vigilant to engage every honourable gambler who would consent to waste the night at whist, piquet, or hazard; the warrants for the admiralty were frequently signed amidst jockey peers, and titled black-legs; that not a moment might be lost, while the right hand directed the pen, the left still continued to rattle the dice-box; and he is reported once to have written down the rules of the game he was playing at, instead of the orders of his office.

Such was the meritorious conduct that, under a profuse and profligate minister, promoted Mr. Charles Fox from the board of the admiralty to that of the treasury; and the noble lord who held the reins of government, little thought the moment was rapidly approaching which was to convert

C

his

his darling élève into an open political adversary. But the defaulter of unaccounted millions had expired; and largely as he had provided for his favourite son, that provision had already been anticipated by the boundless extravagance of a profligate spendthrift. A motley crew of jews, and christians more rapacious than jews, deluged the commons, and impatiently examined every sentence and codicil. Bonds, annuities, and post obits, without number were produced; the ready cash, the villa at Margate, and the hotel in Piccadilly, were incapable of answering their demands; they departed gorged, yet not satisfied; and Mr. Fox had the mortification to find that the long wished-for death of a father had only increased his embarrassments.

His anti-chamber was now incessantly crowded with hungry creditors; their importunities he might have resisted, and, safe in his senatorial capacity, he might have despised their menaces; the distress of the tradesman might have passed neglected; but to want money for play, was an evil of too severe a nature to be endured, while there
was

was any possibility of avoiding it. Miss Pelham, whose unfortunate attachment to the gaming table sixty winters of perseverance have only confirmed, had lost a sum to the late Mr. Selwyn, which exceeded her ability immediately to pay; she however, with that punctuality which she has ever observed, soon raised, and sent it by Mr. Fox to Mr. Selwyn. The former gentleman's finances were at that time much deranged, and he hesitated not to embrace an opportunity of restoring them, by staking the money thus entrusted to him on the chance of a die. He lost—and having lost, his memory became so treacherous that he never recollected to mention any part of the transaction either to Miss Pelham or Mr. Selwyn.

Some weeks after, Miss Pelham meeting Mr. Selwyn, apologized for having delayed so long the debt she had discharged through the hands of Mr. Fox. Mr. Selwyn stared; an eclaireissement took place; the secret was divulged: amongst the bosom companions of Mr. Fox, even so gross a violation of confidence was only received with a laugh;

but when it reached the ear of the sovereign, who, pure in his own conduct, wished those who approached him to be equally free from reproach, it was heard with the frown of honest indignation; and he intimated his resolution to the minister, that the name of such a man should no longer disgrace his service.

At that time the cordiality between the minister and Mr. Fox had been greatly diminished: the necessities of the latter had induced him to press the former for a place of more emolument. Some general professions, if not promises, had been made; and Mr. Fox having in vain urged the performances of them, dropped a menace of entering into opposition. The resentment at this menace concurred with the wish of the sovereign; and a letter of dismissal was sent to Mr. Fox, couched in terms which sufficiently justify the pretensions of lord North to the character of a man of wit.

Sir, his majesty has been pleased to make out a new list of lords of the treasury, among which I do not see your name,

It

It is probable Mr. Fox was content with the declaration of the minister, without examining the list himself, in hopes that his eyes might be better than those of the noble lord. No longer permitted to be a placeman, he commenced patriot; but such a patriot as Sir Robert Walpole so forcibly described. "Patriots," said that veteran statesman, "spring out of the ground like mushrooms; I myself have made many; it is but refusing to grant an unreasonable demand, and up springs a patriot." Such was the patriotism of Mr. Fox; but with it was mingled a keen resentment against the immediate author of his disgrace; and in one of the philippics which he launched against the minister during the course of the American war, he declared, "he regarded him as a man so void of faith, that in any negotiation he would not trust himself in a room alone with him."

Miss Pelham was not the only sufferer by ill-judged confidence in this immaculate patriot; the propensity of his elder brother, Stephen, is so well known that it scarce needs to be described; he was lethargic to a de-

gree hardly credible ; and after a good dinner, in which he loved to indulge, he would fall asleep even with the cards and dice-box in his hand. Charles, who knew his failing, determined to avail himself of it. The brothers had agreed to raise a sum of money in conjunction ; the money was to be paid at Charles's lodgings, where a sumptuous entertainment was prepared ; Stephen eat voraciously, as usual ; Charles encouraged a quick circulation of the glass. With the dessert the sons of Mordecai were introduced ; and Stephen, yawning as he took the pen, signed the deeds. Charles affected to count the money, until he found by the nasal trumpet of his brother that he was secure for the evening ; he then pocketed the cash, and hastened away to the gaming-table. About midnight Stephen awaked : when he found his brother gone, he quickly judged the reason of his hasty departure ; and, seized with an unusual alacrity, he set out in pursuit of him. The club was the certain scene of rendezvous. But Charles had played unsuccessfully ; the money was dispersed into fifty different hands ; and Stephen found

found that instead of receiving three thousand pounds, he must be satisfied with the recollection of an excellent dinner and an excellent nap.

When an unprincipled man stands in need of money, there is no expedient to which he will not have recourse. The figure and features of Mr. Fox, certainly ought not to flatter him with the hope of retrieving his affairs by marriage; yet Mrs. Grieve, of swindling memory, can witness that he was not without confidence in this resource. The lively fancy of Mr. Foote has improved the idiot to which Mr. Fox was introduced into a mulatto; as he himself once observed, *a good candidate could not be of a bad colour*; he might justly suppose that Mr. Fox thought *a rich wife could not be of a bad colour*. But though the story has been circulated with exaggeration, it is well known that Mrs. Grieve introduced a female idiot to Mr. Fox, as a young lady of weak intellects, but of immense fortune; and such was the eagerness of the honourable senator to secure the latter, that his penetration was blinded by his avidity;

dity; nor was it until after several visits, and that he had been pigeoned out of a few bank notes, that he discovered the artifice.

It is painful to sully the paper with the filthy anecdote circulated, and but too well attested at Bath; when the mind is once sunk in sensual vice, nothing is too gross for conception, too indelicate for execution. Yet though polluted within, the manners of a gentleman might be preserved without; and the exterior of decency maintained, though the laws of morality are neglected or trampled on. Yet it is doubtful whether any night-cellar in St. Giles's ever furnished a more offensive instance of depravity than that recorded beneath*; an instance which
no

* Mr. F—, in the winter of 1775, was extremely pushed for money; one night, after a run of very bad luck in the rooms at Bath, he stepped out, and calling a chairman into a private apartment, he asked the man if he could do what nature requires (but what decency will not permit us to name) in his Mr. F—'s breeches. The man was astonished, and could not at first believe him serious; but convinced that the request was sincere, and tempted by the offer of a guinea, he answered, "Though he could not immediately gratify his honour—he dared to
say

no one can repeat without disgust, nor read without contempt.

The resources that could be drawn from expedients more disgraceful than those of Vespasian, afforded but a scanty and precarious supply to him, whose profusion had drained the coffers of veteran avarice. And such was the distress of Mr. Fox, that he has been known to pledge at play his silver ticket of admission to the opera. The cre-

say he could find one of his companions who could." He accordingly produced, in a few minutes, an assenting brother of the pole. Mr. F— untrussed; and, to use the words of Pistol, was accommodated. He returned to the rooms, but whoever he approached, was alarmed with an odour, not of musk or bergamot. The whispers grew louder and louder; at length one not so reserved as the rest, boldly exclaimed, "F—, you have certainly — your breeches." The modest senator denied the charge with a mixture of resentment and confusion: but the scent could not be overpowered by words; bets were offered—he seemed to hesitate—but when they amounted to a proper sum, he closed with them. He then desired Patrick, who was in waiting, might be called in. "Who — in my breeches?" demanded the decent statesman. "Me, please your honour," replied the chairman. Mr. F— then pocketed the money, and retired to clean himself from the filth by which he had gained it.

D

dulity

dulity of tradesmen was also exhausted ; execution followed execution : not a single horse was left ; he was reduced to walk on foot : but his invention was sharpened by necessity ; it is a quick transition from being preyed upon, to prey upon others : he became what it is more easy to guess than safe to mention.

The happy importation of faro from Spa to London, was a novelty that attracted the notice of all those who attend parliament for amusement, and the clubs for business. The new club established at Brookes's hailed it with transport ; a bank was immediately formed by Lord Cholmondeley, Messrs. Fox and Hare. The money was chiefly supplied by the former. The profits of the bank at faro have been estimated, on a moderate computation, at between five and six per cent. of all the money played for : and this honourable firm are reported to have divided, the first year, upwards of thirty-seven thousand pounds. To those who know the quick circulation of money at faro, this sum will not seem enormous ; and thus Mr. Fox found a new resource to support his extravagance

vagance from a traffic which openly violated the laws of his country ; and for which a person of more humble birth, and less elevated situation, would have been condemned to prison.

In the dreary interval from play, Mr. Fox was found constant at his station in parliament ; there his philippics, by the boldness and brilliancy of his language, excited the astonishment and admiration of his hearers. His political adversaries were overwhelmed by the torrent of his eloquence ; the disasters of the American war concurred with his wishes ; and he had the satisfaction to behold the strength of his country broken, and his political rival overthrown.

But his satisfaction was of short duration ; and he had scarce time to exult in his victory, before he was in his turn exposed to defeat. The splendour of his genius had not so far dazzled the eyes of the people, as to render them entirely blind to his vices. To his professions of public integrity was still opposed the unprincipled tenor of his private life ; and it was necessary that some person of acknowledged probity, but of inferior

ferior capacity, should be ostensibly placed at the head of affairs, to give a sanction to the administration of Mr. Fox. Such a person was found in the late Marquis of Rockingham, who, a plain, good-natured, honest man, was easily taught to approve those measures which he could not have projected.

This arrangement was broken by the unexpected death of the Marquis of Rockingham; and Mr. Fox found that he had a rival to contend with in the cabinet, whose address was superior to his own. Of supple principles and insinuating manners Lord Shelburne had already possessed the ear of majesty; in every council his ascendancy seemed to increase; and Mr. Fox had the mortification to find that another was chosen to reap that harvest which his long labours in opposition had sown. To those who are acquainted with the human mind, it will not be considered surprising, that a momentary resentment should supersede every other consideration; and that Mr. Fox, under such an impression, should resign the seals.

It was expected that this resignation
would

would have embarrassed the measures of government so much, that his majesty would have been reduced to have solicited the return of those who had retired. But a short time convinced Mr. Fox of his error: a new administration was formed; Mr. Pitt accepted the office of chancellor of the exchequer; and the wheels of government were at least still kept in motion. The ex-secretary had now leisure to repent of his precipitation; a peace was concluded; and there remained but one ladder by which he could again ascend to power. Several members of the house of commons were still attached to Lord North; and with that nobleman Mr. Fox formed a COALITION. He joined, without a blush, his political interests with one whom he had described as the most profligate of ministers, and the most perfidious of men; with one, whose talents as a minister he had so long affected to deride, and whose faith as a man he had so frequently impeached; with one, whose head in the ardour of debate he had more than once demanded, and whose life he had declared would be but a poor explanation

tion for the calamities he had brought on the country.

The united strength of these new allies prevailed ; the cabinet was literally forced ; and they obtruded themselves into every post of honour or profit. But such a daring sacrifice of principle, such an open violation of the most solemn professions, was not to be justified by the colourings of the most glowing eloquence. A general cry of contempt and indignation was heard throughout the kingdom. These leaguers for spoil became the objects of universal reproach ; and the term of COALITION was applied to every thing that was base and perfidious.

Without either the confidence of the king or the people, Mr. Fox was conscious it would be impossible for him to maintain his situation, unless he created to himself a new support. It was with this design he formed his East India Bill, the chief intention of which was to place the extensive patronage of the Eastern settlements in the hands of a few, the associates of his hopes and fortunes. But though, through the influence of the coalition, this bill was sanctioned by

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a majority of the commons, it met with every mark of disapprobation without doors, and was finally rejected by the lords. With the bill, expired the ministerial life of him who had framed it. The sense of the people had been proclaimed too openly to be misunderstood; it coincided with that of the sovereign. Mr. Fox was grown too cautious to *resign*; he, and his whole party, were turned out; a new administration was chosen, of which Mr. Pitt was the chief; and to that administration a new parliament soon after gave vigour and efficiency.

From this moment the character and fortune of Mr. Fox have languished and gradually declined. The indisposition of the king afforded a transient gleam of hope, which was overclouded by his own impatience in pressing forward the right of the prince, and which totally vanished on the recovery of the sovereign. The frantic zeal with which he has stood forward the advocate of the bloody anarchy of France, has deprived him of the few respectable names which had hitherto been enrolled with him. His private affairs have become
 8 desperate,

desperate, as his public expectations. The herd of fashionable gamblers are now too well acquainted of the inequality of faro, to punt as formerly at his bank. At hazard he meets with veterans as adroit as himself; and those who are not so quick at calculation are too wary to engage with a man who can descend to every iniquitous mystery of the art to support his practice of it. At Brookes's he is suspected; at Newmarket he is a bankrupt.

Yet amidst his distress he is industriously planning schemes of pleasure, and rather than deny his appetites their full gratification, he has stooped to solicit that humanity which unfortunate virtue only has a claim to. The man who aspires to rule the kingdom, has exposed his mendicancy in the most abject form; a subscription has been handed about, to extricate him, not from embarrassments arising from casual misfortune, but brought on by an habitual perseverance in vicious enjoyments; not to afford him a decent subsistence, but to enable him to support in splendour a veteran courtesan, whose lascivious skill to provoke the

the languid powers of manhood, and stimulate the jaded senses, is her sole recommendation.

Even this last step has proved unprofitable as well as humiliating. Though his professed friends seemed to meet the proposal with ardour, and talked largely of their liberal intentions, that ardour gradually cooled as the moment for payment approached. Most of them were needy as himself; and could only offer their names to entice the unwary. In consequence of this the subscription stands still; each scruples to advance his money until the other subscribers have paid theirs; and the small sum that has been gleaned from the inexperience of Lambton, Wharton, and Michael Angelo Taylor, had proved a drop in the ocean; and Mr. Fox, after having tried this last degrading expedient, finds himself less respectable, and yet not more opulent than before.

Such has been the conduct of Mr. Fox, and it is on such a life that he founds his pretensions to the confidence of a people, and the administration of a kingdom. In the commencement of his political career we

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behold

behold him an obsequious placeman ; in the conclusion of it, a professing patriot ; in every station, the slave of a passion which tramples on the tenderest and strongest connections of friendship and of nature. The few followers that remain to him are loud indeed in praise of the qualities of his head, but they preserve a prudent silence on the qualities of his heart. The proper application of the gifts of heaven makes them indeed a blessing ; but those talents which under a right direction might have been of the highest service to himself and his country, with his disposition are a real prejudice to both ; and make him the ready and dangerous instrument of the most enormous crimes that can promise the present gratification of his sensual desires.

Must it not become a national reproach to see the minister of a great people constantly pass from the cabinet to the gaming table ; from projects to advance the glory of a state, to schemes for the destruction of inconsiderate youth, or doting age ; from proposing in the council laws to amend the morals and reform the manners of the

5 people,

people, to plan at the club new games to insnare the unwary, and to prey upon the rich? Should any foreigner demand what is the fortune of this gentleman who is a candidate for the administration, and who indulges himself in every article of private luxury and splendour, what must be the answer? His resources are drawn from the open violation of the laws of his country; from means which are deemed always scandalous, and often fraudulent; and which, when practised by those of an inferior rank, are punished by heavy fines or tedious imprisonment. For what purpose can such a man, industrious only in vice, submit to the restraint of any application, but to acquire a fund that he may lavish in his gross amours, or the still grosser excesses of the table?

That one fatal passion should stain a character in other respects blameless will be ever excusable; but where a variety of vices contend for dominion, without the relief of one virtue, more than disgust, horror is excited. These are not the ebullitions of youth; Mr. Fox has attained a time of life when the

blood grows cool; when the midnight studies of hazard and faro ought to sleep; when reason ought to awake; and when decency ought so far to prevail, as not to sport under the public eye a prostitute drawn from the stews, and whose active course has been run through the purlieus of Covent Garden and the Strand. Do the Great imagine their examples have no influence; or is it their wish that the infection should spread, and the whole nation become unprincipled and licentious like themselves?

Though in the life that Mr. Fox has persevered in many disagreeable occurrences must have arisen, they seem to have made no impression on him: such is the natural vivacity of his temper, that it never yields to a second moment's vexation at any one event; upon the least miscarriage of any business he finds relief in the return to pleasure. Hence his admirers have extolled his magnanimity as superior to the vicissitudes of fortune: how such a disposition can be consistent with the meanness of soliciting a subscription it is difficult to conceive; it is still more difficult to imagine how

how Mr. Fox hereafter shall presume to talk of independence in the presence of Mr. Coke or Mr. Lambton, Mr. Whar-ton or even Mr. Taylor.

That copious stream of words which he pours forth at pleasure, is, indeed, justly the theme of admiration; but as the viper bears in herself the antidote of her poison, so does his character prevent his abilities from doing all the mischief he otherwise might, by pulling off the mask, and shewing his plans too soon for their accomplishment; the very persons who would gladly avail themselves of his venality, not daring to trust to his profligacy. The only power that remains to him of doing evil is by impeding the measures of those, whose successful honesty disappointed his designs, and shewed the danger of them in its proper light. His labours must be like those of Sisyphus, eternally to roll the stone upwards, which, ere it reaches the summit of the hill, descends again upon him. He has abused too much, both in public and private, the confidence of the people ever to obtain it again; but one distinction he still

still may claim—it is, to be the leader of the Whig Club; a club well worthy of a leader, who is neither to be awed by shame nor restrained by principle.

A mighty and a fearful herd they are,
As ever offer'd foul play in a state.

In a club where they affect to disdain the prejudice of birth, and each man is supposed to be supported only by his intrinsic merit;

R——D B———Y S———N

May justly aspire to the next rank to Charles Fox. In native and refined wit superior to his chief, and scarcely yielding to him in redundancy of eloquence, his allusions are more happy, his metaphors better chosen, and his periods more elegantly turned. He wants indeed that torrent of expression which characterizes the former; but he makes amends for it in his epigrammatic points, and the aptness of his classical quotations.

In principles these two gentlemen may be considered as the Gemini of the political
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hemisphere, nor does any shadow of virtue appear to divide them in private life. The circumstances of Mr. S——n confined his youthful irregularities within narrower limits; but the fertility of his genius in finding resources early shone forth. A short time after his leaving Harrow he went down to Bristol to spend a few days. Before he quitted that place, he wished to obtain, on credit, a new pair of boots; but as the people of Bristol, next to the Genoese, are of all people least inclined to put trust in promises, he thought where no confidence was given, no breach of faith could be imputed. He called on two different sons of Crispin; ordered each to make a pair of boots, to bring them home at different hours on the morning he had fixed for his departure, and told them they should punctually be paid on the delivery of their goods. On the appointed morning, the first that came found the hopeful youth in expectation. He tried on the boots, found one pressed upon his heel, directed the man to take it home, stretch it, and return with it the next morning: the man, who could
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not comprehend what service a single boot could be of to the possessor, obeyed. His brother Crispin soon followed; the same fault was found; the same direction repeated; and Mr. S——n having obtained a boot from each, mounted his hack for the metropolis, leaving his dupes to lament that two veteran tradesmen of Bristol had thus been over-reached by a raw stripling.

This was the faint dawning of a genius which has since burst forth with superior lustre, and has invariably supported itself on the public favour or credulity. Where Mr. S——n has availed himself of the former, the source of it has been most honourable to himself. In his dramatic compositions he has shone unrivalled; and his real friends have ever lamented that a false ambition should have allured him to quit a path which must have led to honest fame and competence, to prostitute his talents to a faction, who, though they pretend to reject the pretensions of illustrious extraction, still are secretly so much swayed by ancient prejudice, that they will never acknowledge the

the son of an actor as their leader, however superior may be his capacity.

Yet the early days of Mr. S——n, though not spotless, were certainly more favourable, both to his reputation and happiness, than those which have followed. If necessity sometimes betrayed him into errors, those errors were retrieved or atoned for by rapid and brilliant exertions of genius. He chose his companions from men of similar talents and similar dispositions to himself; with those he lived in easy and social intercourse; if their repasts were homely, they were seasoned with wit and mirth; they were neither embittered by envy, nor poisoned by ambition. In his marriage he solicited and obtained the hand of a lady, whose reputation he had vindicated with his sword; and whose amiable qualities he long considered an ample recompense for the wounds he had received as her champion. The powers of her voice have been deemed above all praise; yet the fascination of her voice never surpassed that of her face; and the charms of both were rivalled by those of

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her mind. With this lady he enjoyed for some time as complete happiness as the lot of human life in general allows of. If the wants of to-day sometimes pressed upon them, they were forgotten in the abundance of to-morrow; and if the circle of their acquaintance was limited, their own fire-side and conversation afforded them enjoyments which few can taste, but all must envy.

Such was the life of Mr. S——n, until ambition changed his pursuits, his friendships, his affections, and his very nature. The electors of Stafford were desirous to shake off the trammels in which they had long been held, and offered their suffrages to any political adventurer, who would rely on their faith. In an age when a seat in parliament is deemed the immediate road to power and to fortune, it is no wonder that Mr. S——n should be dazzled with the prospect. He set off in company with Mr. M——ton, the partner of his enterprise, and whose more weighty purse was to defray the expences. They were but too successful; Mr. S——n was chosen a

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member,

member, and from the day he entered the house of commons he appeared to have renounced all his former virtues. He courted the acquaintance of the great; he vied with them in extravagance and guilt; he treated with infidelity and scorn that wife whom he had hitherto adored; he slighted those whose intimacy he had cultivated while he viewed himself in the humbler light of an author or a manager. The good-natured, cheerful man was lost in the supercilious senator, who seemed to value himself in having all the hours he had spent in cringing on the great, repaid in attendance on himself. A negligent or a brutal husband, a servile and artful flatterer, a specious and professing friend, an insidious political ally, he hates the man beneath whose standard he is compelled to rank himself; who, in return, views him with eyes of jealousy and suspicion.

It was to female weakness that Mr. S——n applied to undermine the patron who first introduced him to political consequence, and to whom he had vowed eternal friendship and fidelity. The different language

that passed in the house between Mess. Fox and S——n, respecting Mrs. F—h——t, is still fresh in every one's memory. From that moment the influence of the former declined, and the favour of the latter rapidly advanced at Carleton House. But it is not by the opinion of a young man enchanted with the meretricious blandishments of a Ninon L'Enclos, that the conduct of Mr. S——n was to be determined; the public judged differently from the P——; they applied to Mr. S——n a character from one of his own plays; and the name of Joseph Surface has ever since been a substitute for his own.

The peculiar circumstances of the times, which have thinned the phalanx of opposition, have induced Mr. Fox to suspend his resentment at this treachery; but though the appearance of cordiality is restored, every thing is hollow beneath the surface; and the private enmity of these gentlemen is supposed to gather strength in proportion to their public demonstrations of friendship. They are both loud, and both probably sincere, in their admiration of the
anarchy

anarchy of France. The evils they labour under admit only of the same remedy ; and it is only in the wreck of matter, the crush of worlds, that they can find that equality of which they profess themselves the idolators.

In one particular Mr. S——n has certainly surpassed Mr. Fox ; the latter has in living profusely spent a large fortune ; while the former has lived profusely without ever having had a fortune to spend. He was born to no inheritance ; he acquired nothing by marriage ; he never followed his profession of the law ; he has not been a successful gamester ; and though the principal patentee for Drury Lane, it is well known the purchase money has never been paid, and that the expenditure of that house at one time exceeded the receipts. Whence then have been his resources ? Does he possess the wand of Midas, or the lamp of Aladin, or has he attained to that long sought secret the philosopher's stone ? In that fanciful performance entitled *Hermippus Redivivus*, an account is given of a
stranger

stranger who lived some time at Venice in the utmost affluence and splendour, though he followed no trade or merchandize, had no property in the common funds of the state, nor ever received any remittance from abroad; he, however, suddenly disappeared from Italy, and no mortal ever learnt from what place he came, or whither he went.

Though this was considered a singular anecdote at Venice, it is by no means so in London. In this metropolis, many of these great men have shone forth with uncommon lustre for a time, without any visible means of livelihood; and then, to the regret of crowds of tradesmen, have suddenly disappeared, and nobody ever knew the place of their retirement.

The retreat of Mr. S——n will probably not be so precipitate; while he continues in parliament, his personal liberty is at least secure. Fortified with this privilege, he is indifferent to the clamours of his numerous duns, and suffers, without concern, his tradesmen to become bankrupts, while

while he himself riots in every species of luxury*.

The mind of Mrs. S——n was not so firmly steeled: she sunk beneath the neglect of an husband, and the embarrassments his profusion had created. A few weeks before her death, as she was stepping into her carriage to take the air, the coach and horses were seized by an impatient creditor. In full health she would not have suffered much from a circumstance to which she had been more than once exposed; but her feelings were rendered more acute by indisposition; she returned into the house in tears; the disease of the body was increased by the distress of the mind; and she ascended to heaven to receive the reward of her sufferings below.

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* When Mr. S——n inhabited a house in Bruton-street, the landlord was desirous of getting rid of a tenant, who seemed to consider quarter-day as expunged from the calendar. He offered Mr. S——n a receipt in full for all arrears if he would quit. Mr. S——n was too well pleased with his residence to accept the proposal; and Mr. W—— was at last reduced to the necessity of untilling the house, that he might unlodge its persevering inmate.

The husband must have been selfish indeed that did not rejoice at the translation of his wife from earth to heaven; and Mr. S——n was so little desirous of concealing his satisfaction, that ere the corpse was scarce cold he appeared at the play-house. He now cultivated more than ever his intimacy at the white house in Piccadilly; and he was received with such smiles of cordiality, as are supposed to have occasioned some uneasy sensations in the breast of royalty.

The time for action was now approaching; the French had pushed their love of equality to an extent which had excited the admiration of that desperate herd, who, overwhelmed with debts, and polluted with crimes, can only hope to find a refuge from poverty and contempt in general anarchy. Among *the Friends of the People*, among *the Friends to the Liberty of the Press*, among *the select of the Whig Club*, the voice of Mr. S——n was heard loud and strenuous in praise of their conduct. His ardour of patriotism was, however, productive of one mortification, which he
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was far from expecting. The influence of Mrs. F. had hitherto attracted to him no insignificant proofs of royal munificence ; but his powerful patron was awakened from his delusion by the danger which menaced the throne of his father ; he determined to estrange himself from those counsellors who had misled his youth ; Mr. S—— became a stranger at Carleton House ; all future supply was stopped ; and he is left again to prey upon the world, or, in plainer words, to live by his wits.

What refuge indeed remains for this miserable man, but that which may complete, with his own, his country's misery ? He can no longer descend to that situation in which his real glory consisted ; he can no longer recall those hours which have been prostituted to the purposes of faction, but which, had they been properly employed, would have ranked his name with those of Wycherley and Congreve. These are beyond his reach, and the prospect of the future is gloomy, as the recollection of the past is painful. He already anticipates his fate ; to live for ever the drudge of a party

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who distrust him while they employ him ; who despise his obscure birth, while they avail themselves of his talents ; or by one daring exertion to pull the fabric of the state on his head, and immortalize his own destruction by that of his country.

C——s G——.

The son of a veteran officer who has distinguished himself by his zeal and activity in the American war ; the nephew of a baronet who is known only from his peculiarities, C—— G—— entered life with the eclat of his father's achievements, and with the expectations of his uncle's fortune. That uncle had once been known, amongst the gay and pleasurable, as the leader of every frolic and fashion. When member for the county of Northumberland, such had been his alacrity in the midnight orgies of convivial society, that it was a common observation, that Sir Harry slept with one eye open. Night after night the same system was pursued with the Delavals, the Lyddels, and the Middletons, whose exploits in gallantry were
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the theme of that age. From these jovial companions he suddenly withdrew himself. A repulse in love induced him to seek solitude; and in solitude he fancied himself attacked by a thousand ills, of which amidst the pursuits of Bacchus and Venus he had never been sensible. Imagination had the same effect upon him as real indisposition; his pulse was become languid, his respiration short; and under these ideal maladies he shut himself in his house, from whence, except to dine with his late physician, Sir Richard Jebb, or to take a solitary airing, he has scarce ventured out for thirty years. Sir Richard was too wise to remove the vapours in a man of ten thousand a year; and he countenanced his caprices with so much address, that he is supposed to have received about four^{or five} thousand guineas from him in fees. It is certain at least, that he has left to his heir a mortgage of ten thousand pounds on Sir Harry's estate.

Though Sir Harry secluded himself from company, he did not renounce the practice of that benevolence which he had commenced in his earlier days. He proved

himself a most affectionate kinsman in every degree. He resigned to Sir C——s, his younger brother, the F——l——d——n estate, in Northumberland, which amounts to near nine hundred pounds a year; and he educated the children of Sir C—— with the same care as if they had been his own.

The eldest of these children is C——G——, whose political conduct has attracted the general notice of his countrymen. He received his school learning at Eton, where from his figure he was known by the name of *Lankey*. From Eton he was transplanted to Cambridge, where the arrogance of his demeanour, the haughty reserve he maintained, and the dogmatical manner in which he uttered his opinions, changed the name of *Lankey* to that of the *Great Man*. From Cambridge he visited the Continent, and improved his college acquaintance with Mr. W——b——d, who was travelling at that time under the direction of Mr. Coxe.

But the acquaintance of Mr. W——b——d was not the only one that he cultivated on the continent. As he passed through Italy, he met with the Duke and Duchess of C——b——l——d,

b—l—d, whose health had induced them at that period to quit England. A gentleman of their household had been obliged on his private concerns to return to his native country. Mr. G—y was chosen to supply his place; and this connection served to raise his consequence, and became his passport to all foreign families of distinction.

On Mr. G—y's arrival in England, a vacancy had just presented itself for the county of Northumberland, by Lord Algernon Percy succeeding, on the death of his father the Duke of Northumberland, to the title of Lovaine. To represent his native county was a favourite wish of Sir Charles G—y: but the services of the father yielded on this occasion to the expectations of the son; who, though he had scarce attained the legal age, was, in the very month that his mother was delivered of a daughter, returned without opposition to Parliament.

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So little was then known the political bias of Mr. G—y, that it was a question from Mr. Rose to those who were related to him, what party he would espouse : but he suffered not Administration long to remain in doubt ; and it is to the credit of his judgment, that he entered on his public career by a strenuous opposition, though qualified by terms of moderation, to one of the most beneficial treaties that has ever been made by this country, the commercial treaty with France.

Secluded from the din of party faction, Sir Harry had been occupied only with the care of his own health, and in providing for his brother's children.—If any thing, his political opinions leaned to the side of government ; his sister had been married to Sir G—y C—p-r ; and Sir Harry remembered, though Sir G—y had forgotten, the favours his brother-in-law had received from government.

ment. He was also anxious to advance his nephews, two of whom had entered into the army, and one into the navy. But these views had little weight with C—l—s. His vanity had been engaged on the other side ; from his debut in parliament, his intimacy had been sedulously courted by all the leaders of opposition ; a sumptuous entertainment was given on his account by Mr. S——n ; he could not withstand the assiduous adulation that was showered on him from every side ; he yielded to their caresses ; and was proposed, and immediately elected a member of the Whig Club.

From being admitted into this society, Mr. G—y has become the violent opponent of the minister ; and has even, in the vehemence to which he has abandoned himself, forgotten so far the dignity of his senatorial situation, as to mingle personal menaces with political invective : those menaces have been despised ; that invective has been retorted ; and he has been instructed, that it is easier to threaten than to execute. His worthy uncle has given way to the torrent, which his age and his ideal infirmities al-

low him not to oppose; he has even caught in some measure the contagion; and has been lately known to drop some few expressions in favour of equality, without recollecting that it must necessarily level the superb mansion at Howick, and parcel out the extensive manors that surround it.

In one respect Mr. C——s G——y has merited the partiality of his uncle, and has preserved a character different from his preceding associates. He has neither wasted his time nor fortune at a gaming table, nor stained his reputation with scenes of sensual excess or gross debauchery; a single match that he made with Sir Harry L——l, immediately on his return to England, for a hundred guineas, is the only instance of his hazarding any money on the chance of a die, or the address of a jockey. He did indeed hint an intention of setting up a pack of hounds; but no sooner did the whisper reach Sir Harry, than he ordered the kennel at Howick to be pulled down*. Once he

* This reminds us of an anecdote of the late Mr. St——t of Dorsetshire. He pulled down an elegant mansion

he has been suspected of sacrificing to titled age ; but with this exception, his amours have been such as his youth may excuse : the objects of his passion have been chosen for their charms, and not for their lasciviousness ; and his commerce with them has at least been conducted with decency.

Mr. S——L W——D.

This gentleman follows Mr. G——y as close as his shadow ; their juvenile days were past together ; their friendship was confirmed on the continent ; and their connections are cemented by the marriage of the former with the sister of the latter. The elder Mr. W——d, whose renown is circulated with the porter he brews, for some time opposed a match, where blood could only be offered in lieu of cash ; nor had he probably

sion in that county ; the erection of which had cost him 30,000 l. and when asked the reason, " Why," said he, " Humphrey (his eldest son) would ask me to live in " it.—I could not with decency refuse him ; and I " know the dog would kill my pheasants."

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ever consented, could he have foreseen that the fever of patriotism would have been communicated from Mr. G—y to his brother-in-law. Mr. W——d has, however, sucked in deeply the poison; but that warmth which is adorned by the eloquence of Mr. G—y, appears in his wild and frantic ravings, in all its native deformity.—When he would melt the house into tears, they are not unfrequently convulsed with laughter; and when he would beguile them into a smile, he is sure to excite a yawn.

The opinions of the tutor with whom he travelled, seem to have made but little impression on him. Mr. C—e has asserted, that, the most entertaining evening he ever spent was in conversation with the King of Poland. But at the name of a king Mr. W——b—d starts with horror; and his fancy revels in that anarchy of France which is to confound together beggars, peers, and princes. Indifferent to the reproaches and remonstrances of a father, who has been but too indulgent to him, and whose dearest interests are at stake, he professes his impatience for

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an opportunity of proving his disinterestedness, by sacrificing the princely profits of the brewhouse, to the character of being a patriot, and to the honour of belonging to the Whig Club.

Mr. L———N

Is also the bosom friend and political associate of Messrs. G—y and W——d ; between them both he preserves a middle station ; and is as inferior in abilities to the first, as he is superior to the last. His father early entered into the army ; but he entered into it rather with a view to the emoluments of a regiment, than to the laurel of victory. He attained the former ; and no sooner attained them than he renounced the further pursuit of military honours, and betook himself to more profitable projects ; while his regiment was suffering incredible hardships abroad, he was living quietly on his pay at home. The general commenced banker ; and such have been the fruits of his assiduous avarice, that he has

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swelled

swelled a fortune of less than three thousand a year to upwards of twenty thousand. The parsimony of the man has however been forgotten in the partiality of the parent ; and to his son he has ever been liberal and indulgent. He was not content with affording him all the advantages of an university education, but he sent him with a princely allowance to make the grand tour.

At Paris the taste of Mr. L——n blazed forth in a manner that eclipsed even the boasted profusion of Mi Lord Anglois. His horses, his equipages, his intrigues, were the general theme of admiration ; he formed a connection with a Lais more celebrated for the charms of her person than the purity of passions : he transplanted her to England ; but great as the general's fortune was, her capricious profusion was severely felt. After a warm expostulation with his father, he consented to dismiss her with a present of five thousand pounds ; and his mind estranged from love, and impatient of inactivity, has since been chiefly occupied by politics.

As a speaker, Mr. L——n is far from contemptible ; and he has had the superior discre-

discretion above his bosom friends, to avoid exposing his reputation on every occasion. As a man, he has certainly performed many humane and generous actions. The recent death of his father, it is to be hoped, will awake him from his political delirium; and induce him to preserve the noble inheritance he has succeeded to, by withdrawing his name from the Whig Club.

Mr. TH——N.

Had this gentleman been as desirous of escaping observation, as he has been assiduous in courting it, still his peculiar situation would have pointed him out as the object of curiosity, even to those who are least curious. Though he finds himself enabled to vie with the first nobles of the land in prodigality, he can hardly form a probable guess at the name of his father. Penelope had not more suitors than his mother; but the latter despised the frigid character of the former, though she has imitated her conduct in exacting from her lovers rich pledges
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of their affection. One she has given in return ; the hopeful youth, whose character is before us : and so far was she careful of his future prosperity, as to choose him a nominal father from one of the richest of the tribe of Levi. The amorous and credulous Girgashite received with rapture the precious proof of his vigour, and spared no expence in rendering it worthy the stock it sprung from.

At Cambridge Mr. T———n was distinguished by the spirit with which he entered into every party of dissipation ; in his bets he surpassed the most daring ; and what added to the astonishment of every body was, that he seemed desirous of losing. It is well known that his first introduction into the Jockey Club was through Lord B———e, whose acquaintance he purchased at the expence of above two thousand pounds, the harvest of one week's piquet. He disdained all rule and restraint ; gamed high, drank hard, kept his hunters, rode hack-races, and gave a very promising prospect of the part he would fill when he should enter upon the theatre of the

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town. A short tour which he made on the continent, gave him a little smattering of French, and the manners and appearance of a dancing-master.

On his return to England, three things were necessary to establish his consequence, Brookes's, Parliament, and the Whig Club. The wealth of his nominal father was a sufficient recommendation to the first; that he should find access to the second through the borough of Evesham is the best argument that he can use for a parliamentary reform; but to the last his introduction was more easy—a silly zeal for republicanism had marked him at Cambridge; and in London he is said to have boasted that he hazarded his neck in climbing up to, and relieving nature on the equestrian statue of Charles the Second.

But the intrepidity he has displayed against an inanimated figure has not accompanied him in his contest with flesh and blood; and in a dispute he had some time since with Mr. R, a Yorkshire gentleman, he patiently endured, with some small change of circumstances,

stances, the insult that he inflicted on the statue.

He has lately encountered an adventure scarce less mortifying. His vanity had induced him to throw out among his friends, hints that a well-known lady of fashion, celebrated for her vivacity, had granted him favours which, whatever may have been her apparent levity, a virtue superior to prudery, had hitherto secured from the imputation of imparting. The scandal reached the ears of the fair one; she disdained to remonstrate with so worthless a character, but she took her revenge in a more pleasant way. On a very inclement winter's day she sent him a formal invitation for the evening to her house at a small distance from town. Mr. T—— arrived, arrayed in all the splendour that wealth could purchase—a very second Beau Mordecai. He was surprised to find his fair hostess alone: his vanity induced him to draw a favourable inference from this circumstance; and his hopes were wound up to the highest pitch, when he was desired to dismiss his carriage and servants

vants till a late hour, as the lady expressed her hopes to have his company tête-à-tête to supper; but after complying with this request, and spending an hour in general conversation, he was alarmed by the intrusion of four athletic fellows. *These persons*, said his hostess, as she retired, *will have the pleasure of entertaining you according to your deserts; a satisfaction to which I am unequal.* A blanket was in a moment provided; the dismayed inamorato was vaulted into the air; and after having endured this discipline, amidst the scoffs and coarse sarcasms of the servants, he was literally turned out of doors; and, as at that time of night no carriage was to be procured, was obliged to walk to town, exposed to a violent tempest of wind and rain.

Yet this man has the assurance to talk of dying in defence of the liberties of his country! this wretched spawn of promiscuous prostitution and hoary lechery! this nameless minion where both sexes have conspired to blend their opposite vices! who is shameless as his mother, and

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daftardly as his father; and who, without courage to vindicate his own injured honour, has the effrontery to declare himself the champion of the glory of Great Britain.

COL. F———K.

Those who have shared the convivial hours of this distinguished character, will acknowledge that he possesses wit to give charms to every subject that he speaks on, and that his humour displays the foibles of mankind in such colours, as to put even folly out of countenance.

Yet those foibles, which he can so happily ridicule, he himself is the slave of. The younger son of a noble family, he entered into the army; and has been rapidly pushed up to the highest rank of a profession, less profitable than it is honourable. He proved himself however not unworthy of the promotion he obtained; and that spirit of enterprise which accompanies him in his amusements and his vices, was honourably displayed in the service of his country, amidst the wilds of America. But though

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as a soldier he scorned to shun danger, and drew with alacrity his sword against the Americans—as a senator he strongly reprobated the conduct of the minister, and was the strenuous advocate of the revolted colonies. To shine at table, and in the house, requires different talents; and the celebrated wit was lost in the ungraceful and hesitating orator. His birth and connexions still gave him influence: Mr. Fox, when raised to the administration, did not forget his bosom friend; and the Colonel was appointed Secretary at War.

It was reluctantly, even to find resources to gratify his appetites, that he consented to divert a small portion of his time from pleasure to business; and when the precipitancy with which they pushed on the E—I—bill terminated the political ascendancy of his party, perhaps of all the associates of Mr. Fox, he least regretted the decision which dismissed him from state affairs to hazard and faro. In the former pursuit he has been found indefatigable; and it is probably with truth that he boasts that he

has thrown the dice more frequently than any man in England.

A younger brother's fortune was soon exhausted ; nor is there any disgraceful expedient to which he has not had recourse to raise supplies. The inhabitants of Duke's Place have felt, and acknowledge his address. And the Jews have confessed themselves in pecuniary transactions out-manœuvred by an officer of the guards. A small collection of pictures, which are the ornaments of his house in Park Lane, has been a frequent resource. His house has been constantly filled with executions ; no tradesman is ever paid ; and at dinner, when the party seemed rather to decline the glass : *Gentlemen*, said he, *push about the bottle, never spare the claret, it belongs to you as much as it does to me.*

The Colonel, from the joys of dice and burgundy, has found some hours to appropriate to love. Mrs. Benwell long reigned his favourite sultana ; she seemed recommended by her congenial disposition ; and the menage was a joint concern. It was
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while this lady resided with him, that her charms attracted the notice of the eldest son of a well-known nabob, whose administration at Madras was the object of public enquiry. Mr. R——d loved indeed with the magnificence of an eastern prince ; and, on the first glance of hope, he sent two pair of diamond ear-rings to Mrs. B——, desiring her to choose those she thought handsomest. She kept them both, declaring she was incapable of deciding which deserved the preference. The present was probably opportune both to the Colonel and his mistress ; since the jewels were soon after assigned to, and made their appearance in the windows of, a noted jeweller in Bond-street. The amorous fair was at length disgusted by the late attentions of the Colonel to the hazard table ; and she has sought the arms of an equally zealous and younger member of the Whig Club.

It has been reported, that despair for this desertion first induced the Colonel to enlist himself among the numerous Aeronauts, who, about six years since, were ambitious of soaring to renown. But we have reason to
know,

know, that very different motives tempted him to the regions above. He had ventured considerable bets on this enterprise; and descended from the flight, richer by eight thousand pounds than he was before. Though he had lawful claims upon him for much more than this sum, he never thought of satisfying any of them. A creditor, who called on him for only 20l, the day after this successful voyage, was desired to call the next day, and *then he should be told when to call again*. Indeed the payment of debts is a weakness of which no one can accuse the noble Colonel; all his ideas tend to present enjoyment; and as he has lived without believing that there is a God on earth, so he will probably die without believing there is a devil in hell.

D— of B——D.

This nobleman has approved himself the true descendant of the venerable Gertrude and her deceased consort, of economic memory. The late duke was so tenacious of his

his money, as to preserve it at the hazard of his person ; and since the weight of the horse-whipping was diverted on his confidential dependent, the few blows that fell on his own shoulders he considered fully compensated by a score of guineas that he saved. He had, however, the address to convert a personal quarrel into a political one, and to represent the outrage as arising from party difference ; and, to efface the remembrance of this disagreeable event, he applied himself with increasing assiduity to heap up wealth : the whole business of his days, his dreams by night were how to increase his boundless store ; to do which there is not a mean or ungenerous act, invented by the perverted ingenuity of the human mind, when sharpened and made desperate by want, which he did not practise.

The venerable Gertrude was equally diligent in her own province with her husband. On the death of her daughter-in-law, who was the victim of a deep and settled melancholy, which she cherished from the moment her noble consort expired, Gertrude hesitated not, in despite of every custom, and

and to the injury of a favourite maid, who had assiduously attended her mistress in her last agonies, to expose even the clothes of the amiable marchioness to sale.

Nor is this the only instance where her rapacity has trespassed on the perquisites of her domestics. Her rank, as well as her eager passion for play, laid her under a kind of necessity of making a splendid appearance, and of inviting as much company as she could to her gaming parties. She considered that the pieces of candles, that remained after the company retired from her routs, would serve in her family on ordinary occasions, and save the expence of buying; but how to get them was the difficulty, as the footmen, who found the lights, retained them as their due,

At length one night, when the company by some accident broke up much sooner than ordinary, so that the candles were not half burnt out, she was not able to resist the temptation: as soon as she imagined the servants were asleep, she stole out of her bed, and went down stairs, naked in her
3 shift

shift as she was, to collect the candles in the sockets.

It happened unluckily that one of the footmen suspected some of his fellows had found a way of opening the box in which the vails were kept till they were divided, and resolved to watch for the thief. He had not waited long when he heard his mistress treading softly through the apartments, and caught her in his arms, loaded as she was, with the pieces of candles with which she had filled the fore-part of her shift.

It is easy to conceive her surprise and confusion at such an encounter; nor was the fellow's much less. But the discovery of her situation soon restored him to his senses; and instantly suggested the method of his revenge. "*And so, my dear,*" said he, "*you want candles; but I'll make you pay for your pilfering.*" Saying which, he prepared to gratify a passion more natural at least, if not more delicate, than that which had brought her into such a scrape.

The lady, who could not be at a loss to know what he designed, was in the highest distress. Her virtue instantly took the alarm;

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but it was a singular circumstance which proved the safeguard of her honour. The fellow had scarce taken her into his arms, when the perfumes, which steamed from every part of her, gave such offence to his nostrils, that his stomach instantly turning, he discharged its contents full in her face, before he had time to let her go; and then damning her for a stinking brimstone, spurned her from him with abhorrence. As soon as she had recovered her breath, she picked up some of the candles which she had dropped, and retired; the manner of her deliverance a good deal lessening the pleasure of it; though it was some satisfaction to her, to think that she had preserved her booty, and escaped undiscovered.

In the latter hope, she had soon the mortification to find that she was deceived. The noise she made in opening her chamber door, convinced the fellow, that his rencontre had not been with a servant; her waiting woman, to whose assistance she had recourse to clean herself, though conjured to secrecy, could not remain silent; and the whole transaction, with a thousand additions,

tions, was circulated through the metropolis.

The present duke has not degenerated from the virtues of this worthy grandmother ; though Lady M-yn—d might boast that she had polished his manners, to open his heart was beyond even her powers. Some years since he was applied to by a female relation, whose gallantries have made some noise lately in the world, and of whose husband Sir William Howe once observed, “ *In dress he was more finical than a woman, but in action more daring than man.*” Mrs. G—dn—r wanted the sum of five hundred pounds, to extricate her from some embarrassments she laboured under, and to enable her to join her husband on the continent ; her application was even countenanced by Gertrude ; but she met with a mortifying repulse, conveyed in the following terms: “ *I am sorry, Madam, that it is out of my power to afford you the assistance you request ; but I lost last night three rubbers at whist, which made a difference to me of full fifteen hundred pounds ;*” nor could all

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the entreaties, to which she humbled herself, obtain a more favourable answer.

Some time back his Grace was on a visit to an Irish peer in the neighbourhood of Gravesend, who, though descended from a jew *, is
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* Even versed as old G——n was in all the arts of pecuniary negotiation, he was once over-reached by a christian, and that a young one. It was his custom to occupy a particular seat at old Jonathan's, where he was engaged largely in the traffic both of buying and selling annuities. One morning, while he was pursuing his customary speculations, he was addressed by a young man whose dishevelled hair, swollen eyes, and slovenly dress, bore striking marks of intemperance and debauchery. A'n't your name G——n ? and don't you deal in annuities ? Yes, Sir. I want to buy one of two hundred a year. What do you ask ?—2400l.—That's too much, I'll give you two thousand.—Pray, Sir, sit down, will you drink any thing ? Aye, a glass of brandy.—Do you choose another glass ? With all my heart, my stomach's cold. G——n now thought he was sure of his man ; he agreed to the price, the money was paid, and the deeds drawn. Six months after he was accosted in the same place by a well-dressed gentleman, who politely demanded his half-year's annuity. G——n surveyed him with some marks of astonishment ; he still flattered himself the alteration in his dress and appearance might
arise

less a jew in his pecuniary transactions than most christians. With a proper view to the main chance, the duke had sent an old pair of leather breeches, which he had brought with him, to Gravesend to be mended. While the company were waiting in the saloon for a summons to dinner, a servant of Lord E—— informed his Grace, that the breeches-maker's boy wanted to speak to him. "Send him to my valet," was the answer. The servant, however, returned to express the boy's desire to speak to the duke in person. "Damn him, what can he want?" exclaimed his Grace, as he went out; and though the company were silent, the same question naturally arose in their minds. Such was their impatience when the duke returned, that they could no longer repress their desire to know the object of this

arise from some accidental cause. After settling the account, he asked him to drink a glass of brandy. No, Sir, replied the gentleman, I never drank but two in my life, and those were when I purchased this annuity of you; and I will take care how I ever drink another.

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strange interview: "Oh! he only brought me a fifty pound note, which I had left in the fob of my leather breeches." Everybody burst out in praise of the boy's honesty. *And what did you give him?—Give him!* replied his Grace—*Nothing to be sure; what, for merely doing his duty?* The company believed at first that he jested; but when they found he was in earnest, they threatened to circulate the story, unless he would change his resolution. But his Grace was callous to disgrace: he laughed at the menace; observed he was too *knowing* a one to be thus frightened; and, after dinner, when Lord E——'s liberality set the example in making a purse for the boy, he even refused to contribute his guinea.

Yet this man is in the receipt, it cannot be said enjoyment, of seventy thousand a year; nor does he disdain the mean virtue of charity, more than the riotous practice of hospitality. A dreary void reigns through his magnificent mansions,

Like some lone chartreux stands the good old hall,
Silence without, and fasts within the wall.

No rafter'd roofs with dance and tabor found,
No noon-tide bell invites the country round.

Tenants

Tenants with sighs the smokeless towers survey,
 And turn th' unwilling steeds another way.
 Benighted travellers, the forest o'er,
 Curse the fav'd candle, and unop'ning door ;
 While the gaunt mastiff, growling at the gate,
 Affrights the beggar, whom he longs to eat.

All his Grace's servants are at board-wages ;
 and when a reluctant dinner is after many
 struggles given, it is given at the tavern.

It is an old remark, and strongly exemplified in his Grace, that avarice is the real source of deep play ; by gaming, as well as by economy, the noble duke was determined to swell the immense hoard left him by his grandfather. Before he seriously engaged in the practice, he studied play as a science ; he made himself master in the different games, and was perfect in calculation. He knew where the odds lay, and what they were, under every circumstance ; and was always clear in understanding the superiority that one man possessed over another in the match, as well as under the different chances of the game.

That application to mathematics, by which his fellow students at Cambridge aspired to a wrangler's wreath, enabled his
 Grace

Grace to attain the reputation, with the exception of Mr. Sawbridge, of the best whist player in England. Thus qualified, he was launched on the ocean of adventure ; a noble stud of horses was purchased ; and Newmarket resounded with the praises of his judgment and address. In his first matches he was eminently successful ; but he was soon taught that there were secrets beyond the theory of play, and into which the practice alone could initiate him. For these secrets, old Vernon and Grosvenor were determined that he should pay ; and, in his celebrated match of Fidget against Meteor, he is supposed to have lost a sum exceeding his former winnings in a fourfold proportion.

This loss has not induced him to quit the dangerous attachment to Newmarket, but seems rather to have sharpened his appetite for the turf. The consequences begin to be apparent ; the buildings at Wooburn, extensive as they are, could not have affected the accumulation of so long a minority ; but the revenue of a prince has been found inadequate to the address and rapacity of the knowing ones : nor is it to be wonder-
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ed at that the experiment should have brought the signature of his grace into circulation among the monied inhabitants of Lombard Street.

Lords J— and W—— R——L.

Seem not to partake of the disposition, though they follow the political footsteps, of their noble relative ; mere vacuities of themselves, their splendid origin has never been able to attract to them the notice of mankind. One anecdote is, however, preserved of Lord John at Brussels—When asked by her Highness the Arch-duchess of Saxe Teschen, then governess of the Low Countries, how he liked that place ? “ Not at all,” replied this witty nobleman, “ for, except my own countrywomen, I have not seen a pretty face here.” The arch-duchess and her court remained silent, and Lord John withdrew to recount at the hotel of Torrington his brilliant fally.

Such a blunder, at least in the morning,
could never have escaped from Lord Wil-
Liam,

liam, since such was the taciturnity of that nobleman, that it used to be a remark at Oxford, whenever he dined in company, that the party must be nearly half-dead over, as Lord William had spoke. To the silence which so well becomes them both, and which hitherto they have not infringed even at the Whig Club, we consign them.

D—— of N——.

But that silence which the prudence of the R——ls induces them to preserve, the confidence of the Duke of N——k disdains. In every public and *patriotic* meeting his voice is heard; and in every canvas and election he stands forward a sturdy champion. With him a form cast in the roughest mould of nature conceals a mind more misshapen still, and affords a proof that worth and virtue cannot be transmitted with rank and fortune; while he affects to be an advocate for parliamentary reform, his time and fortune are devoted to extend the servitude of the deluded multitude; and it is his

his boast that more than half the voters of Arundel have been allured, by his promises, to perjury. Yet what is the consequence of that influence which he has thus laboured to advance ? a train of parliamentary dependents, as contemptible as himself, of whom one, and one only, has ventured to stammer out a solitary speech in parliament.

Nor without doors is his reputation more promoted by his electioneering labours than within. At Hereford it is a current report, and believed by the people at large, that he was articled to an attorney. At Carlisle it is an established opinion, that his father placed him to be educated in one of the colleges belonging to the Jesuits in Flanders. Though both ideas are equally false, they serve to prove how much the chicane and finesse on which he values himself in every contest, have exalted his character.

What can enoble fools and cowards ?
Not all the blood of all the Howards.

From the character of fool, the crafty and insidious disposition of his Grace may possibly preserve him. Yet such is the disgraceful

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ignorance of the first duke of Great Britain, that he is incapable of spelling a common letter. Some time since, at the table of the Prince of Wales, a dispute arose respecting some nautical term, which was productive of a bet: it was agreed to refer the matter to Captain J. Payne; and the duke, as unconcerned in the wager, was desired to state to this gentleman the difference in writing. He began his letter—*Sir, as you are BREAD to the sea*; and Captain Payne answered with his usual vivacity—*My lord, I am not BREED to the sea, but the sea is BREAD to me*. Yet this man has lately been chosen to the high honour of president to the society for encouraging arts and science; and without a blush has seated himself in the chair which was formerly filled by the venerable Lord Romney.

The courage of his Grace is supposed to be about equal to his learning; and in his late difference with Sir John H——w——d he submitted to apologize for words which he declared he had never spoken. In those beastly excesses of the table which degrade a man into a brute, his Grace indeed stands
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without a compeer; and he was early in life emulous to equal those with whom he lives in the desperate amusements of gaming. But his loss of twenty thousand pounds, when his income did not exceed twelve hundred pounds a year, obliged him to stop short until he could repair his imprudence by marriage. He luckily found one whose weak intellects permitted her not to discover, or to despise his ignorance. An annuity of three hundred pounds to a favourite governess was advantageously granted; the inclinations of the unfortunate girl were artfully influenced; and she consented to become the wife of the presumptive heir to the Duke of Norfolk.

Unhappy victim! what have been the comforts of that splendid situation, to which the interested wiles of another taught thee to aspire! Thy estates have been wasted; thy bed neglected; thy person insulted; and the accumulated wrongs that have been heaped on thee have driven thee at length into madness. While he who ought to have protected thee from outrage, whose duty it was to shelter thee from the storm,

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was so insensible to thy miseries, and his own shame, that the day after he was informed of that melancholy event, he indulged his mirth at one of the grossest comedies that disgrace the theatre of Drury-Lane.

This indeed is not the only instance which his Grace has given of his preferring the drama to every sense of decency ; and between the time of his mother's death and her burial, he was seen alternately dozing and laughing in one of the front boxes.

In his amours, his Grace has been diligent to select those objects whose superior refinement of manners can be no reproach to his own unpolished ideas. But if he has generally chosen his mistresses for their congenial taste, he has not been influenced by a similarity of forms ; and he whose height does not arise to above five feet six, and whose figure bears no small resemblance to the proportion of his favourite vessel, an hoghead, has aspired to the bosom of a nymph full six feet four. His partiality to the bagpipes has been also communicated from the husband to the wife ; and Mrs.

C——y not only reigned the favourite housekeeper at A——l, but was exhibited as the chosen sultana to the Yorkshire militia *.

There is no person acquainted with his Grace, who has not been struck with the strong resemblance between his character and that of the late Duke of Orleans. The same propensity to the beastly excesses of the table, the same taste for low and vulgar amours, the same personal timidity, the same thirst for the applause of the multitude; as they have resembled each other in their lives, so may they probably in their deaths; for should the system which his Grace coun-

* His Grace is not very liberal in his amours: in those which are promiscuous, he seldom rises above half-a-guinea, and never exceeds a guinea. So nice are his feelings, that the same person whom he had formerly entertained as a mistress, he afterwards hired as a common servant. She had, however, the spirit to refuse to do both drudgeries at the same price. His Grace's frequent expression among his bosom friends, Capt. M——s, &c. is, *That the honour of a connection with a D—— of N—— is sufficient.* That honour, with a few promises, which are never performed, is indeed all in general that the fair ones obtain.

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tenances prevail, and the vain attempt at parliamentary reform let loose the people, they would no more spare in England the first duke, than they did in France the first prince of the blood.

In one respect, however, the comparison is in favour of the Duke of Orleans. He provided for his natural children like a prince; while his Grace of N—— will probably leave those who call him father, as destitute at his death, as he has meanly kept them in his life.

Messrs. B. and H. H——D

Naturally follow his Grace as his nearest relations. These worthy gentlemen, who glory in a name which has been transmitted to them through so many centuries, are not equally pleased to dwell on the early situation of their father. He was a very considerable, though not a very successful wine-merchant in Dublin; and several years since, his name, great as it was, found its way into the Gazette, with a *whereas* prefixed to

to it. When Duke E——d perceived the present possessor of the title, though he was scattering his seed profusely through the land, was not likely to add any legitimate branch to the family tree, he cast his eyes on this unfortunate wine-merchant. Duke E——d indeed both thought and acted like a H——d. He immediately called together and satisfied to the fullest extent the claims of the creditors of this unsuccessful kinsman. He transplanted him to England; entrusted him with the chief management of his affairs; and when he died, as he considered him and his sons as the presumptive heirs to his title, he left him an estate of near seven thousand pounds per annum.

In a few months Mr. H——d followed his benefactor to the grave; and the immediate fortune and future expectations of Mr. B——d H——d rendered him an object of attention to those sagacious fathers who prefer for their children splendour and misery to a competence and happiness. Of these Lord F—— is one; and at his command his daughter ascended in tears the bridal bed of a man whom she equally de-

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spised and detested. Even the passions of youth and health were conquered by her repugnance. or the strength of another attachment, and for several weeks she rose a virgin from his side ; though a disgraceful compliance was at last extorted from her, her aversion was invincible ; and having dragged through a miserable four years of matrimonial strife, she agreed to a final separation, and sought protection in the manly arms of her former lover. Her long and melancholy struggle between love and duty, drew compassion even from the rigid judge before whom her conduct was arraigned ; but in proportion as her situation demanded pity, contempt followed the man who had compelled her to this legal prostitution.

Nor is this the only subject that Mr. B——d H——d has for repentance ; large as was the bequest of D—E——d, it has been flattered away ; and by his own mismanagement, and the address of his steward, he finds himself a ruined man, with the character of a sordid one ; St. Genoveve only waits for some opulent nabob to change its master. Nor on this occasion can Mr.

H——

H—— impute any thing to his late consort; since he has been compelled, though reluctantly, to acknowledge her propriety in pecuniary affairs at least.

Mr. H—— H——

Enjoys also, in Thornborough Castle, a proof of the late Duke E—— d's liberality and attention. He has followed the example of his noble relative in renouncing the errors of the Romish faith. His apostacy has, by the influence of that relative, after a very expensive and unsuccessful struggle—at Gloucester, been rewarded by a seat in parliament for Arundel. He is, however, a silent member both in the House of Commons and the Whig Club. Prompted, however, by the counsels and example of his worthy and intimate friend the Black Rod, he had made an attempt to blend fortune and *manners*, in his marriage: but this is certainly not the prosperous æra of the H——ds; and after dangling a little while, he was dismissed with a positive and unqualified negative.

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Sir

SIR C—s B——Y.

Mr. B——d H——d is not the only man who has felt the melancholy consequences of extorting a hand where a heart could not be given. Sir C——s forgot for some months the racing calendar to contemplate the charms of Lady S—h L——x.

He fighed so very loud and strong,
He blew a settlement along;
And bravely drove his rival down,
With coach and fix, and house in town.

The R———d family have never been inattentive to pecuniary interests; and in that pursuit the late duke can even scarce be exceeded by the present. He thought he had made an excellent bargain for his daughter; but he never deemed it worthy a moment's consideration, how far the minds and dispositions of this couple were paired. The result is well known; and when Sir Ch——s returned to the amusements of Newmarket, her ladyship consoled herself for his absence in the potent embraces of Lord W——m G——n. A divorce ensued.

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In a second marriage the lady found that happiness she missed in the first; and Sir Ch——s has ever since beguiled the moments, between the Newmarket meetings, in an amorous intercourse with farmers' daughters, milliners' prentices, and servant-maids.

The indiscriminate manner in which he has given himself up to these connections, was lately productive of a very disagreeable adventure to him. As he was strolling about one leisure evening just as it grew dark, he overheard a conversation between one of his stable-boys and the scullion, the subject of which was love, and in which the former prevailed on the latter to promise him a meeting an hour hence in the hay-loft.

Sir C——s was immediately seized with the whim of supplanting the favoured lover: he ordered the boy into the stable; and, directing him to saddle a horse, sent him on a message to a gentleman several miles off, without allowing him any opportunity of letting his mistress know any thing of the matter.

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At the time appointed, Sir C——s attended in the hay-loft, where the punctuality of his fair one did not let him wait long ; and the place being quite dark, the girl never perceived the change put upon her, though she has since confessed she retired with no very favourable idea of her lover's vigour.

Before they parted, she told him, that she would meet him the next evening in the same place ; and Sir C——s was so inflamed by the warmth of her caresses, and the appearance of intrigue which the commerce afforded, that he watched the return of the boy, and, without allowing him to dismount, ordered him to set out with a note for a gentleman in a distant part of the county ; whence, he thought, he could not return before a second meeting should have satiated his passion.

But fortune seemed determined to cross the designs of the amorous baronet ; the boy met the gentleman to whom the letter was directed, at an inn on the road ; and, having acquitted himself of his commission, hastened back. He arrived about the same hour that he had the evening before appointed his fair

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to meet him in the hay-loft. His former disappointment recurring to him, he crept to the hay-loft before he went to wait on his master, in hopes of repairing the ill-luck of the preceding night. All was dark, but he could discern the voice of his favourite, talking to a man: the baronet having been as successful as he could wish, was just then taking leave; when the jealousy of the boy rising into fury, he levelled at him a stroke with his whip which brought him to the ground. The screams of the girl, the groans of Sir C——s, and the oaths of the boy, formed a most inharmonious concert; nor did the latter desist till his master had declared his name. The consequence was, that both the servants were soon after dismissed; and Sir C——s has since contented himself with an obsequious farmer's daughter in the country, and in town with the promiscuous throng, who are to be found at the Temple of Flora and the Apollo Gardens.

Though Sir C——s has not shone with so much lustre in the house of commons as on the plains of Newmarket, or beneath the
 4 piazzas

piazzas of Covent Garden, yet he has not been a silent member. When Lord North proposed his tax on men servants, Sir C—s, in whose stables a numerous train of boys are employed, opposed it with warmth, as confounding the boy with the full-grown man. Lady North, he observed, could improve the noble lord's financiering talents; she would not give the same for a chicken as for a full-grown fowl; she was prudent enough to have her candles weighed, and bought them by the pound. *I believe, said Lord North, I should not have been troubled with the honourable baronet's illustrations respecting fowls and candles, had he not been better versed in weighing boys than in weighing candles.* The allusion to Newmarket was too evident to be mistaken; the repartee was felt; and ever since, both at the Whig Club and St. Stephen's, Sir C—s has been cautious in the choice of his political similes.

L—

L—D D——Y.

From the characters that so closely follow each other, one would think that the spirit of cuckoldom hovered with an extraordinary partiality over this patriotic club. The noble Lord before us led to the altar a reluctant beauty of nineteen, who was sacrificed to his arms by the vanity of her mother. Such an union promised but little happiness; and the sighs of the fair were heard frequently amidst the shades of the *Oaks*. She found however resources in town; those joys which she was a niggard of to her husband, she imparted freely to his friends; he, on his side, disgusted by her coldness, sought pleasure in the embraces of the Armisteads and Benwells of the day.

Their mutual infidelities were soon the general theme of the town; and those of the lady were made public in a court of justice; but as she had full proof of recrimination against her husband, a separation was all he could obtain, and he has been

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forced

forced to leave her in the possession of the title of D——y.

She has since languished under the accumulated misery of a wounded fame, and broken constitution; friendship has alone remained to dart a ray of comfort through the gloom. Pure in herself, Lady C-rl—le has disdained the censure of the world, and, regarding the errors of her friend as arising rather from the ambition of a parent, than from her native disposition, with a magnanimity which disgraces that of most men, she has not forsaken her in the hour of her distress. Whenever Lady D——y is in town, she is invariably invited to the entertainments given by Lady C-rl—le; though, with a propriety peculiar to herself, in her cards of invitation to her other acquaintance, she mentions that it is to meet Lady D——y.

In the mean time his Lordship impatiently waits the moment of her decease, that he may at last reap the harvest he has long promised himself from a marriage with a well-known fashionable actress; he will
be

be the second peer of the realm, who has shown himself so superior to prejudice, as to adorn with a coronet the head of a daughter of Thalia. But though the vanity of the comedian must be interested in the event, her amorous passions are far from being awakened by the idea. Superior to the influence of MEN, she is supposed to feel more exquisite delight from the touch of the cheek of Mrs. D——r, than from the fancy of any *novelties* which the wedding night can promise with such a partner as his Lordship.

This attachment does not prevent my Lord from indulging in the other amusements of the fashionable world; his racers, his hunters, and his hounds, are all in a superior style; and in the sports of the field, and the hospitality of his table, he has deserved and acquired the character of an obliging, good-tempered, generous man.

In the field of politics he does not appear to equal advantage:—under the tuition of his late uncle, General Burgoyne, he was a strenuous advocate for the American war; he is now become a staunch patriot; and though

as an orator he has gained but small reputation in the House of Lords, he is the frequent president of the Whig Club; where the keenness of his arguments, and the decency of his songs, afford no small satisfaction to that discerning and virtuous society.

SIR J— L—.

This baronet, for the name of gentleman cannot be prostituted to him, when he submitted to the matrimonial fetters, thought chastity in a wife an object below his consideration: the present Lady L— was common servant at a celebrated brothel; when the number of male visitors exceeded that of the female inmates, she was occasionally dressed up for company. Her conduct on these occasions gave so much satisfaction, that her mistress transplanted her from the *kitchen* to the *chamber* service. It was at this brothel that she first met with a r-y-l admirer, whose sense of dignity did not prevent him from frequenting these dens of impurity. On his H—s quitting England, her charms ensnared

ensnared the discerning Sir J. With him she long lived in the humble capacity of mistress; but on the return of the r-y-l duke from the continent, a spark of jealousy was kindled in his bosom; and to secure the fidelity of the amiable Cinderilla, he married her. She who was not long since a servant, and content to perform every species of drudgery for a few pounds, now shines a lady; and such is the caprice of fashion, 150 guineas are given for her picture.

It must be allowed, however, that she does not do greater discredit to her rank than her worthy consort. There are few characters in life that do not bear at least the appearance of some one virtue; but here is a total blank. To rival in their manners and their vices the lowest of mankind, to be the foremost on the turf or the sod, is the singular ambition of this wretched and despicable man.

I will carefs some stable-man of note,
And imitate his language and his coat.
I will with jockies from Newmarket dine,
And to rough riders give my choicest wine.

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Yet though he has not disdained to practise every art that the fertile invention of his associates has suggested, he has still been the dupe of his own schemes ; and his large estates in Middlesex have been within these few weeks transferred to another member of the Whig Club, who, while at the Shakespeare he professes himself an enemy to all useless establishments, is content at the Temple to receive those emoluments which are often wrung from the scanty pittance of an indigent vicar.

It has been the frequent boast of the Whig Club, that they are remarkably select in the admission of their members ; how this can be reconciled to the election of a man whom black D—es and B—ll—k have declared they were almost ashamed to be seen with, must be left for them to determine.

CAPT. M——s.

This member is also another instance of the delicacy of the Whig Club. In early life
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his reputed vigour recommended him to the notice of the Dowager Lady S—; and that approved judge of manly merit thought him qualified for the laborious station of her husband. Whether after marriage the captain's diligence or ability declined, it is not for us to decide. A separation has long since taken place; and the past services of the captain have been rewarded with the receipt of one half of her ladyship's jointure.

Before, however, he retired on a pension, the respectable and decent situation, that he is reported to have *stood in* between the two titled sisters, M——h and S——pe, had engaged him in a paper war with the late Rev. Mr. E——d, and some expressions which escaped the pen of the captain provoked the parson to reply with his cane. The Haymarket was the scene of public discipline: the captain brought an action for assault against this active hero of the church militant; an old woman was the principal evidence: *I wondered*, said she, *to see a gentleman in black running after, and belabouring one in red.* The assault was thus established;

established ; but so slight an injury did the jury think the honour of the captain had sustained, that they limited the damages to 40s.

For some time after this event Captain M——s was not desirous of obtruding himself on the public eye; but when he did emerge, he emerged in a new character, in that of a poet. The obscenity of his songs is certainly gilded by frequent flashes of wit and humour ; so far indeed superior to his conversation, that many for a long time doubted whether he was the real author of them. That praise must however be allowed him ; and it easily introduced him to the Whig Club, to whose political views his muse has been subservient. Yet it remains a problem, how men who pretend to reform the morals of a people, can suffer at their meetings, songs, the grossness of which would disgust a Cleveland or a Chartres.

L—D G—L—Y.

The sensual pleasures which the muse of the Captain inculcates are happily carried into execution by the noble Lord who is now before us. He is not content to associate with the commonest prostitutes, but, by way of refining his pleasure, he insists on making nobly drunk the casual partner of his bed. An amiable woman, whom he early married, has sunk the victim of that shame and anxiety which she felt in being connected with so shameless a debauchee. That his intellects are as weak as his morals are vitiated, may be judged from the following story. He invited to breakfast one of those dependents, who will condescend to be the butt of a Lord, to enjoy the good things of his table. Previous to his arrival a strong purgative had been mixed with the chocolate, and his guest, after having partaken plentifully of this potion, was innocently prevailed on by the lady of the house to wash it down with a few cups of tea. When his Lordship imagined the season of

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operation

operation was drawing nigh, he quitted the room, locked the doors, and left his wife and friend unsuspecting of the project which was formed against them.

In a short time, however, the latter was seized with a pressing necessity to quit the room ; but he found, to his utter astonishment and dismay, the doors locked. His distress was extreme—there was not a closet to receive, nor a screen to hide him ; and the lady, who could not at first comprehend the cause of his confusion, became in a short time equally confused herself by the ceremony that explained it.

To force the locks was impossible ; and to break through double doors was not practicable. In short, there was no other method of escape, than by directing the servants through the key-hole, to fix a ladder to the window. Before, however, this arrangement could take place, a scene was acted too indelicate to be described ; while the amiable and decent nobleman who occasioned it was diverting himself and his companions at a neighbouring coffee-house, with the situation in which he had left his
lady

lady and his friend. Yet this man has not only been readily admitted a member of the Whig Club, but his name in that society has been proposed as a toast, and has been received with loud marks of approbation; a proper tribute to that patriotic spirit which exposes him to incessant intoxication; and not unfrequently conducts him in a morning staggering through the streets under the debauch of the preceding evening.

SIR W. M——R

Was once the opponent of L—d G——y, to represent the city of York. But so full of versatility are the times, that they are now the amicable members of the same political club, which seems, like Noah's ark, to receive all kinds of beasts. Sir W——m entered early into the dragoons; but the charms of a daughter of the late H. S—t, whose eccentricities we have already noticed, induced him to quit the fields of Mars, for those of Venus. He has for some years receded from the rites of the latter to attach

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himself

himself to those of Bacchus; and when warmed with a bottle, he does not hesitate to declare, "That Lady M——r, though a "charming woman, is cold." No wonder that any woman should be to an habitual sot, whose only praise is, that he can walk off with five bottles. Yet there is another reason assigned for Lady M——r's indifference to the caresses of Sir William; and by those who are intimate at N———n she is supposed to be a formidable rival to Mrs. D——r for the affections of Miss F——n.

The mediocrity of Sir William M——r's understanding renders him more fit to be led than to lead; and his vanity is not insensible of the poorest of all distinctions, that of being one of the stewards of a club, composed of an heterogeneous mixture of peers and players, of members of parliament and of shopkeepers.

J— H— W———N.

It is to his connection with Sir William that the Whig Club are indebted for a member,

ber, of whose liberality the chief of it has had such ample testimony. Mr. W——n is the descendant of a man whose reputation for wit is established in his being the confidential friend of Sterne, and the author of the *Crazy Tales*. Skelton Castle, which he himself intitled *Crazy Castle*, was the scene of many a jovial and frolicsome party: but the owner of it, though distinguished for the brilliancy of his repartees, was the unfortunate victim of an hypochondriac imagination; and, if he fancied the wind was in the east, would remain for successive weeks in his bed, a prey to imaginary indisposition. Some of his companions, aware of this circumstance, fastened the weathercock by a slender thread, so that it pointed to the west; and though the wind during that time veered about to every quarter, Mr. H—— felt none of his ideal complaints. No part of his disposition has, however, descended to his grandson, who neither imagines himself an invalid, nor is imagined by his friends a wit.

Mr. H—— was of too sociable a turn to leave behind him any great store of wealth;

Skelton

Skelton Castle, and the alum works which belong to it, were his sole property. But it is from the notorious Peg W—t—n of economic memory, that his grandson derives his name and splendid fortune.

That lady heaped up wealth with an avidity that was a disgrace to human nature ; she denied herself the very necessaries of life, and literally lived in the most abject poverty for fear of being poor. A little while before her death, she was tempted by the cheapness of them to buy some eels ; she tied them up in a cheque handkerchief, secured them, as she thought, in her pocket, and set off home. In the way she stopped to call on a lady of her acquaintance ; for sordid as were the manners, the family and riches of Mrs. W——n were a passport to the best company : she had not long been seated, before the lady perceived something gliding along the carpet, which her fears naturally represented as a snake—She shrieked out, and rung the bell in an agony of terror : the servants rushed in, and stood in equal dismay when the objects of the alarm were pointed out ; but their apprehensions
were

were quickly dispelled by Mrs. W——n, who acknowledged in these snakes her eels: the servants helped to collect them with avidity, and having restored them to her cheque handkerchief, she set out in triumph to secure them from a similar escape, in a pie.

Yet such is the vanity of human nature, that the desire of perpetuating her name was superior even to her avarice; and, even in her life-time, she transferred fifty thousand pounds to Mr. H——, on his assuming the name and arms of W——n. She soon after died, bequeathing him upwards of two hundred thousand more. This bequest immediately made him a character of importance; but as his importance is solely derived from his property, with such friends as Messrs. Fox and Sheridan, it will probably not be of long continuance. The former gentleman has already received an ample proof of his liberality, in a subscription of five thousand pounds; and the latter, after a dinner, in which he brought into play all the powers of a brilliant imagination, contrived to borrow as much more. Mr. W——n, however, is not yet discouraged;
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and still vows, while he has a shilling left, he will not desert the good old cause.

M——L A——o T——R.

Mr. W——n is not the only person whose weighty purse has been found serviceable to his friends. The gentleman before us is the son of a man who, by his economy and his industry, some skill in architecture, and much of the confidence of the Duke of G——n while minister, acquired, with a tolerably fair character, an immense fortune. From the name of M——l A——o, one might naturally suppose it was the intention of this successful artist to have brought up his son to his own profession, and that, believing in the sympathy of names, he hoped that he might possess the genius of the celebrated sculptor after whom he is called : but if such were his early views, he soon changed them ; and determined, if possible, to make a gentleman of M——l A——o, by bringing him up to the bar.

Whatever consideration M——l has since

attained, neither at school nor the university were his talents such as claimed attention. During his residence at the latter place, he professed principles far different from his present ; and it was his frequent expression, that, should he obtain a seat in parliament, Mr. Fox should not go on as he had done. The venality of the electors of Poole at length indulged him in the wished-for opportunity ; but the only result of his debut in parliament was, that it afforded an opportunity to his then political adversary Mr. S——n, by an apt quotation to affix to him the descriptive nick-name of the Chicken, which will probably descend with him to the grave.

Soon after the death of his father, this learned gentleman changed his political opinions ; and the refusal of an appointment to the place of Welch judge has been assigned as the cause of his desertion. He now lives in the habits of unreserved intimacy with those who so lately made him the object of their ridicule. But in a generous concern for the public, every source of private offence must be forgotten. And he

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has

has lately distinguished himself as one of the most liberal contributors to the distress of Mr. Fox. We do not understand that either his legal knowledge or eloquence have yet occasioned in the breast of the minister any emotions of repentance at having lost so valuable a partisan. M——I still continues to speak, and still is heard without reply. It must, however, be confessed, that, if he is totally without talents for public life, he cultivates many private virtues. He is a good husband, and a sincere friend; and it was happily observed by a gentleman well acquainted with both, on seeing Mr. Fox and Mr. T——r so frequently together, “ *I suppose Mr. T——r will soon fancy himself a great statesman and orator, and Mr. F——x will begin to conceive himself an honest domestic man.*” The society of the Whig Club is however more likely to pervert the first, than to reform the last; and we would wish Mr. T——r to recollect, between the paroxysms of his patriotism, that the fortune he enjoys, his father in some measure acquired by the favour of that government which he amuses himself with arraigning.

A———N

A———N S———R.

This gentleman is an instance that not only the young and inexperienced may be the dupes of superior convivial and colloquial talents. A———n S———r was originally a petty household broker, salesman, and undertaker. He furnished the living with little second-hand articles, and the dead with the last of all conveniencies, called a coffin. But by persevering industry, an acute turn of mind, and obliging manners, he has risen by degrees to be the first auctioneer in the kingdom; and is almost universally employed to sell the estates, &c. which luxury, folly, caprice, and death transfer from one possessor to another. The quantity of landed property, and other things of value, which pass through his hands in the course of a year, are almost beyond conception; and his profits bear an adequate proportion. He long exercised his profession with an unsullied reputation; was elected one of the magistrates of the city; and looked forward with no common expectation to become one of its representatives. But lately a cloud has been cast over the lustre of his character; a dissolution of partnership

has been productive of some very unpleasant accusations ; and Mr. J —, in publishing to the world the injuries that he has received, has not hesitated to impute to the A ———n the blackest injustice and treachery.

Verfed as Mr. S ———r must be in all pecuniary transactions, he was lately overreached by a person, whose character we have already given, and who has contrived to apply the infinite pleasantry he possesses, in such a manner as to make it stand in the stead of estate and fortune. After a sumptuous dinner in South-street, succeeded by excellent wines, which were recommended by the most brilliant sallies of wit, he was prevailed on to advance a large sum of money upon a collection of pictures ; though three others of the same profession had been persuaded at different times to make similar advancements on the same collection ; for which, after all, the person who had originally sold them, had never been paid a single shilling.

The mortification of the A ———n at the finesse that has been practised on him, is considerably increased by finding himself reduced

to bear it in silence. Though his fortune had raised him to an importance which rendered him fit company for the most opulent merchants, he has had the weakness to languish for the society of the west end of the town. As he was too wise to hazard his money and reputation on a card or a die, the only chance of introduction was through a political channel. He found the opposition, as more desperate in their fortunes, less delicate in their choice of friends, than those in power; he accordingly commenced patriot, and was elected a member of the Whig Club; and, though he deeply resents the trick that has been played him, he dares not indulge that resentment by having recourse to a public tribunal of justice, lest he should inflict an additional wound on the character of one of the leading members of the society he belongs to.

A——N PL——R.

His brother citizen and magistrate A——
P——r, in a case where his interest is at
stake, could not be restrained by any such
confi-

consideration. With a small capital he began life in a dark oil-shop in the neighbourhood of Aldgate. He increased his fortune by marrying a woman who was niece of a washer-woman ; and who, from the vulgarity of her appearance, and the meanness of her dress, was known by the descriptive appellation of *Check Apron Sal*. In this situation he remained for upwards of thirty years, till by a proper attention to the smallest gains, and by never spending an idle farthing, he had accumulated upwards of thirty thousand pounds. His vanity then burst out, but without trespassing on his economy : he was a candidate, and attained to the highest city honours ; but, in discharging them, he retained his primeval fordidness and low-born manners : the very year of his mayoralty was disgraced by a boxing-match, occasioned by a dispute of a few pence about a pot-house reckoning. In his amours, he preserved also his original taste ; and if he chose his wife as industrious from the colour of her apron, he selects his mistresses as cheap, from having no aprons at all, and frequently no shifts.

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He, however, belongs to several public societies, as well as to the Whig Club: not induced indeed by any political principle (for any other principle than that of scraping together money he is unacquainted with), but by the certainty of satiating his appetite with more and better victuals and wine at these meetings than he could have for the same price at home. He is not, however, always content with what his stomach can contain; and at a celebrated tavern near the Exchange, at an annual feast which had been instituted under the pretence of charity, but which like many others was perverted to the practice of gluttony, an unlucky wag perceived the claw of a fowl sticking out of the pockets of the prudent magistrate. He thought on such an occasion he might with safety exert the arts of a Barrington; and, before the Alderman perceived, he had not only plundered him of his acquisition, but displayed it in triumph over his head, to the no small amusement of the company. The magistrate, who is naturally no very florid orator, was for some minutes incapable of uttering a single word; at
last

last he recollected that any apology is better than none; and stammered out that he was innocent as the *babe unborn*, and that the leg of the fowl must either have dropped into his pocket through the negligence of a waiter, or must have been conveyed there by the malicious address of some one who sat near him. He has, however, been more cautious in future; and the tin pocket, which he is once said to have carried about him for the benefit of Mrs. P——r, is now reported to be laid aside. But the anecdote is not yet forgotten; and by the respectable members of the corporation that he belongs to, he is considered as one of those men who rise into riches without respect, and, should he experience a reverse, would sink into poverty without commiseration.

MESSRS. G—E S—M, and H—Y C—E.

The British merchant sitting in his accounting-house, and arranging the concerns of his extensive commerce, is an object, whether we consider him in a political or philosophical view, of the first respect and
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consideration. At the moment that he commands the produce of the distant world to flow into his warehouses, he forwards the cultivation of his own country, sets the wheel of the British manufacturer in motion, holds the reward of industry to the active, and animates, by his encouraging liberality, the exertions of genius, while every wind that blows serves to quicken the progress of his numerous ships to some or other of their various destinations in the different quarters of the globe. Is not this man superior in the eye of reason and of heaven to the noble of a thousand years, who has received his hereditary possessions without a single effort of his own, and enjoys them, even in the most favourable description, under the influence of hereditary pride, elegant passions, or refined luxury?

But the characters before us are not to be classed amongst those by whom the public wealth is augmented, general industry rewarded, and growing manufactures encouraged. The father of Mr. S——m was a sugar-refiner, and pursued his business with a diligence that could only be equalled

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by the avidity with which he hoarded up the profits of it. At that time the gains of the sugar-refiners were immense; and forty years persevering industry and economy were rewarded with a fortune of 200,000 l. Such an immense property made no change in his manner of living; his residence was a small house in a narrow court; and even at his death he occupied but two rooms of it, the bedchamber and the parlour; and of the former for many years his son was the partner.

The spirit of George disdained so narrow a scene; on the death of his father he blazed forth a meteor of city splendour. In his horses, his carriages, his equipages, he vied with, and often led the fashions at the west end of the town. To display invention in harness, or a hammercloth, was the height of his ambition; yet poor as such ambition must appear, it had its merits in the eyes of those on whose virtues kingdoms are to depend; and Mr. S——m found himself elevated into an acquaintance with the H——r A——t to the T——e. The connection has not, however, so far dazzled his understanding

standing as to make him indifferent to the main chance ; and in every gambling or speculating transaction, he is acknowledged by his confederates to be a keen long-headed man. Not content with the profits of his own business, he has lately entered into a brewery ; but knowing as he is, he has been on this occasion instructed that there are mysteries beyond his depth, and which can only be attained by a long course of application and experience.

H——Y C———E

Is not only the bosom friend of George S——, but his partner in the new speculation of the brewery ; to engage in this undertaking he relinquished connections in the corn trade, which by his books were proved to have netted him a clear three thousand a year. It is the failing of avarice frequently to over-reach itself ; and Mr. C——e begins already to feel the consequences of having exchanged the substance

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for

for the shadow. But the brewery is not the only scheme he has engaged in ; nor has he neglected to attend those places where the city bucks are invited to get rid in a moment of those fortunes which their fathers had accumulated by successive years of care and parsimony. Unfortunate H——d, your father also thought his patient industry and frugality had established on a firm basis the prosperity of his family ; but your imprudence and levity were artfully and assiduously promoted. You were persuaded that few men could equal you as a whist player. Continual parties were made for your ruin both in Kent and at the Shakespeare : a few months completed the business ; and the very men who had achieved it, and who had shared the spoil, ignominiously expelled your name from the firm, and left you to the disgrace and wretchedness of bankruptcy. But what chance could your feeble youth have with those who can with justice vaunt, that after sitting up three nights at hard drinking, they can with the same

same accuracy calculate every chance of the die, as if they were just risen from their beds ?

This, indeed, is not the sole boast of Mr. H—y C——e ; his name as a pugilist stands prominent : he is reported to put in a straight blow in a neater manner, than either H—y A——n, or Sir T——s A——ce.

My evenings all I will with bruifers spend,
And Fig the prize-fighter shall be my bosom friend.

Yet this man, despicable as he is both in this character and his pursuits, is reported to nourish hopes of becoming a representative for the city ; it is with this view both he and his friend S——m have become members of the Whig Club. With that party he well knows no exception can be taken to morals ; and a gamester and a boxer bear with them sufficient recommendations. How different were formerly the candidates for that high distinction ! men as pure in their manners, as they were upright and liberal in their commercial transactions ; and while we are condemned to describe the C——s and S——ms of the present age, we cannot

not help a sigh escaping on recollecting the Barnards of the past.

R——D B——D.

This gentleman indeed inherits a name, which the city, in the fond partiality of the moment, compared to that of Barnard; but the difference was too great to be long undiscovered; and that monument which was erected to perpetuate his patriotism, serves only to remind the citizens of the unprofitable manner to which the money has been applied.

The present Mr. R. B——d, who is a relation of the celebrated Alderman, is also a patriot; that is, he belongs to the Whig Club; and, as the nobleman who introduced him into parliament votes in opposition to the minister, he feels the same sentiments, and is content by a laconic Aye or No to express his disapprobation of the ruling powers. His voice in St. Stephen's chapel has indeed little weight; but there is one place
where

where it is listened to with attention ; and in the kitchen he shines almost without a competitor.

In every useful art I have a share,
 But my top talent is a bill of fare.
 Sir-loins and rumps of beef offend my eyes,
 Pleas'd with frogs fricasee'd and cock's-comb pies.
 Dishes I choose, tho' little, yet genteel,
 Snails the first course, and peepers crown the meal.
 Pigs' heads with hair on much my fancy please,
 I love young cauliflowers if stew'd in cheese,
 And give ten guineas for a pint of peas.

His connections with the West-Indies enabled him to procure with ease those delicacies which the western world has introduced into Europe ; and when a fleet arrived, instead of enquiring after rum, clay sugars, and muscavadoes, his first question was, what number of turtles were consigned to him, and how they had borne the voyage. Some commercial arrangements, which he has been obliged of late years to make, have curtailed the luxury of his table ; and he now shines " shorn of his beams ;" but his criticisms as a bon-vivant are still heard with respect ; and his superior judgment in distinguishing the nicest morsels is still al-

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lowed :

lowed. Too genteel to marry, like the majority of his associates he keeps a lady, who is endowed with almost as exquisite a taste as himself; and though his entertainments are no longer either frequent or sumptuous, the chosen few who are admitted confess in the choice and arrangement of the dishes the hand of a master.

J. B. C——H.

Though Mr. C——h blazes a meteor of the first splendour at the west end of the town, he reluctantly dates his origin from the city; but he would willingly expunge from his life that part which he spent east of Temple Bar. He commenced his career with a small fortune, and a considerable share of shrewdness and effrontery. The slow gains of a tradesman were despised by his aspiring genius; and he determined either rapidly to rise into opulence, or to reduce himself to bankruptcy: he attained the latter alternative; and after several mornings spent unsuccessfully at the Stock Exchange,

change, and as many nights passed equally unpropitiously at A — — n's coffee-house, in F — t-street, he found himself a considerable sum worse than nothing. In this situation he determined to save government the expence of transporting him to America ; and with what little he could scrape together, he embarked for New York, leaving his creditors to lament their credulity.

He arrived in the colonies at the moment when the impolitic measures of Lord North had kindled a flame which the best blood of Britain was lavished to extinguish. To a desperate man any revolution must be advantageous. A fluent tongue, and an unblushing countenance, served him in the place of more extensive talents. He was not cautious in aspersing that mother country from which he deemed himself for ever exiled. The boldness of his language introduced him to the acquaintance and the table of General Schuyler ; he availed himself of the weakness of the daughter of that officer to obtain her affections ; and Schuyler himself, involved in a contest, to the event of which he looked forward rather with

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apprehension than with hope, did not suffer himself long to be importuned for his consent.

It now became the interest of the General to push that of his son-in-law ; and he recommended him as an useful man to be employed in supplying the troops with provisions. No caution was necessary to him who had nothing to lose ; and Mr. C—— not only entered into large contracts, which the General's credit enabled him to fulfil, but became an immense speculator in the paper currency.

As the struggle daily inclined to the side of America Mr. C—— advanced in importance, and launched into more extensive projects ; and when the court of Versailles threw off the mask, and signed eventually its own fate by espousing the part of the colonists, Mr. C——h had influence to obtain the situation of Commissary to the French army. He did not neglect the opportunities that offered of exerting his talents in a profession, that is a mystery of iniquity too complicated to be unravelled, too black to be conceived but upon experience ; suffice it

it to say, that his cupidity seemed to augment in proportion to his acquisitions ; and the hope that he began to entertain, from the probability of a speedy peace, of returning again in splendour to a country which he so lately quitted in disgrace and indigence, added double keenness to his natural propensity to extortion.

The long-wished moment at length arrived; the strength of Great Britain was exhausted in the long struggle; and her rebellious sons triumphed over a parent who had too tenderly cherished them. A general amnesty was passed; and all offences, by the policy or clemency of the British government, were buried in oblivion. Mr. C—h seized the advantage of it; he applied himself assiduously to reduce to order his various concerns; and within a few months after the definitive treaty was signed he embarked for England with a fortune of ninety thousand pounds.

He landed in his native country with views and sentiments far different from those with which he quitted it. He was careful to shun those who had known him as the hum-

ble tradesman, and indigent bankrupt. With a disgraceful reluctance he parted with a small portion of his immense wealth, scantily to reimburse a few hundreds that he had borrowed before his departure, and to satisfy some claims at play which he had left unpaid ; but the bulk of his creditors had signed his certificate, and could make no legal demand ; and the honour of a gamester is superior to every transaction but what regards the gaming-table.

His former companions at A——n's were now passed by unnoticed ; or at the best only honoured by a distant bow. An elegant villa near Windsor, and a town house in Sackville-street, were immediately purchased ; his entertainments vied in prodigality with those of the most opulent nobility ; public breakfasts and fêtes-champêtres were given ; and were rendered more celebrated by the presence of the H——r A———t. He despised the honest partner of his bed, whose fond partiality had been the basis on which his fortune had been erected ; he supported in the most splendid style a practised courtesan, whose meretricious

cious skill once extorted the praise of superiority from old Q—, and whose extravagance had considerably deranged the finances of a young Earl ; he was elected a member of Brookes's, of Payne's, and of the Whig Club ; and this man, who had acted as commissary to the old and open enemies of his country, who ought to have shunned infamy in obscurity, had not only the assurance to fix his residence close to that of the sovereign, against whom he had taken so active a part, but carried his wanton insolence to the height of declaring his intention of offering himself as representative for the borough of Windsor. Windsor indeed was lost—but Wexford was more compliant ; and Mr. C——h cannot fail of being an advocate for a parliamentary reform, when he is sensible that the gold acquired in the hostile service of France, procured him a seat for an English borough.

Large as the sum of ninety thousand pounds is, we are sensible that it is not inexhaustible ; and the numerous demands which seemed daily to increase on Mr. C——h's purse, seemed to promise a speedy period

period to it. But while acting as commissary with the French army, it was not only the providing for the troops that occupied his attention ; and he was careful to provide in future for himself, by diligently studying the whole art of play. Under such masters his native genius rapidly advanced ; and he soon became celebrated for that finessè at every game, for which the French have been so long distinguished. What he learned in the French camp he successfully practised in London ; and adroit as Mr. St—pn—y is at piquet and backgammon, he found in Mr. C——h an adversary who left him nothing to vaunt of. It is at least certain that Mr. C——h boasted, that the first year that he was admitted at Payne's, he closed his accounts a gainer twenty-seven thousand pounds ; and his maiden campaign at Brookes's is reported to have been scarce less advantageous.

Yet amidst all these successes, amidst his sensual enjoyments, and blaze of ostentatious grandeur, Mr. C——h is supposed to have some moments of uneasy reflection. He feels that he may be envied without
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being esteemed; that he may extort the admiration of the weak and profligate, but that he cannot command the approbation of the good and considerate. The bankrupt is not forgotten in the senator; nor the French commissary in the English patriot; and it is plain to be perceived, that, notwithstanding his riches, the worthy part of his countrymen, are more select in the choice of their company, than the Whig Club are in their members.

Mr. A——N S——GE.

Though this gentleman does not draw his origin from the city, he has entered into a close connection with it. Descended from an ancient family in Kent, and introduced into life with the advantage of a good estate, he early captivated a lady, whose declining health threatened a speedy termination to her existence. As Miss B——n was entitled to a fortune of upwards of one hundred thousand pounds, it was as much the interest of her relations to defer the marriage, as it was
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that of Mr. S—ge to hasten it. The former represented, that though no objections could be urged either to the character or situation of the object of her choice, yet a regard for herself ought to induce her to wait until her health was more firmly established: the latter painted the ardour of his passion, which could brook no delay; love seconded his arguments; the lady declared to her mortified relations, *that she could live no longer without her dear colonel* *. Her desires were gratified; but in the nuptial bed she found her grave, and expired in less than a twelve-month; but such was her gratitude for the pleasures that she had tasted, that she rewarded the short services of Mr. S—ge with the whole of her fortune, which her relations had prevailed on her, with a fruitless care, to reserve in her own disposal.

The ample legacy might in some measure console Mr. S— for his connubial loss; and confiding in his good fortune, he soon after led to the altar of Hymen, a young lady from the city, who had more beauty, but much less fortune, and even much less

* Mr. Sawbridge is a Colonel in the Kentish militia.

senſe, than his former lady.. But the conſtitution of this lady has proved ſuperior to every attack ; and the voice of ſcandal has made no more impreſſion upon her mind, than has a courſe of inceſſant diſſipation upon her body.

Pert and pretty, vain and gay,
S——ge ſimpers life away.

It was not until ſhe was far advanced in life that her vanity taught her to aſpire to the conqueſt of the *obſerved of all obſervers*. The fetters that ſhe, however, impoſed on royalty, were eaſily broken ; and a frolic preceded the rupture, which at once amused and ſcandalized the fashionable circles. For an offence in love ſhe was tried and condemned by her royal lover ; who inflicted on her himſelf, and not in private, the ſame poſterior puniſhment to which ſhe had been more frequently expoſed while at ſchool.

The knowledge of ſuch levities could not entirely eſcape the ears of Mr. S——ge ; but he probably thought, like the preſent

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C—c—r

C—c—r of Ireland, who, when Lord W—tm—h complained to him of the infidelity of his wife (the C—c—r's niece), honestly exclaimed, "*Say nothing about it, my dear friend, for by G—d we are all in the same case!*" If Mr. S——ge's real indifference is not equal to that of Lord F—G——n's, he at least preserves the appearance of it; and the passion of love seems absorbed by two others, politics and play.

Into the first practice he was initiated by a man, who, having by a licentious pursuit of every thing called pleasure wasted his fortune, was driven to the despicable necessity of prostituting his extraordinary talents to any purpose that might promise to retrieve his affairs. Being disappointed in his expectations from administration, he immediately gave vent to his resentment in a pamphlet, which was written with such pointed sarcasm and force of ridicule as to draw down upon him the indignation of those in power. A general warrant was accordingly granted against him; under the authority of which his locks were broke open,

open, his secrets explored, and he himself dragged to prison.

This instance of oppression was of real advantage to him ; as soon as the cause of his imprisonment was made known, the populace took fire, and made his cause their own. They looked on him as a martyr to liberty ; they insulted all government, and committed excesses every hour, more illegal, and more dangerous to liberty than that of which they complained ; and when he was afterwards restored to freedom, imagining theirs depended upon his, they paid his debts to a considerable amount : he was returned to parliament by great majorities ; and rose through the quickened gradations of inferior office, to the chief magistracy of the metropolis.

But when this strange fury of the people began to subside, and their reason recovered its usual state of tranquil reflection, the idol appeared no longer worthy of the idolatry. The mask of patriotism no longer hid the lurking form of self-interest ; and he was declining fast into neglect and poverty, when the death of his parliamentary colleague oc-

occasioned some popular circumstances which brought him for a moment to something of his former importance ; and he did not fail to employ the fortunate occasion to his advantage. A popular lucrative office at this time became vacant, which he was elected to fill ; and as he executes it with attention and fidelity, he will, probably, enjoy it to the end of his days. They indeed are now drawing nigh to a period, that his enterprising spirit, and wonderful fertility of resource, will not enable him to protract.

Though mankind have long known the secret of his character, yet as he has been the instrument of some public good, and has at times severely suffered for the cause he espoused, they in general consider him with a kind of friendly complacency, and are rather disposed to promote than oppose the present support of his declining life ; while he, housed as it were from the storm, regards the people whom he has duped, with sentiments of gratitude, rather than those of contempt.

It was Mr. W——s that first introduced Mr. S——ge into the practice of politics ;
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but in the theory he had early made a rapid progress under the auspices of his sister, the once celebrated Mrs. M——y, and the now scarce less celebrated Mrs. G——m. His fancy eagerly embraced the frantic system that has been since realized by France; and amidst the tranquil blessings of a limited monarchy, he languished for the bloody turbulence of a pure democracy. It was on the madness of the mob that he aspired to immortality; and when the influence of Mr. W——s on the thoughtless multitude procured him to be returned as one of the members for the capital, he fondly believed the moment was arrived, which was to confound every distinction, but that which would accompany his own patriotism, in his much-loved equality. He unfortunately mistook the phrensy of elocution for the inspiration; and axes and scaffolds were continually thundered in the ears of the minister. But his lofty hopes were in a moment crushed by the desertion of his chief; the visions of a republic have gradually receded from his sight; he, however, still lives in hope, though hitherto he has been the slave
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of incessant disappointment ; and after having beheld the total dispersion of the *Bill of Rights Men*, he feels more acutely the late ominous and mortifying secession from the Whig Club.

The reputation that Mr. S——ge has not been able to acquire as an orator, he has attained as a whist player ; and not only the Duke of B——d, but the whole club at Brookes's confess his superior skill. But while the address of Mr. C——h at play has greatly advanced his fortune, the effect it has produced on Mr. S——ge's has been diametrically the reverse. A few years since the writer of this, on his way to Dover, met Mr. S——ge at Sittingbourne, posting to town with the title-deeds of his estate, the whole amount of which he confessed he had lost in one unsuccessful night. An advantageous party with General S——h at double dummy has enabled him to avoid the direct sale of his landed property : but he still trembles in the jaws of ruin, and has the singular reputation of having lost most at the very game he understands best. Neither age nor infirmities have, however, abated his keenness for play ;
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it seems to increase with his maladies, and even to have gained the ascendancy over his once darling pursuit of politics; since, though his shattered frame, tortured and crippled by the gout, does not any longer allow him to attend his duty in St. Stephen's chapel, it does not prevent him from drudging successive nights at whist in St. James's-street.

LORD R—T S——R.

It is to that seminary in St. James's-street, of private and public virtue, that the elect of the Whig Club repair, to canvass those mysteries of state, which are secreted from the profane multitude; but it is the profitable part of politics that alone occupies the attention of the noble Lord before us. He and his brother Lord Charles set out with a prudent resolution to verify the old adage, that half a loaf is better than none; conscious how slender their abilities were, and that all their success must depend upon the weight of their connections, they wisely concluded that the M——h interest could not extend further

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than

than a provision for one at a time. They therefore embraced different sides; and he that was in place agreed to divide his profits with him that was out: it was thus a matter of indifference to them which faction prevailed; and it was thus that first a seat at the admiralty, and afterwards a Vice-Treasure-ship of Ireland, were shared. These are not the only things that these two illustrious relatives are supposed to have had in *common*; for in their pleasures, as well as profits, they are reported to have confounded all distinctions.

The freemen and citizens of Oxford were at length tired of being thus rode alternately: the Duke had also an increasing family; and the prudence of the Duchess easily discovered that children have a superior claim to brothers. Neither of the noble Lords now enjoys any place under government; but Lord R—t consoles himself for this loss with the more profitable place of *CROUPIER* at Brookes's. The brother of George Duke of M——h, M——s of B——d, Earl of S——d and M——h, B——n of W——n and S—ge, K—t of the G——r, Lord Lieutenant

Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of the C——ty of O——d, &c. &c. &c. &c. is CROUPIER at Brookes's; and for five guineas an hour descends to that which the creatures of Bullock, of Phillips, and of O'B——ne, undertake for as many shillings. Such at least is the disinterested conduct of this party, that in their impatience to signalize their ardour for equality, though they may be vigilant to preserve the distinction of fortune, they are assiduous in levelling their characters with the basest of mankind.

L—— CH——Y.

If after the numerous proofs that have been given of this assertion, any other was wanting, it stands prominent in this nobleman. He was born in a rank which might have supported him in every honourable pursuit; but the opening of his youth soon blasted every hope of virtue; and from his first emerging into MANHOOD, he has not

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only blindly obeyed his passions, but has stimulated them into every excess.

Though he has invariably acted with opposition, such a conduct has not proceeded either from any design of obtruding himself into office, or from any approbation of the principles on which that opposition is founded: he professes to abhor from his soul every political system under the sun, as a jumble of folly and villany, and therefore never to have thrown away a thought upon them. But ask this hereditary legislator and counsellor of the crown, why he has continually given his vote with those out of place? and, if he answers sincerely, he must answer, It is because they play deepest. To obtain a reputation for elegance in furnishing a villa, or providing an entertainment, may have flattered his vanity; but the two substantial passions that occupy his thoughts by day and by night are women and gaming.

In no instance are the contradictions in human conduct so strongly shewn, as in that of men to women. He who would lose his life rather than violate the strictest principles of honour in his intercourse with

another man, not only scruples not to study deceit, and practise the blackest and basest treacheries against women ; but will even glory in the success of them when accomplished, without shewing remorse in himself, or meeting reproof from others.

In these pursuits L—Ch——y has on several successful occasions proved himself absolutely free from every restraint of principle. Miss N——d, Mrs. E———t, and Mrs. W——ns, have been the well-known victims to his address and seductive arts ; if numbers more have not been added to the list, it has proceeded rather from the decline, GREAT as they are reported to be, of his Lordship's powers, than of any prudence in the sex ; for such is the folly of women, that the surest recommendation to their general favour is the fame of having ruined numbers of them.

It was the decline of those powers that probably induced him to avoid entering the lists any longer with the unbroken maid, and to confine himself to the arms of a courtesan, whose address in her profession France as well as England had witnessed, who was ignorant

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of no art, and who spare no labour to attain the moment of ecstasy. Of what vows, what transports have the mansion in Piccadilly, the villa on Epping Forest, been the frequent scenes ! Their passion seemed to grow with enjoyment, and to be a satire on the fickle taste of the other amorous voluptuaries of the age.

But it was when their attachment appeared most strongly confirmed, that it was suddenly dissolved ; and the noble Lord received the envied hand of a rich and illustrious lady, whose personal charms at least equal her birth and fortune ; and who, having rejected the pretensions of numerous suitors of her own age and rank, in a moment of unfortunate curiosity has subjected herself to the impure caprices of a practised debauchee, near twenty years older than herself. But the novelty is worn off ; and while she acknowledges to her confidential maid her disappointment, she laments how all *things* are liable to be *exaggerated* by report.

The charms of Lady C——y have not been able to wean her husband from his attachment to play. It is a just observation,
that

that vices take the deepest root in weakest minds ; of all the passions which mark the character of the present age, that which runs into the most extravagant and incorrigible excess, even in the soundest understandings, is that of gaming ; what havoc then must this fatal prepossession make, where, as in the present instance, it scarce meets any opposition from reason ! Yet his lordship, though not capable to resist its influence, has contrived to draw advantage from that which has proved the ruin of so many. We have already mentioned the considerable profits of the faro bank, which he established in conjunction with Messrs. Fox and Hare ; and when the cullibility of his own countrymen was exhausted, he sought with indefatigable industry new dupes in foreign countries. The second year after his marriage he fixed his residence at Paris ; and, amidst the horrors which convulsed that unhappy capital (for it was in the spring of the same year that the unfortunate Lewis was dethroned, and his faithful guards massacred), he opened a public gaming-table ; and, to allure the young and thoughtless, his lady was even instructed

structed to appear frequently at it, and encourage, by her example, the folly of the unwary and the dissipated.

On his Lordship's return to England, he resumed his intimacy with his former associates ; he appeared at the Whig Club, that he might avow his fidelity to those principles to which he is at least indifferent : but when the chosen few are summoned to his house, politics are carefully banished from their conversation, the ardour of ambition is repressed, the sighs of patriotism smothered, the burthen of oppressive taxes becomes light, and all invectives against ministers are superseded by the joys of convivial society. Demireps of fashion, prostitutes of reputation, diaries of the gaming-table, and the improving topics of the horse-course and the fox-chase occupy the deep discourse :

Till gradual sinks their mirth ; their feeble tongues,
 Unable to take up the cumbrous word,
 Lie quite dissolv'd. Before their maudlin eyes,
 Seen dim and blue, the double tapers dance,
 Like the sun wading thro' the misty sky.

LORD

LORD M——D.

This noble Lord serves to swell the catalogue of those whose conduct has proved that every advantage of birth and fortune may be rendered abortive by the want of prudence. In an age, whose refinements have taken off every grossness, and almost every horror of vice, it would require uncommon virtue to resist its temptations. But yet there are some deviations so far beyond the folly and profligacy even of the present æra, that they still excite surprise; and in the last century, the marriage of a young man of high rank, easy independence, and handsome person, with an old worn-out prostitute, would have been ascribed to witchcraft; in the present it is termed merely a folly.

The lady who at fifty-four led to the altar this unhappy nobleman before he had completed his twenty-second year, was the daughter of tradespeople in moderate circumstances, whose foolish fondness, because she was a pretty smart child, gave her an education

education above her rank, in hopes of her making her fortune by marriage.

This raised the vanity natural to the female heart so high, that she despised her own station, and, not being so fortunate as immediately to climb to the one she desired by the way she proposed, she fell an easy victim to the first seducer who promised it in any other.

Thus the accomplishments by which the injudicious tenderness of her parents meant to raise her into a rank higher than their own, became the cause of her falling into that of the lowest of all human beings.

She who is the mistress of a man of fashion, in a moment's caprice may sink from a vis-à-vis to a dunghill; and it was not long before this thoughtless fair was abandoned by her seducer, and obliged to have recourse for subsistence to promiscuous connection—To hang on the arm of a young lawyer at a public place, one night—to be whirled, the next day, in a young merchant's phaeton to Epsom races—and, another evening, to figure with a smart cockade in the green boxes of a playhouse. It was amidst
transitions

transitions, the fortunate lot of Nancy to engage the attention of a noble Duke, who then occupied the first political situation in the kingdom, and who, having lately experienced the infidelity of the legal partner of his bed, was ready to supply the void with the first compliant fair one that caught his fancy. The mistress of the minister became immediately the object of universal admiration; and those, who had slighted her charms when they might have purchased the possession of them at a guinea, now wondered at their blindness. A second matrimonial engagement, however, dismissed her from this situation: but her fall was gentle; and another Duke succeeded to her arms. With him she made the tour of Europe; and returned fraught with those accomplishments which enabled her to ensnare, and legally secure the hand of a peer of Great Britain.

But her former habits of intrigue were too firmly riveted to be renounced at the altar; and, soon after attaining her new dignity, she spread her nets for a third Duke, the intimate friend of her husband. His Grace, whose character we have already

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given,

given, was not averfe to a connection, which would be free of expence; fhould it ever be detected, and even legally refented, he knew her former conduct would fcreen him from all damages. Their interviews were at firft conducted with fome degree of myftery and fecrecy; and an old fervant of Lord M——d having obferved his Grace, while they were on a vifit at Mr. M——l's in Leicefterfhire, defcend at a very unfeafonable hour the back-ftair-cafe, fent intelligence of his fufpicions to his mafter, who was then abfent, in town. But his Grace alfo had noticed the valet, and had early in the morning communicated his obfervations to his miftrefs. She had infantly recourfe to one of the ftratagems of her old profef-
 fion: ſhe immediately wrote to her Lord, to acquaint him that his Grace had, in a ſtate of intoxication, the preceding evening, attempted to force open her chamber door; and, when he at laſt deſiſted at her earneſt perſuaſions, he miſtook his way and blundered down the back ſtair-cafe. And as this awkward accident might have a ſingular appearance to the ſervants, ſhe thought it ex-

tremely proper to inform him of it, and to know whether she ought not to remove from under the same roof with his Grace.

The respective letters of the Lady and the valet reached my Lord by the same post, and produced two immediate answers. In the first, to his dearly beloved wife, he treated his Grace's visit as a matter of pleasant ridicule; and desired that she would continue to receive his noble and worthy friend in the same manner as if nothing had happened. In the second, he severely reprimanded the officious valet, and declared that if ever he should presume to repeat his insinuations, he should be discharged from his service.

But matters could not long remain in this ambiguous situation; and his Lordship soon perceived that the fate of Acteon was already partly his; indeed, like that hunter of antiquity, he not only found himself turned into a buck, but in a fair way to be devoured by his own hounds. The expence of his hunting establishment had greatly injured his income, when his noble friend stepped in to his relief. Lord M——d

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wanted to borrow, the Duke to lend; the estate in Essex afforded him an ample security, on which he advanced thirty thousand pounds; but, though he exacted an interest for which many a Jew would have been glad to have supplied the loan, one private stipulation preceded the public negotiation; and it was agreed, that he should at all times have access to her Ladyship's chamber, without having recourse to the back-stair-case.

This partnership continued for some time, till all parties becoming tired of it, and the association at Q——ne being dissolved, her Ladyship set out for Italy to exhibit her faded charms and new dignity to the more amorous natives of that genial climate; while his Lordship is industrious to improve that celebrity which he has attained to by marrying a prostitute, by steeple hunting, riding over cows, and getting patriotically drunk at the Whig Club.

G——E

G——E W——N B———L.

This gentleman is a striking instance of the difficulty of shaking off the ascendancy, which loose lascivious blandishments and female artifice will insensibly gain over the heart. He is the son of a man who, though reputed to possess an income of six thousand a year, has not for many years in his annual expences exceeded three hundred; and never but once has been known to spend a shilling which he could by any means have saved.

Once indeed, Old Johnny G——le, for such is the familiar appellation that at upwards of threescore he is still known by, was caught in a female snare. He took lodgings in a house near Westminster, where an elegant woman, the wife of a clerk in one of the public offices, nursed him with most friendly attention during a severe fit of the gout. Even at his advanced period of life, Johnny was not insensible to the touch of a soft hand: the lady was equally inflamed on her part by the well-known strength

strength of Johnny's purse. Her extravagance had already confined her husband to the walls of a prison, and Johnny became her open protector: another house was taken and furnished with an elegance that made the acquaintance of the old gentleman tremble for his intellects. He yet endeavoured to preserve mystery and regularity in this establishment. He was still considered as a boarder; and the lady was allowed weekly an ample sum for domestic expences: but what ought to have been appropriated to the butcher and the baker, found its way to the milliner and the mantua-maker; and when at length the connection was dissolved, and the lady embarked to seek her fortune in the East, Johnny was arrested for several hundred pounds, the debts which his fair had contracted for the table, and which, after some hours in a spunging-house, he reluctantly consented to pay.

His son set out in the world, to use a fashionable phrase, with a more liberal notion of things. From his father he could not expect a very ample allowance; but the partiality of two kinsmen has enabled him
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to indulge his appetite at the most profuse expence. His quick transition from the name of G—e to W——n, and thence to B——l, was productive of a bon-mot from the late Sir George Saville, who moved in the House, that the gentleman might have liberty to change his name as often as he pleased. He early married a Lady who was a near relation, and a namesake of his own ; and, could beauty, sense, and discretion fix the depraved taste of man, that lady would not now have reason to lament her husband's infidelity.

But it was his misfortune, after enjoying some years of domestic felicity, to be struck at a place of public entertainment, with the voice and appearance of one of the female performers. The beauties of such persons, as well as their talents, are too often venal : and Mrs. B——n had long given convincing proof that chastity was not her forte. The late Duke of R——d himself, while v——y of I——d, with half his suite, had smarted from the liberal manner in which she had dispensed her favours. As the large income of Mr. B——l enabled him to court
Mrs.

Mrs. B——n as Jupiter courted Danaë, he was soon successful ; and, fashion, if not absolutely justifying such indulgences, at least making them pass uncensured, he received her publicly as his mistress. When a woman of this cast once gets admission into a man's heart, she leaves no artifice untried to gain the absolute dominion of it ; and Mrs. B——n, by her insinuating address, soon improved the influence of her charms to such a degree as to have the most disgraceful ascendancy over her votary.

Mrs. B——l soon learned, from those good-natured friends with which this town abounds, the infidelity and fatal fascination of her husband. She was determined that he should not at least vindicate his desertion of her by pleading her reproaches—She kept her sorrows within her own bosom ;

She pin'd in thought,
And with a pale and green-eyed melancholy,
She sat like Patience on a monument,
Smiling at Grief.

But one additional drop will overflow the vessel that is full. The maid of Mrs. B——l
found

found on the dressing-table of Mr. B——l, a portrait of that gentleman, richly ornamented with diamonds. She carried it immediately to her mistress, who, after examining it with attention, conscious whom it was destined for, only said with a sigh, “*Return it to its place, Mary; it never was intended for me!*” and instantly burst into tears.

Yet once, and only once, Mr. B——l displayed an inclination to shake off his disgraceful slavery, to feel the wrongs of his wife, and to break the chains of his Circean enchantress. While Mrs. B——l was absent in the country, he had invited Mrs. B——n to sup with him at his own house in Bruton-street. The caprice of the lady induced her to declare that she was determined to pass the night with him in the chamber peculiarly appropriated to Mrs. B——l. The man, who by his neglect had not hesitated to inflict the severest wounds on the peace of his wife, was roused by this wanton insult; a quarrel ensued—the most reproachful language was used on both sides—Mrs. B——n retired to her own house—and

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Mr.

Mr. B——l to his bed, determined never to renew his unlawful connection.

The next morning he sent his confidential valet with a letter to her, intimating his intention, and promising to make a liberal provision for her support, in addition to the immense advantages she gained from the stage. This was a stroke for which she was quite unprepared; she had imagined that the transient resistance of her slave would have been attended by the most abject submission; her astonishment therefore at reading such a letter may be easily conceived: but no sooner were the momentary effects of it over, than she resolved to try all possible means to avert the misfortune; and as she was free from every attachment of personal regard, that might have made grief disturb her mind, her ready genius soon suggested the most effectual one to her.

She bribed the servant to act a part in this important scene; who, when he returned to his master, reported, that Mrs. B——n on receiving the letter had fallen into a fit, from which she had been with difficulty recovered. While Mr. B——l

still laboured under the impress of this intelligence, Mrs. B——n went to his house, burst into the room where he was, threw herself at his feet, and embraced his knees, in all the apparent agony of heart which the fondest despair could dictate, and which her profession had so well taught her to assume.

Mr. B——l was not proof against such an attack; all his resolution vanished in an instant: he raised her from the ground, and, embracing her tenderly, restored her to the empire of his heart with tenfold authority; and such was his weakness, that at his own desire their reconciliation was sealed in the very bed that had been the occasion of their quarrel.

He since has led a life of amorous servitude, as degrading to his own character, as injurious to the peace of his wife: to avoid the scrutinizing eye of the public, he has lately accompanied his syren to a foreign court, where she had entered into engagements as a vocal performer: a pretence of ill health, and that the more genial climate of Italy would be of service to his constitution, but thinly veils his motive; while she,

convinced that she has now fastened his chains too strongly ever to be shaken off, returns his fondness with indifference; and, at the very time that she is making him a dupe to her mercenary designs, takes every occasion of treating him with insolence and tyranny.

Some degree of refinement might, however, be supposed in the man who attaches himself to a voice like Mrs. B——n's, if it is her voice to which he is attached; but music has not always the power to harmonize the soul, and soften the manners; and if Mrs. B——n shared his nights, while Mr. B——l was in England, his days were devoted to Johnson, Mendoza, and the Ruffian; in short, while every elegant accomplishment is neglected, it is his pride to rival the lowest of mankind in their most brutal exercises.

It is difficult even to guess what allured Mr. B——l to embark in politics; his expensive election at Lancaster, and his afterwards relinquishing the honour of representing that city, were productive of a bon-mot from a man who never before nor since
uttered

uttered any thing resembling wit. *I have lately*, said Mr. B——l, *cut one of my wife's teeth.*—*You cut that tooth*, replied Lord T——l, *I suppose*, B——l, *when you cut for Lancaster.*

Mr. B——l is now the representative for Carlisle, and member of the Whig Club; and when neither the interesting lessons of Johnson, nor the more interesting voice of Mrs. B——n have claimed his attention, he has lounged down to the house to support opposition with an expressive monosyllable.

MR. H—Y A——N.

As a pugilist, Mr. H——y A——n disputes the palm with Mr. B——l, and even with the Duke of H——n; as an indifferent husband, he is not surpassed by either of them. Even on his marriage day he displayed that *non-ehalance*, which is the prominent feature of the present age of ease and freedom; and being asked by a gentleman who met him running in his wedding dress, whither he was hastening; *Only to a sparring*

sparring match for a lounge. That any woman of beauty and fortune should throw herself away on a man so indifferent to her charms, and so insensible to the raptures he was on the point of tasting, would appear incredible, were it not well known, that our women of fashion *affect* to prefer those who seem to care least about them, and who treat them with rudeness, if not with contempt.

It is not to be supposed that so fashionable a man will suffer politics to disturb that appearance of indifference, on which he aspires to fame. Mr. A——n probably was a candidate for the Whig Club because it was the rage, without enquiring into the principles it avowed, or the system it supported. Should a few more Honourables desert, he would perhaps be of the number, unless, in his pretensions to superior indolence, he should declare the erasing his name too much trouble for a gentleman to take.

L—D

L—D C——N.

It is the ambition of this young nobleman to tread in the steps of Mr. H—y A——n, and his juvenile compeers. He was initiated into high life by Mr. C. W——m; and for some time he had the distinguished honour of succeeding the Heir Ap—t to the Throne, the democratic banker of Bruffels, and a long list of other worthies, in the merit of supporting the frail and fair Mrs. H——s. He had the honour of supporting the lady, but not of keeping her, at least to himself; for though he maintained the establishment, it was his friend C——s W——m that reaped the pleasure. The certainty of this has induced him at length to change the object of his passion; and he has now made an arrangement with a common girl of the town, who at present bears the name of F——, and whom, with a propriety worthy of himself, he carried with him to the late masquerade of his mother.

Such a procedure could not, however, prove offensive to a lady of such liberal ideas

ideas as the Margravine. Her Royal Highness, with that purity which distinguishes both her wishes and her toasts, has declared, that her favourite wish is to have had a child by each man most celebrated in his profession. No coyness on her side has deprived her of this gratification; and the number and the boldness of her attempts must at least be acknowledged.

If the wish arose from a contempt of her present offspring, and from the hope that the virtues of the parents might be transmitted to the children, her own son affords a conspicuous proof that sentiments at least are not hereditary. At a meeting for the county of Berks, such were the aristocratic ideas of the late Lord C——n, that on some interruption he exclaimed; “ *I will be heard! I am a Lord!*” Ridiculous as such a pretension might appear in an assembly of freeholders, met to choose a representative, whence the very rank he pleaded ought in some measure to have excluded him, it is not more so than the political opinions, if they deserve the name of opinions, of his son; who, while he professes
himself

himself an active member of the Whig Club, and associates with a faction which would level every distinction, has lately courted military rank to display his valour against those whose principles his club openly vindicate.

L—D F——D.

The title of F——d once expressed every virtue, it is now become synonymous to every vice ; to rival the licentious B——ys in vulgar profligacy, to be the bully of a brothel, the hector of a tavern, or the keeper of a faro table, is the highest pitch to which the ambition of this noble peer soars. Noise and ribaldry, with him, supply the place of wit ; and obscene songs are the only tribute that he is able to afford his party. The slender fortune that descended to him was in a few months exhausted by his thoughtless extravagance ; nor has his honourable project, of prostituting his person and title in marriage, yet been successful enough to procure him another. But he

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may be quoted as an example of qualities being sometimes hereditary: no man was better versed than his father Colonel L—s F——d C——y in living at large; and by his wits he long supported himself on the credulity of the town. His son has proved himself worthy of so illustrious a fire; and there is scarce a livery stable, or tavern, but what he has laid under contribution: yet, with this blasted character, he has been readily received as a member of the immaculate Whig Club. His title serves to fill up the front of battle; his voice, to swell a political huzza; and, in an active canvass for Westminster, his prowess in the school of the *Ruffian* has been displayed at the head of a mob of patriots; while he himself feels some satisfaction in contemplating the congenial characters of the club, and thinks his own vices assume a fairer hue from the sombrous complexions of his associates.

Mr. F——s.

MR. F——s.

Far different motives have induced Mr. F——s to part with some portion of his Asiatic gains to procure himself a seat in parliament; a malignant disposition, an implacable spirit of resentment, allow him to taste that repose which the fortune he has accumulated offers to him. He was born in the middling ranks of life, and thought himself fortunate in being early placed in one of the public offices, with a salary of fifty pounds a year: his diligence, a rapid pen, and a quick turn at calculation, pointed him out in this situation to the late Mr. C——t; whose immense concerns with the office he was in, rendered it necessary for him to keep well even with the subordinate clerks. Mr. F——s's assiduity in dispatching the business of Mr. C——t procured him frequent invitations to dinner from the latter gentleman; and a person far from disagreeable, and an address sufficiently engaging, acquired him the affections of a

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female

female relation of that honest and opulent army agent.

The extraction of Mr. C——t is too well known to suppose the lady could boast either much blood or much wealth. The latter, however, was supplied by the liberality of Mr. C——t: when he gave his consent to the marriage, he presented his kinswoman with 2000l.; and he afterwards used his influence with so much effect with the late Lord H——d, that Mr. F——s was rapidly promoted to a place of considerable emolument.

In a short time after Mr. C——t died; and not only bequeathed to Mrs. F——s an annuity of 200l. a year, but named Mr. F——s as one of his executors. The first use that Mr. F——s made of this trust, was to procure himself to be returned to parliament for one of Mr. C——t's boroughs; and from his entering the house, his ascent to his present state of independence was quick and easy.

It was at that period that the abuses which had prevailed in the East had attracted the notice of the Legislature of Great Britain ;

tain ; and a new administration was formed in hopes of relieving the unhappy Asiatics from the misery they groaned under. Mr. Hastings was recommended by his long services in that country, and by his reputation for integrity, to the high office of Governor General ; but every question was to be decided by a majority of the council, which was composed of himself, and four other gentlemen ; and it was only when the suffrages were equal, that he was entitled as Governor to the casting vote. Of these gentlemen G——l C——g, with the rank of second in council, held the chief military command ; Mr. B——ll, who had resided from his infancy in India, was appointed third ; C——l M——n, who had distinguished himself in the former war, was named the fourth ; and while the minister hesitated about a fifth, he was determined in favour of Mr. F——s, by his desire to introduce a particular friend into parliament in the place of that gentleman.

Mr. F——s readily consented to resign his seat in the house, for a more lucrative one in the Supreme Council ; and he who had

had so long acted in the War-office with most abject subserviency to his superiors, felt not his pride wounded when a promise was exacted from him, that he should in every respect implicitly follow the directions of G——l C———g. While the G——l lived Mr. F——s was obliged to behold the golden harvest of eastern speculation reaped before his eyes, without presuming to put in his sickle; that severe integrity which the G——l had practised himself throughout life, he would not suffer to be impeached by the rapacity of his dependents; and Mr. F——s could only depend on his skill at whist to swell an appointment of 10,000*l.* per annum. This skill, however, he exerted with surprising success; and Mr. B——ll felt the effects of it to such a degree that, immense as his fortune was, he deemed it prudent, after several months repeated losses, to retrench the splendour of his establishment.

The successive deaths of C——l M——n and G——l C———g opened at length a more extensive prospect to our impatient adventurer; and from having been the tool,
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he beheld himself suddenly elevated into the chief of a party. In this station he at least deserved the praise of industry ; his protests against the majority became voluminous ; and such was his mortification at being excluded from an efficient share in the administration, that he mingled private abuse with public invective.

In the warm climate of India the amorous passions of Mr. F——s had not remained dormant. He had deemed the legal partner of his bed unworthy to be the partner of his power and splendour ; and when he embarked for the East, he left Mrs. F——s to live on the annuity that had been bequeathed her in England. The ready compliance of the natives had but transient allurements for him ; and he was anxious to display his address as a man of intrigue. There were not wanting jackalls in that country to hunt down the prey for him ; and Mr. B——, who had formerly been an officer, but who had been broke for cowardice, was the Parolles whom he honoured with his confidence.

Mr. G——t, an adventurer from the Northern

thern extremity of Great Britain to this land of promise, had married the daughter of a French merchant, not less remarkable for her beauty, than for that levity, which has ever characterized the country that she drew her origin from. In Mr. G—t's family Mr. F——s was domesticated; and the unsuspecting husband looked up with gratitude to a man who appeared to espouse his interests with an ardour which even friendship seldom displays. But while Mr. F——s seemed only to court the conversation of the husband, the industrious Parolles was his active agent with the wife; and notes hourly delivered in private, explained those significant glances which were dexterously stolen in public. When the fair acknowledged her own weakness, and the irresistible arguments of her seducer, the credulous husband was dispatched on pretence of business to a distant settlement; and in his absence Mr. F——s tasted those pleasures, for which he had violated every rite of hospitality. He was only permitted to taste them—the return of Mr. G—t interrupted their guilty joys; and to those who
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are acquainted with the difficulty of preserving privacy amidst the numerous attendants of the East, it will not be surprising, that Mr. F—s, on renewing the connection, was discovered in a situation which put both his baseness and the lady's infidelity beyond a doubt.

As the injury surpassed the bounds of patience, so did the revenge exceed those of prudence; it was from his own arm that Mr. G—t first sought redress; but the despoiler of his domestic happiness screened himself behind his superior rank, and poorly refused to face in the field a man whom he had not thought it beneath him to delude by every profession of friendship, while he was projecting the most deadly wound to his peace. Irritated by this refusal, Mr. G—t no longer observed any measures, and meeting Mr. F——s in the street, he dragged him from his palanquin, and it was only by the interposition of his Peons, that he was prevented from inflicting on him that punishment with his cane which he so richly merited.

His resentment did not stop here; and it was to the laws of his country that he had

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ultimately recourse for satisfaction. He instituted a suit against Mr. F——s; and though the influence of that gentleman at Calcutta was well known, and every nerve was strained to procure a subservient jury, he had the mortification of being found guilty, and subjected to a verdict of five thousand pounds.

The unpleasant circumstances that had accompanied this adventure, cooled his passion for gallantry; and he returned once more to his political pursuits. The Supreme Council was at that time composed of Mr. H——s and Mr. B——ll, Mr. F——s and Mr. W——r. As the casting vote was in the Governor General, the two former had a majority, and in fact composed the government; the Mahratta war was the general object of discussion and debate. It was at this period that the state of Mr. B——ll's health rendered him desirous of returning to Europe; but he refused to leave his friend embarrassed by those consequences which might arise from a successful opposition, more anxious to impede the measures of the Governor General, than to advance the real interest of the settlement. He therefore
declared

declared his resolution to stay in India at any hazard, unless Mr. F——s would solemnly pledge himself that he would leave the whole conduct of the Mahratta war to Mr. Hastings, who was to be solely responsible for the success. Confident in this promise, Mr. B——ll embarked; but the ship he took his passage in had scarcely cleared the river, when Mr. F——s, regardless of the honour that he had solemnly pledged, availed himself of his influence over Mr. W——r, to rescind every resolution which had been framed at the instance of Mr. H——gs, and to reduce the authority of the Governor General to a cypher.

It could not be expected that a man of a high spirit, who had been accustomed to uncontrolled power, and whose very soul was wrapt up in the success of his political plans, could bear with coolness an interference which blasted the prospects of glory and empire that he ardently expected the British arms would attain to. Yet if Mr. F——s had been aware to what extent he would have indulged his honest indignation, he probably never would have provoked it.

In a public protest he urged the opportunity, when being actually divested of the authority of Governor General, he might consider himself as a private man, to retort the aspersions that had been heaped upon him; and this he did with such keenness, and with such pointed expressions, that his adversary found himself, by the unanimous voice of the settlement, reduced to the painful alternative of noticing personally the reflections cast on him, or of being hereafter excluded from society.

Mr. F——s is not the first man with whom pride has supplied the place of courage; after some hesitation he appeared in the field; he fired his own pistol with a tremulous hand, and without success; and received the ball of his adversary in his side.

The wound was more immediately alarming than really dangerous; the ball was extracted; and Mr. F——s soon after embarked for Europe, not so much with an idea of completing his recovery, as to prepare for the accusation of his antagonist, whose recall from the administration of the East was daily expected.

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In most bosoms such a rencounter as we have mentioned, generally effaces every trace of enmity ; but with Mr. F——s it seemed only to increase his malignity. That he might give greater weight to his invectives, his first object on his arrival in England was to procure himself a seat in parliament; and the Asiatic arguments he made use of with the electors for the borough of Yarmouth, convinced them that he was worthy to become their representative. His next was closely to combine himself with a faction who, in England, had acted the same part as he had done in the East, and indefatigably laboured to clog the wheels of government; these received with open arms so worthy a coadjutor, and he was immediately elected a member of the Whig Club.

The arrival of Mr. Hastings gave open vent at length to the venom which he had been long collecting in private ; and such was his implacable hatred, that he used every engine to procure himself to be chosen the manager of an impeachment against him who had been his honourable adversary : but the House of Commons refused
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to sanction a measure which would have fixed an indelible stain on their own proceedings; and Mr. F——s has endured the mortification of exposing, without gratifying his malignity.

He has, however, since been active in directing the attacks of the managers: and from the nature of the charges, we may form a pretty conclusive idea of the disposition of him who suggested them. The politics of Mr. F——s have not been confined to the East; he has appeared the zealous champion of the Empress of Russia, and the more zealous advocate for the independence and indivisibility of Poland; after a long speech which he made at the meeting that was called on the latter occasion, to maintain the rights of a *great people*, he subscribed the sum of *ten guineas*. But such has been the ridiculous part that his faction has invariably acted; loud in their professions, but backward in their performances, a ready tongue and slow hand characterize them all.

Since this period Mr. F——s has been contented to act a subordinate part on the
political

political theatre ; he has even submitted to the very inferior function of distributing the bills of the great state juggler he acts under : and at Kingston he was active in endeavouring to persuade the inhabitants of Surry, that they would be more free, were they deprived of the freedom of disposing of their own money as they pleased.

MR. C——Y.

Those maxims which Mr. F——s labours to enforce by long and heavy arguments, Mr. C——y claims his province to recommend by short and humorous stories. — This gentleman has been called, not unaptly, the Joe Miller of the House of Commons ; and though the laugh he raises is frequently at his own expence, entrenched in his native effrontery, he has never been known to have been guilty of a single blush. A bold and shameless assertion, of the falsehood of which he is convicted, never deters him from hazarding a new one ; and that detection which confounds most men, is passed off by

by him with a laugh. His fortune, if possible, is inferior to his talents; and it is only to the Whig Club that a character so infinitely below censure can give consequence.

MR. W———YN.

A pert vivacity, which distinguishes every thing that this gentleman utters, impressed his superiors in rank with an idea that his abilities were of a higher class; and a noble Duke, whose total ignorance in literature prevented him discerning the shallowness of his dependent, and who was secure of his subserviency to his designs, gave him his countenance in the city near which he resided, and thus procured him a seat in parliament. But his vanity had deceived himself as well as his patron; and he found, to both their disappointments, upon the very first trial of his political talents, that different abilities are requisite to command the attention of country attorneys and parsons, and of the British senate: so entire was his overthrow, and so extreme his

confusion, that he has never ventured to rise in the House again ; but has, in the humility of his subsequent conduct, confessed his defeat to be complete.

In the Whig Club, however, he still ventures to harangue ; and finds the understanding of the tradesmen of Westminster not many degrees superior to those of H——d. On one occasion he has indeed proved his address ; and, with a shattered and daily decreasing fortune, he has prevailed to have his name inscribed in the firm of a new banking-house ; nor is this the first instance that we have met with of the original intention of franking being perverted to the most improper uses.

J——E C——KE J——E.

To infringe in the grossest manner the established laws of his country, to receive an open and severe reproof from the seat of justice, and to be condemned to make reparation for his guilt by a long confinement,

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has been the lot of this worthy member of the British Legislature, and of the Whig Club. Such a disgrace, which might have induced most men to have shunned society, and have secluded themselves in solitude from all observation, has had little effect on Mr. J——e C——ke J——e: he has turned off with a laugh a punishment which has not proved injurious to his pocket; and though he finds some few of his old acquaintance shut their doors against him, he is convinced that the extent of his fortune will prove a sufficient justification for him with the bulk of mankind, and especially with the party with which he acts. Nor has he been deceived in this judgment: for, since he has been stamped with legal infamy, he has been chosen a steward of the Whig Club; and, encouraged by this distinction, he proceeds to gratify, to the annoyance of his peaceable neighbours, every oppressive suggestion of a malignant and litigious disposition.

L—D

L—D A——LE.

This young nobleman, who has entered into opposition with a hardness peculiar to himself, at a period when the party has been deserted by some of the most illustrious characters of this country, is the son of a man who, by the fond partiality of the reigning family, was restored from the most severe indigence to opulence and splendour. That poverty which is not the result of our own vices, can never make us really contemptible; but the late Lord A——le had succeeded to a noble inheritance, which his industry at the tavern, the brothel, and the gaming table, had dissipated with such success, that his lady, however incredible the assertion may seem, was obliged to remain at home from the want of shoes to go out in. While he could gratify his own base and sensual appetites, he was indifferent to the distress of an amiable wife; but no sooner did he find himself restrained by his embarrassments in his licentious indulgencies, than he resolved to make one effort, to enable

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him

him to pursue his effeminate pleasures. At the end of a bloody war, he obtained from the favour of the late Duke of C——d, to the prejudice of many gallant officers who had borne the brunt of seven successive campaigns, and whose wounds were the unequivocal testimonies of their services, the command of the forces which were sent against the Havannah; and those who served under him can witness, that, however backward he might be in sharing the danger, it was impossible for any one to be more alert in sharing the spoil. Some instances of his rapacity and oppression were so notorious, that they became the objects of enquiry in a court of justice; and he was compelled to disgorge part of his extorted wealth.

Fortunately for his son, he lived not long enough to dissipate the rest: he died when the present Lord was only an infant of two years old; and the accumulations of a long minority will enable him to support his rank at least with decency, if not with splendour, should he not unhappily prove the vices of his father to be hereditary. But
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his best friends have been alarmed at his *debut* in public life; and his joining a sinking faction, together with some indiscretions and excesses which marked him at Cambridge, make them look forward to his future conduct rather with apprehension than with hope. The only motive for his enlisting in the thin phalanx of opposition, must be vanity, the real source of that ambition which courts danger, and plunges with open eyes into destruction, however speciously it may be disguised under the pompous titles of love of glory, and regard to the public good. What there is to be vain of in such an association may raise some wonder; but it is to be considered, that vanity is never the result of real worth; the false glare of public estimation reflecting it from the vilest and most reproachful objects.

L—D G—L—D.

Amidst the competitors of opposition for
 returning with ingratitude the favours their
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family have received from the throne, there are few who can presume to rival Lord G—l—d. The house of N—h had long been distinguished by a steady attachment to that of S—t; but the late Lord early shook off every hereditary prejudice, and, considering possession as the only title, devoted himself to those in power. A pliability of temper, a lively wit, and happy talent for reply, smoothed his ascent to the highest offices of the state; and when the Duke of G——n transiently occupied the situation of First Lord of the Treasury, Lord N—h was preferred to the appointment of Chancellor of the Exchequer, with the management of the House of Commons. An heavy and ungraceful form was long supposed to contain a mind buried in thought, and intent on the most profound speculations; and while the jovial statesman was circulating the glass among his chosen friends, the deluded many believed him unravelling the intricate maze of revenue and finance.

As soon as he had insinuated himself into the pleasureable liking of his leader, by an unwearied

unwearied exertion of all his powers of pleasing, he directly proceeded with the nicest art to improve that liking into an important confidence. He watched his every action, word and look, till he discovered the peculiar turn of his mind, to which he accommodated his own so implicitly, that the very faculties of his soul seemed only to move by the other's will.

They who are above deceit themselves, suspect it not in others ; that self-love, which is inseparable from humanity, was easily imposed upon by such art ; his chief liked himself in him, and insensibly came to think all reserve unnecessary with one whose manners were those of a frank and careless bon-vivant. It has been an old remark, that the leader in the House of Commons, whatever may be apparently his situation, is the real minister, as it is from him the inferior partisans of government are obliged to take the word ; nor was it long before Lord N—h found the truth of this observation. He was no longer the obsequious creature of the Duke ; and, to avoid the disgrace of being publicly supplanted by the minion he had

had raised, his Grace resigned the post of First Lord of the Treasury.

It was immediately occupied by his Lordship, who being now elevated above the controul of any other subject, transferred his adulation and subserviency to the monarch himself. He paid his court with so much address, that he obtained an absolute ascendancy over him ; and exercised it to the no small detriment of his sovereign's glory, and to the almost absolute ruin of the people whom he was chosen to govern: he involved the nation in a wide and disastrous civil war ; and pursued his pleasures with ardour, while the kingdom was reduced to the brink of bankruptcy by his negligence. The loss of provinces, the captures of fleets and armies, were received with a laugh, and communicated with a jest ; nor was it until he found the indignation of the people aroused to such a pitch that they would no longer brook his government, that he betrayed any symptom of emotion : it was then that the tears started from his eyes ; but they were not extorted by the recollection of the slaughtered thousands
whom

whom he had sacrificed in the fruitless contest; but by the certainty that the authority in which he had so long revelled was drawing to a conclusion. Yet one declaration has thrown some faint gleam of lustre on his character; his probity at least was confessed at the expence of his ability; and he was acknowledged by his great political adversary to have been as incapable of embezzling the public money, as he was incapable of directing the public affairs.

It was expected on his resignation, that he would immediately have retired from public view, to the enjoyment of that Epicurean ease, in which he seemed to have placed his principal happiness. Gratitude to his sovereign, who had so long and so steadily countenanced him, it was concluded would have prevented him from embarrassing the measures of government, by joining opposition. But what was the surprise of every one, when on a new political revolution they saw him unite with those very men, who, while he was in power, had lavished on him every opprobrious term, that genius

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could create: with these, forgetting every benefit that he had received, he formed a bond of political usurpation; and again forcing himself into the presence and councils of his king, rendered himself equally contemptible and odious to every party.

The advantage he reaped from this act of ingratitude was but transient; the name of the coalition was echoed with resentment from one extremity of the kingdom to the other; he was obliged to retire again from office with his new ally; and the infirmities of age and gloom of blindness were aggravated by the unwelcome remembrance of the baseness of his latter conduct.

The cares of administration had never interrupted for a moment the pursuits of pleasure: in his youth he had married a lady, whose large fortune was her sole recommendation; and whose strong homely features bore a near resemblance to his own. The real levity of his disposition prompted him to raise a laugh on every occasion; and on being asked at court one day by a stranger, *who that ugly woman was*, pointing to Lady N——h, *She is*, replied he,
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my wife, and we are reckoned the ugliest couple in England.

Indeed, having obtained possession of what he deemed the most valuable part of her, her fortune, he was perfectly indifferent about what became of her person ; and sought his gratification with every convenient female whom his influence or purse could allure to his arms. He lived for some time in close intimacy with the masculine sister of a well-known nabob, and it is supposed his regard for that lady long supported her brother in his unexampled speculation and oppression in the East. He was, however, far from affecting constancy, and scarcely secrecy, since he frequently received the promiscuous objects of his desires at his own house. On one of these occasions Lady N — h unfortunately met a compliant fair one, on the stair-case, as she was descending from having eased the amorous minister's passion ; but my Lord parried this blow with his usual address ; in a well dissembled rage he sent for his eldest son ; and having given him an expressive wink on his entrance, "*George, George,*" exclaimed he,

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"are you not ashamed to bring common prostitutes under the roof of your mother?" The hopeful youth listened to his admonition with the appearance of repentance, and departed with promises of being more regular in his conduct in future.

Under such a father, and such a tutor, no wonder that the progress of the present Lord G——d in every fashionable excess should have been rapid and successful. Having become the victim of a fatal passion to play, he lost a sum which he had no possibility of paying but by granting post obits to an immense amount. Such a transaction, unless by public auction, is only binding in point of honour; and no sooner was his Lordship, on the death of his grand-father and father, called upon to fulfil his agreement, than he declared his resolution to abide by the decision of a court of justice, if the claimants would not consent to receive their money again with five per cent. interest. The effects of such a menace were well understood. The baptized Jews of Lombard-street were well acquainted with, and had smarted under the statutes on usury; and with many a secret execration on

on being thus obliged to disgorge their prey, they submitted to the composition.

Though few probably pitied the losers, yet when the risk incurred on such an occasion is candidly examined, no one can applaud him who availed himself of the laws of his country to supersede the obligation. It was previous to this transaction, and while Mr. N—h, that the present Lord G——d had fought and obtained the hand of a lady, who had been tried in, and had come forth pure from the fiery ordeal of dissipation. Mrs. H——t's follies, her breakfasts, her dinners, and her suppers, have long been the subject of fashionable conversation. At a period of life when most women sink into domestic cares, she burst forth in a blaze of splendour and profusion on the public; neither her years, her figure swelled by the indulgencies of the table, nor five beautiful daughters, who already were marriageable, were by their presence a sufficient reproach to the gaiety and indiscretions of the mother, or could check her career. Poor T——t, he who once was the lap-dog of Mrs. H—b—t, is now sunk into

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a quiet husband ; and the merciless disposition of these Jacobin ruffians has induced him to renounce the smart cockade and alluring uniform of the guards ; but there was a time when no feast could have its relish without his smiles, and no music was considered so harmonious as his persuasive whispers. At every public place he was a constant attendant ; he was the genius who directed her in the selection of her readings ; and the platonic alliance was the object of envy and admiration to his brother ensigns.

From this desertion, Mrs. H—b—t has not suffered any new engagements to trouble her repose ; and instead of sacrificing to Friendship, she is now an assiduous votary at the shrine of Plutus. The title of B—k—h—e brought an accession of dignity without an accession of fortune ; and to supply the deficiency of the latter, she is liberal in prostituting the former. Twice a week a public faro bank is kept at her house ; and the unfledged ensigns of the guards, the juvenile gamblers of fashion and inexperience, with those unfortunate exiles from the rage of demo-

democracy, whose slender hoards are not totally exhausted, are invited to contribute in a polite way to the establishment of this needy Countess. Such are the resources of a woman of fashion, who boasts the blood of the B—t—s, and who, while she practises the most degrading expedients, aspires to the character of the most refined delicacy.

The vices of the mother assume a darker shade from the virtues of the daughter; from the licentious readings that profaned the drawing-room of Mrs. H—b—t, Miss H—b—t always withdrew. And the P—e of W—s pronounced a severe censure on the giddy females who buz about the polite circles, when he declared Miss H——t to be the only modest woman of fashion that he was acquainted with. It was in the bloom of her youth that this treasure was consigned to the arms of Lord Guildford; and her behaviour in marriage vindicated the P——'s judgment. Meek, humane, humble, and prudent, she could have but one thing to reproach herself with; it was, that her conduct was the most pointed reproof on her mother's. Alas! while I write this she is no
more;

more ; and it is from respect to her memory that I fully not the paper with the more than frailties of a husband, whom with all his faults she adored. Though the Somersetshire estate is gone, the breach of his word has saved the oaks and acres at W——e ; and let him be content with these without calling in new partners, by being the tool of a needy and desperate faction.

His brother has already felt the consequences of his ingratitude. While he possessed an honourable and lucrative post in the household of the Queen, such was his zeal in the cause of Mr. F—x, that when the carriage of that patriot, on his being returned for Westminster, was dragged in triumph by the mob, he stood behind it as his lacquey ; he was immediately dismissed from his office ; and the dismissal was embittered by the sarcasm, that though her Majesty was far from wishing to controul the political opinions of any one, she could not think of familiarly admitting into her presence a man who had degraded himself to the station of footman to Mr. Fox.

Mr.

Mr. R——T A——R

Is the son of a man, who has not been less celebrated for his chirurgical skill, than for the uncommon suavity of his manners, and the rectitude of his heart. His son entered life with every advantage, except that of fortune, which he could have wished. The marriage of his father had allied him to the noble families of Ruffel and Keppel; but unfortunately for himself it was that alliance which gave a tincture to his politics. He does not stand indeed a solitary example in the Whig Club of men of genius submitting to be led, where they ought to lead; and of sacrificing their own judgment to the influence of their connections. Instead of dedicating his talents to the assiduous pursuit of a lucrative profession, he has devoted them to the interested purposes of a faction; and some letters which he wrote on the commercial treaty with France, raised the estimation of his powers so high, that opposition has spared no arts to retain him in their cause. The promise of a seat in parliament,

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the most alluring bribe to a young and ambitious man, has been made, broken, and renewed ; and though he has been frequently disappointed, he still continues to drudge on in the hope of finally receiving the reward of his labours.

Those labours have not been confined to his pen ; and when a negociation was pending between our court and that of Petersburg, he undertook the honourable mission of informing the Empress, how numerous and steady were the friends that she might rely on in the British parliament. He went on his embassy with a train worthy the ambassador of such a party ; and he was escorted to Brussels by his indefatigable Sultana, Mrs. Benwell, accompanied by her no less chaste companion and friend Mrs. Bowdler. His reception at Petersburg was such as might have been expected from a Princess indifferent by what means she attained her ends. But the satisfaction which the Imperial smiles had inspired was abated by a discovery which he made on his return to Brussels ; for such had been the extravagance of his female friends, that the slender purse provided

provided by opposition was exhausted ; and before this virtuous trio could quit Brussels, Mr. A—r was reduced to pledge the superb watch which the Empress had presented him, as a proof of her gratitude for the trouble he had undertaken.

Neither prodigality nor infidelity has influenced him to break the disgraceful chains, which he seems to consider as the ornament instead of the reproach of his life : that life in all probability will not be of long duration ; his feeble frame appears unequal to the double toil of love and politics ; and it is in the grave only that he can hope to find repose from the incessant claims of Mrs. B——l and Mr. Fox.

M——R M——D.

This gentleman was early in life a successful candidate for the highest military honours ; and it is but justice to acknowledge, that in his profession he has attained to more than common approbation ; but it was his misfortune to be seized with the rage of becoming a

politician ; and the fatal fever, which revels with so much violence in the veins of his brother, has been communicated to him. Hence, on every popular motion he is loud and pertinacious in stating the immediate calamities, and the blessings that might be hoped for from reform ; but as his eloquence is more correct, so is his judgment more sound than his ———— ; and in his panegyrics on the present government of France, he but slightly touches on those topics, on which ———— so perseveringly dwells,

That the contagion of modern patriotism should ever have seized Scotland, is a new instance of those revolutions in hereditary opinions which the present æra seems destined to furnish. Yet extraordinary as the fact is, the flame has blazed more fiercely in the cold regions of the north, than in the

the warmer climate of the south. It has not, however, triumphed over the economic dispositions of our Highland brethren; nor has even the ardour of ——— precipitated him into any one action of imprudent liberality. When ———, he purchased of the late Duke of N———d a seat for one of his Cornish boroughs; and in the agreement, the duration of the parliament for which he had purchased was inadvertently expressed by the term of seven years. When the Parliament was dissolved in 1784 by Mr. Pitt, ——— remained silent till he was informed the Duke had filled up all his seats; and then waited on him to request that he might be returned as before. The Duke expressed his concern that he was engaged. *How! Engaged, my Lord Duke, when you are under contract to me for seven years?* It was in vain that the Duke urged that seven years meant nothing more than the continuance of that parliament; ——— abruptly quitted him, with the menace that a court of justice should decide between them. His Grace immediately sent for his confidential steward Mr. Selby; they examined the contract; turned

it every way ; but still the unfortunate expression of seven years incessantly recurred. They sent to ——— to propose terms of accommodation, *It was his son's affair*, was the laconic answer—nor was it until after repeated messages, that ——— consented to a second interview. *There remains nothing*, said his Grace, *in this awkward business, but for me to return you, my Lord, your money* ; but in the confusion of the transaction, having sold his borough this time for 3,500l. he forgot that he had only received 3000l. from ———, and gave his draft for the former sum. ——— hurried away to the banker's without attempting to rectify the error ; the Duke, left to cool reflection, soon perceived it ; he wrote to ——— stating it, but the only answer he could obtain was, *that the affair was very well settled, and it was best to leave it there*. His Grace was too conscious of the embarrassed figure that he should make in the transaction in a court of justice to have recourse to legal measures ; and ———, after having enjoyed a seat in parliament for four years, found himself a gainer of five hundred pounds.

Nor has this been the sole occasion on which he has displayed that rigid attention to pecuniary advantage which he imbibed with his native air. With his lady, the daughter of ——— of the ———, he received the sum of seventy thousand pounds, with even a larger fortune in expectation. His father-in-law wished to turn out for a few weeks one of his carriage horses; his obliging son-in-law offered to take care of it. But when it was sent for back, he had the liberality and conscience to make a demand for the keep of it, though it was notorious to all his country neighbours, that it had been incessantly exercised in running in a small cart up to town, with milk, butter, and vegetables for the family in ——— square.

It is however the misfortune of avarice to overreach itself: the temptation of extraordinary profit was too powerful for the prudence of ———; about a year back he disposed of a very considerable landed property; and the large sum that it produced, is reported to have been remitted to France,
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and to have been employed in purchasing the confiscated estates of the emigrants, and of the church. In such a case he must have felt severely the subsequent decree of the Convention, which has extended to the property of all foreigners. Perhaps he hopes by his zeal for the republic to obtain an exemption from the general proscription : he has, however, lately met with a broad hint from Lord G—v—e ; and whatever may be his views or hopes, he will in all likelihood be more cautious in future, both in his *public* harangues at home, and his *private* correspondence abroad.

MR. A——M.

Scotland also may boast to have sent this member to the Whig Club ; but whatever may be the zeal of Mr. A——m in the cause of Mr. Fox, he commenced his political career as the advocate of Lord North, and the violent adversary of his present leader ; their differences in the house were terminated in the field ; and the cordiality
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in which they have lived and acted since, is the best censure on the eternal enmity of Mr. F——s.

When the coalition was formed, Mr. A——m followed the fortune of Lord North, and was permitted to *taste* the emoluments of office; with that lord he was also turned out; for, to use his lordship's acknowledgment, they were not permitted to resign. He has since experienced a fresh mortification; like the dog that renounced the substance for the shadow, he gave up his seat for Ross-shire in the certain hope of succeeding at Banbury: there cannot however be a stronger proof how unpopular the present opposition are, than that the established interest of the Norths should fail in that borough; and in consequence of the defeat, Mr. A——m is reduced to deplore the prejudices of the times in a private station.

Before however that he divested himself of his senatorial capacity, he delivered an elaborate speech respecting the proceedings of the criminal courts of Scotland in the cases of Messrs. Muir and Palmer. The

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chief purport of it was to convince the House, that several essential forms had been violated in the conviction of those gentlemen; and that the punishment that their imprudence had incurred far exceeded their offence: but though this was the object of his speech, the sole effect of it was impressing that assembly that he was himself miserably ignorant of the laws of that country which he had attempted to elucidate and reform.

Whatever may be our opinions of the dangerous tendency of the writings of Messrs. Muir and Palmer, we confess that we do not feel ourselves indifferent to the extent of their sentence; but on no occasion have we ever been sensible of a stronger indignation at the conduct of opposition than on this. Instead of instructing these unfortunate men humbly to sue for mercy at the foot of the throne, they have encouraged them to demand as an act of justice, what can only be granted as an act of grace. By a thousand artful flatteries they have confirmed them in their fatal obstinacy; after having used them as a ladder for their ambition, they have thrown
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them aside, and abandoned them, not merely to indigence and exile, but even left them to solitude ; to the society of miscreants, whom the moral rectitude of their lives must compel them to abhor, though their political errors have doomed them to mingle with. And what is the compensation that they will bear with them for such a lot ? The hope that once or twice a year their health, or, if they are no more, their memories, may be toasted by the Whig Club.

C——L M——D.

Iterumque Crispinus ! This is also a patriot of northern extraction : but it is the warmer influence of the east that has ripened both his fame and fortune. He has himself declared in the House the dangers he defied, the fatigues he encountered in the service of his country, under a burning sun :

Wherein he spake of most disastrous chances,
Of moving accidents by flood and field.

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But he has preserved a cautious silence respecting the riches that he has amassed. It is the remark of one of his countrymen, Mr. Hume, that the love of liberty generally accompanies property; and if the remark is just, few men ought to surpass the noble Colonel in his ardour for freedom; yet his sentiments have occasionally varied with the country that he inhabited; and this implacable enemy to oppression, whose blood boils at the abuses which prevail under the reign of a Brunswick, has pronounced a laboured panegyric on the blessings arising from the mild government of Tippoo-Saib. With that amiable prince he has often beguiled the hours from midnight till morning; and from his mouth he has imbibed the mysteries of oriental politics and philosophy. Such a distinction must have elated the most humble mind; yet his is so far from being rendered assuming by it, that he has enrolled his name in the Whig-Club, which may boast of having among its members the colloquial friend of the King of Mysore.

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C——L T——N.

Another Colonel succeeds, whose exploits have established him a renown in the west, equal at least to that which Colonel M——d has achieved in the east. He was originally bred to the law; but his spirit disdained that slow and laborious road to fame, and the revolt of the colonies afforded him an opportunity of

“ Seeking the bubble reputation
Even in the cannon’s mouth.”

In the cause of the mother country he flew to chastise her rebellious sons; and his activity recommended him to the notice of Lord C——s. By that general he was promoted and trusted in many enterprises of danger and difficulty; and wherever a daring hand alone was necessary, he acquitted himself with credit. But courage is the meanest of all military qualities. And on an occasion where a greater force was confided to him, and where superior skill was requisite, he confirmed by his defeat
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the suspicion, that his talents were confined to the station of a partisan. In his personal gallantry his country forgot or overlooked the source of his miscarriage; and on the conclusion of the peace he was welcomed home with the loudest acclamations.

But with the war his glories ended: the brave foldier degenerated into a vain boaster: in every company his own exploits were his constant theme; and those who were inclined voluntarily to have paid him the tribute of applause he merited, were fatigued into silent disgust by his endless repetition. The esteem of the more rigid was alienated by the dissipation into which he plunged; race horses and mistresses, his gaming and high feasting soon exhausted the spoil of six successive campaigns; and on the appointment of his former patron to the most important command this country can bestow, he cast a look of impatience towards the east, in the hope of restoring his shattered fortunes by the plunder of the rich banks of the Ganges.

But that noble Lord, pure in his own conduct, was determined that those who
accompanied

accompanied him should be pure also : nor would he suffer the rapacity of a needy dependant to stain his reputation for integrity. The Colonel was mortified by an absolute refusal : in the refusal was buried all remembrance of former obligations ; and, that he might record his ingratitude to futurity, the Colonel published his history of the American campaigns, which was an open and malignant attack on the military conduct and skill of his benefactor.

The envenomed shaft rebounded on himself ; his publication called forth others ; a series of letters appeared in one of the public papers, written by an officer, who had served with him in America, and in the controversy half his laurels were torn from his brow.

The pecuniary resources he could no longer hope to extort by violence from the east, it was now his occupation to extract by address at home. He reaped a considerable harvest from engaging his Royal H——s the —— of —— at tennis ; and when that mine was exhausted, in conjunction with Capt. H——y of the guards, and in
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imitation of his brother patriots, he established a faro bank at D'Aubigny's. The profession was, however, over-stocked; they found the expence exceed the profits; and the bank gradually diminished, until it became so light that a confidential waiter one day moved off with it. Though he was fortunately arrested, and fourteen hundred guineas, the whole property of the firm, but not one which was weight, were recovered; yet the finances of the proprietors only enabled them to languish through the succeeding winter, when the connection was finally dissolved.

If you will believe the Colonel, his exploits in love have at least equalled his achievements in war; it is his pleasure to relate how *often*, and how *firmlly* he has stood in the *imminent breach*. To this he could lately call Perdita to witness; but that once elegant frail one remains now only a melancholy ruin of her former beauty; and is reduced to beguile her hours, and prop the Colonel's tottering finances, by weaving novels, and fineering sonnets.

In politics the Colonel has been in-

sistency itself: we have already observed, that he first emerged to fame, by the ardour that he displayed against the revolted colonists of America; that ardour was checked by no sentiment of compassion or humanity; and every advantage was improved by a cruel and bloody diligence in pursuit. Yet since this terror of revolt in America has become the advocate of rebellion and anarchy in France, he has discovered that the horrors of war ought to be smoothed by all the intercourse and moderation of civil life. He has loudly declared his abhorrence of sending forth the emigrants to combat with an halter about their neck. We do not know what are the general sentiments of those gentlemen themselves, but we do not perceive what they can require more than to be landed with arms in their hands, that they may obtain the satisfaction of a final struggle against their persecutors; nor is there any reason why they should remain here in inglorious repose, to reap that harvest which has been sown by the toils, and manured by the blood of their brethren in La Vendée and Brittany.

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As the Colonel is a respectable member of the Whig Club, he has introduced into it his brother, the representative for Seaford ; but the knowledge of this gentleman, if he possesses indeed any knowledge at all, is confined to heraldry ; and though he is always silent on politics, he sometimes ventures to speak on genealogies.

Having bestowed so much time on the Laity, we cannot refuse some moments to one of the Clergy.

D——R S——L P——R

May boast the same extraction as Cardinal Dubois, and is the son of a man who united the two advantages of practising as an apothecary, and keeping a boarding-house at Harrow. It was at that school this colossus of Grecian literature received his education ; his application early distinguished him ; and he was chosen to supply the vacancy of one of the under masters : from this situation he gradually advanced until he was promoted to the peculiar care of the fourth form. At this period he had the singular faculty of acquiring

acquiring the affection of the scholars, with the esteem of the head master. The death of that master, Dr. Sumner, which promised to promote, was ultimately fatal to his hopes; he aspired to be his successor; but the governors thought themselves justified in calling Mr. Heath, from Eton, to that station. The boys were exasperated at this insult offered to their favourite; a rebellion broke out, which will be long remembered at Harrow. It was above three weeks before order could be restored; and then Mr. P—r retired with about fifty of the head boys to Stanmore, where he opened a new school.

Though this measure was countenanced by Doctor Askew, and some few of the Grecian friends of the Doctor, it was far from being generally approved. It was observed, that however the ardour of the boys in favour of their preceptor might be amiable, it was neither prudent nor decent in him to avail himself of it; that it was relaxing the springs of discipline; and sanctioning that turbulent spirit which has too often disgraced our great schools.

To the imprudent part of the conduct

Mr. P—r was soon awakened ; most of the boys who had seceded with him, were approaching the period when they were to remove from school to college ; and the influence which he even possessed over the juniors began to decline : though the solemnity of his character was increased by the new dignity of Doctor, to which he was admitted about that time at Cambridge, it could not overawe the spirit of faction which began to arise. A marriage which he contracted with the house-keeper of some obscure citizen's widow, added fuel to the flame : this wife had been recommended by Doctor Askew, for *Sammy* was too much immersed in Greek to look out for one for himself. Her sordid economy was displeasing to the boys, and her cockney dialect was grating to the ear of the Doctor : he lamented that he had not paid his addresses to the celebrated Miss Carter, whom he might have courted in Greek ; and she did not condescend to conceal her vexation at having chosen for her bedfellow a pedantic pedagogue, instead of an East-India Captain, who might have brought muslins and chintzes.

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The decline of the school at Stanmore admonished Dr. P—r to quit it; he afterwards tried Colchester and Norwich, but not with more success. The fame of his learning has, indeed, spread wider and wider; but with his renown his arrogance has increased; all his attainments are poisoned by a supercilious disposition; a less compliment than that from Catullus,

Ille mi PAR esse Deus videtur;

Ille, si fas est, superare Divos—

he would turn from with scorn. From lashing boys he presumed to lash men; and his preface to Bellendenus launched him forth as one of the most daring adventurers on the ocean of political controversy: but the boldness of the attempt is more to be admired than the execution is to be praised. Even the purity of the Latin has been severely criticised; and the pompous phraseology in which his ideas are clothed, announces a mind inflated by the opinion of its own superiority. It attracted the attention of the public for some time, rather from its scurrility, than its severity; but it has been long since consigned to oblivion; to the same

same oblivion to which Dr. P—r's attacks on Mr. Curtis, and Dr. Combe, are rapidly hastening.

Yet though Dr. P—r's character has suffered from acting a part so inconsistent with a minister of peace, it is not destitute of worthy and brilliant qualities. As a Greek scholar he stands unrivalled ; and those who have had the pleasure of sharing in his conversation, must acknowledge, that he is gifted with an eloquence clear and captivating ; it is the unhappy subject of politics that has cramped his faculties, and proved a torpedo to his genius. We regret to find a pen that can discourse sweet language, clothe wisdom in her fairest attire, give morality a charm to make instruction lovely, can elevate the humblest subject, and adorn the sublimest, prostituted to the worst of services, the service of a faction ; we are grieved to behold a man, pure in his own morals, the advocate of a profligate crew sunk in vice and sensuality ; and instead of aspiring by the open road of learning to the highest dignities of the profession he has entered into, treading the dark and intricate paths

paths of party, to attain to the degrading station of chaplain of the Whig Club.

CONCLUSION.

SUCH are the leading members of the Whig Club ; and in the review of them, it must be confessed that that society contains men who possess as great talents, and as corrupt principles as ever were known to elevate or debase the human character. Whatever are their own private views, they are concealed beneath the mask of patriotism. A patriot, in the original and proper meaning of the word, is the noblest title that can be given to man, and includes every virtue moral, social, and civil. But so entirely is the use of words changed with the course of things, that, stripped of every idea which can deserve respect, at present it implies only a factious opposer of the measures of the Court, who pretends a regard to the public welfare to gain the confidence of the people, and make himself of sufficient consequence

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to be admitted to a share of the spoil, against which he so loudly declaims.

To such men the extraordinary events of the present age have given weight and efficacy; nor can we survey the present period, with the leaders of opposition, without calling to mind the state of England as described by the elegant pen of Hume, a few months before that fatal civil war which was only extinguished by the blood of the unfortunate Charles, and the usurpation of Cromwell.

“ This was the time,” says that justly esteemed historian, “ when genius and capacity of all kinds, freed from the restraint of authority, and nourished by unbounded hopes and projects, began to exert themselves, and to be distinguished by the public. Then was celebrated the sagacity of Pym, more fitted for use than ornament; matured, not chilled by his advanced age, and long experience. Then was displayed the mighty ambition of Hampden, taught disguise, not moderation, from former constraint; supported by courage; conducted by prudence, embellished by modesty; but whether found-
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“ ed in a love of power or zeal for liberty,
 “ is still, from his untimely end, left doubt-
 “ ful and uncertain. Then too were known
 “ the dark, ardent, and dangerous character
 “ of St. John ; the impetuous spirit of Hol-
 “ lis, violent and sincere ; open and entire
 “ in his enmities and his friendships : the en-
 “ thusiastic genius of young Vane, extrava-
 “ gant in the ends which he pursued, saga-
 “ cious and profound in the means that he
 “ employed ; misled by the appearances of
 “ religion, negligent of the duties of mo-
 “ rality.

“ The harangues of members kept alive
 “ the discontents against the King’s admini-
 “ stration. The pulpits, delivered over to
 “ puritanical preachers and lecturers, re-
 “ founded with faction and fanaticism ; the
 “ press, freed from all fear or reserve, swarm-
 “ ed with productions dangerous by their
 “ seditious zeal and calumny, more than
 “ by any art or eloquence of composition.
 “ Noise, fury, cant, and hypocrisy formed
 “ the sole rhetoric, which during this tumult
 “ of various prejudices and passions could
 “ be heard or attended to.

“ A new method of framing and disperf-

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“ ing libels was invented by the leaders of
 “ popular discontent. Petitions to parlia-
 “ ment were drawn, craving redress against
 “ particular grievances; and when a suffi-
 “ cient number of subscriptions were pro-
 “ cured, the petitions were presented to the
 “ Commons, and immediately published.
 “ The petitions became secret bonds of
 “ association among the subscribers; and
 “ seemed to give undoubted sanction and
 “ authority to the complaints which they
 “ contained.”

The page of history has ever been considered as a political mirror reflecting the present in the past * ; nor can any one in the perusal of the above extracts avoid recogniz-

* We are irresistibly tempted to transcribe a note from Hume, subsequent to the death of Charles the First. “ What a paradox in human affairs, that Henry
 “ the Eighth should have been almost adored in his life-
 “ time, and his memory be respected; while Charles
 “ the First should, by the same people, at no greater
 “ distance than a century, have been led to a public
 “ and ignominious execution, and his name be pursued
 “ by falsehood and obloquy !”

Has not France presented us with the same paradox ? and who can read this without tracing the parallel between the character and fate of Louis the Fourteenth and his unfortunate successor Louis the Sixteenth ?

ing the features and artifices of our modern patriots. Those celebrated chiefs would all gladly have exchanged the barren toils of opposition for the emoluments of office; Mr. St. John would have been satisfied with the appointment of Solicitor General; Mr. Pym consented to be Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr. Hampden Tutor to the Prince. That such an arrangement was not permanent, arose not from the disinterested spirit of these patriots; but from the difficulty that the King found to satisfy all, who from their activity and authority in parliament had pretensions to offices; and who still had it in their power to embarrass and distress the public measures.

It is probably this prudent versatility of Mr. Hampden that has rendered his memory a favourite toast with Mr. Fox at the Whig Club; but though the latter may possess the affability in conversation; the temper, art, and eloquence in debate; the penetration and discernment in council; the industry, vigilance, and enterprise in action of the former; it is in vain that we look for his virtue and integrity, in all the duties of private life. "We must be cautious," says
Hume,

Hume, speaking of Hampden, "not hastily to ascribe to him all the praises of a good citizen; since, through all the horrors of civil war, he fought the abolition of monarchy and subversion of the constitution; an end which, had it been attainable by peaceful measures, ought carefully to have been avoided by every lover of his country."

Yet Mr. Hampden brought no inconsiderable stake into the unhappy struggle; and an ample fortune, which was enjoyed with the prudent simplicity of that age, is a proof that he was not urged by private distress to promote public anarchy. Does the situation of that man, who affects to hold him forth as his example, free him from a similar accusation? The secession of Spencer and Wyndham from modern opposition, may be compared to that of Falkland and Digby from ancient; the Pym's, the Vanes, and the Hollis's, still remain; and it is our prudence that must guard us from suffering from their ambitious projects the same evils that our ancestors endured from the violent counsels of their prototypes.

F I N I S.

