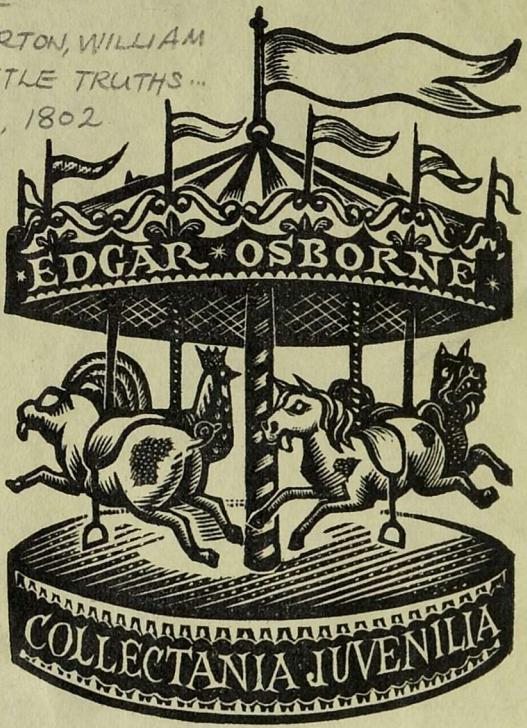
VOL. II.



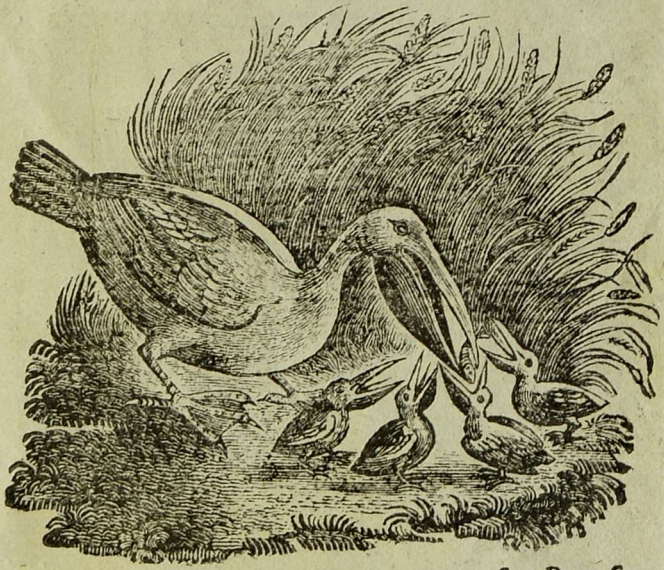
Lady Hannah Matilda

Bruce

LITTLE TRUTHS,

FOR THE INSTRUCTION OF

CHILDREN.



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VOL. II.

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LITTLE TRUTHS, &c.

IT gives me great pleaſure again to meet my children in health; but I am ſorry that Charles delights to play with fire; does not he remember to have read, "It is none but a mad-"man will throw about fire, and tell "you it is all but in ſport." I hope he will never play with fire again, for I have heard of more children than one being burnt: I think Hannah remembers what happened to Polly Ruſt. *Yes; she was one day left alone, and, I think, playing with the fire; her*

clothes were burnt off her back, and she so scorched as to die the next morning in great pain. Does Charles hear that? I ſhall excuſe him now; but, when he is found playing with fire again, I ſhall puniſh him for it, perhaps more ſo than by ſetting him a double taſk to learn.

I hope Thomas has read his book in my abſence: can he repeat the taſk I ſet him? Come, ſpeak ſo as to be heard, and not ſo faſt.

" The hen ſcratcheth for her chickens with care, when ſhe findeth grain, ſhe calleth them to partake of it; ſhe ſheltereth them under her wings, ſhe defendeth them with all her might.

" The pelican of the wilderneſs laboureth to get her food, ſhe ſtoreth it

up, ſhe bringeth it and ſpreadeth it out before her young.

"Yet greater love than this hath the mother for her children; ſhe carrieth them in her arms, ſhe ſuckleth them with the milk of her own breaſt, ſhe laboureth for them by day, ſhe watcheth over them by night; ſhe covereth their limbs from the cold air and piercing froſts of winter; ſhe ſhadeth them from the rays of the ſcorching ſun in ſummer.

"O, little children! what can you do in return for theſe great favours? All you can do, is but a little, compared with ſuch love and tender regard."

Well ſaid, my little Tom! I am glad he has been ſo induſtrious.

Pray what is the pelican of the wil-

derness, that Thomas has been speaking of in his tash? It is a large bird, my dear, ſaid to be very fond of its young. *But Sally says, she has read that they kill themselves to feed their young, when no food is to be gotten.* I ſuppoſe Sally may have read ſo; but that is a miſtake. *It is very naughty of travellers to tell untruths.* Many perſons relate things from their appearances;——thus, writers have related ſtrange things of this bird, which the credulous have believed: numbers have aſſerted, they fed their young with their own blood, and falſely deſcribed it in prints.

This bird, however, deſerves our ſerious notice. It frequents both freſh and ſalt waters; yet, its favourite re-

ſidence is in uncultivated lands and wilderneſſes, where it can remain undiſturbed; in theſe places they bring up their young. Now, as the pelican is to carry proviſion for a hungry brood, to remote places, ſhe has a bag of a large ſize, provided by nature, for carrying it in.

Here we may ſee the wiſdom and goodneſs of the all-wiſe Creator, who hath taught this bird to provide for its offspring, enabling her to carry the ſtore of proviſions ſhe hath caught (far into the wilderneſs, the place of her reſidence) and, like a tender parent, empties the produce of her labours before them.

Now, if ſome perſon quite unacquainted with this bird, had ſeen her

alight, and haſtily feed a ravenous brood from this bag, it would not be unnatural to ſuppoſe ſhe fed them with her own blood. Edwards, who wrote a hiſtory of birds, ſays, "That he thought it incredible (in the deſcrip-" tion of this bird by ſome authors) " to aſſert, that a man's head could be " put into their pouch; but he was " an eye-witneſs of the fact, as prac-" tiſed by the keeper of a pelican, " brought to England in the year 1745, " by Captain Pelly, from the Cape of " Good Hope: and further ſays, "I " am ſure, a ſecond man's head might " have been put in with it at the ſame " time." *Do people ever eat pelicans?* Very rarely: their fleſh ſmells rancid, and taſtes worſe, as they feed

chiefly upon fish. *And is this bird of no use to mankind?* It certainly is a good example to idle parents, who neglect to labour, and are not provident for their offspring.

I am told the native Americans kill vast numbers of them, to convert the skin of their large craws into purses and tobacco-pouches; they also dress the skins in a peculiar manner, making them so soft and pliant, that the Spanish women sometimes adorn them, and make them into work-bags.

Do they use tobacco-pouches in America? Certainly, my dear: it is the native place for tobacco. It was not known in Europe till America was discovered.

I have been informed, that Sir Walter Raleigh was the first man who

ſmoked it in England. It is ſuppoſed he had ſeen ſome perſons ſmoke it in his travels, and was deſirous of trying its virtues privately in his ſtudy. I have read, that whilſt he was one day ſmoking, his ſervant entered the room with a jug of water (which Sir Walter had called for) who, alarmed at the appearance of ſmoke coming out of his maſter's mouth, haſtily threw all the water in the jug over him, naturally ſuppoſing he was on fire.

There are paintings of this circumſtance at ſeveral Tobacconiſts in London: but, I think, they all commit an error, by placing a long pipe, of a modern make, in Sir Walter's hand. I rather ſuppoſe he had no pipe, but uſed the tobacco leaves (which are

very long, rolled up, with one end on fire, and the other in his mouth; the tobacco-leaf, thus rolled up, is called a ſuc-car by the Spaniards, *Did Sir Walter Raleigh find out the virtues of tobacco?* I cannot tell that: neither am I acquainted with all its virtues: but it is, like taking of ſnuff, become a very idle and expenſive cuſtom. I hope no young people, in future, will ever learn to take ſnuff, or ſmoke tobacco, without good reaſons for ſo doing. Hundreds of ſenſible people have fallen into theſe cuſtoms from example; and when they would have left them off, they found it a very great difficulty. Some families unthinkingly ſpend a moderate eſtate on this plant.

I have known a man ſpend a penny per day in tobacco, and his wife as much in ſnuff, for ſeveral years together; now theſe pence, thus idly ſpent, amount (without any intereſt) in thirty years, to the ſum of ninety-one pounds and five ſhillings! a comfortable poſſeſſion this for a poor family in the decline of life, and which great numbers have ſnuffed, ſpit, or ſmoked away. It was a very good anſwer of Omai (whom Captain Cook brought to England) when offered a pinch of ſnuff, he replied nearly to this effect in broken Engliſh: "No, no; me be "oblige to you: my noſe is not "hungry." *I think I have seen a print of Omai, which looked as if he were a black man: where did he come*

from? He was of a copper-colour, and had very black hair: he was brought from Otaheite, one of the newly-diſcovered iſlands in the South-Seas. *Where are the South-Seas?* I can deſcribe that better by the diſſected map, with which I am going to teach all of you geography; it will take too long to deſcribe without the

map and book, neither can it be ſo well underſtood. *But what makes ſome people black, and where do they come from?* The natives of the South and South Weſt coaſts of Africa are all black; the climate being always very hot, and they having but little or no covering.

There is reaſon to believe, if ſome white children were ſent to Africa, and to live in the ſame manner as the natives do, that they would in time become black, or nearly ſo; this is the caſe in degree with all white people, who live long in any warm countries; as the South part of Africa, and in the Eaſt or Weſt-Indies, where they ſoon become very brown and tawney. When the natives of any of theſe

warm countries dwell long in England, they frequently become whiter and whiter.

Why do they call some black people Negroes? From Negroland, the name of a large tract of country on the borders of the river Niger, in Africa. *But why are they called slaves?* On account of their being made so by great numbers of people, who go from England, Holland, and France, to several parts on the coast of Africa, and encourage the strong and wicked people to make war, and steal away the inland natives, whom the Europeans purchase by hundreds, and carry into America and the West India islands, where these poor creatures must work as long as they live. Not contented

with enſlaving the parents, they retain their children's children in ſlavery. Great numbers of theſe poor people have no other proviſion allowed them in many places but what they raiſe for themſelves, and that on the very day of the week ſet apart for a Sabbath! Great are the hardſhips they endure on board many of the ſhips. I have read that ſix hundred and eighty men, women, and children, were ſtowed in one ſhip! which was alſo loaded with elephants' teeth. "It was a pitiful ſight," ſays the writer, "to behold "how theſe people were ſtowed. The "men were ſtanding in the hold, faſt-"ened one to another with ſtakes, for "fear they ſhould riſe and kill the "whites; the women were between

" decks, and the children were in the " fteerage, preffed together like her- " rings in a barrel, which caufed an " intolerable heat and ftench." In this fituation the poor creatures frequently die; others attempt to break their confinement, try to fwim back again, and are often drowned. *I did not think there had been any people in England so wicked as to do these things.* Notwithftanding the many humane inftitutions in our country, for the relief of the diftreffed, and the general love of freedom the people of our ifland expreſs, I am ſorry to ſay, that the lawmakers ſtill countenance the ſlave-trade, though they have ſpoken againſt it, and condemned the cruelty occaſioned by the traffic. *Then what is*

the cause of its being continued? From an evil desire of gain; that kind of love for money, "which is the root of all evil."—To hear the groans of dying men,—the cries of many widows and fatherless children,—the bitter lamentations of a husband when torn from the arms of his beloved wife,—and the mournful cries of a mother and her children, when violently separated, perhaps, never to see each other again! —I say, one would think, that these things would so affect the human mind, as to cause such practices to cease.

I hope the humane people of England will continue their endeavours to relieve the distresses of slavery, and give that liberty to others which they desire for themselves. I am glad to

have it in my power to ſay, that a great number of tender-minded people in England, America, France, and elſewhere, have ſet their ſlaves at liberty. Others have been uſing their endeavours for years paſt, and not without ſucceſs. Some ſtates and kingdoms, who were great encouragers of the ſlave-trade, have now forbidden their ſubjects to practice it; and in many iſlands they are all ſet at liberty.

Well, when these black persons are set at liberty, are they capable of following trade and manufactures, as the white people do? Certainly: I have known good coopers, carpenters, and printers, who were black men. The minds of black perſons in general are as capable of improvement as thoſe of

the whites. In England, Ignatius Sancho, a black, wrote many pleaſing letters, which were printed. Phillis Wheatley, a black girl, of Boſton, in America, wrote ſome pleaſing poems; and many accounts are preſerved in America of virtuous black men and women.

In the awful viſitation of the plague, or malignant fever, which prevailed in Philadelphia in the autumn of 1793, the Blacks were particularly ſerviceable; and, in various inſtances, they acted ſo humanely to the ſick Whites, as would have gained credit to perſons of the faireſt ſkins.

William Dickſon, a native of Scotland, has written a book on ſlavery; and, from a journal kept by a plan-

ter's ſon in Barbadoes, he has given among other extracts one to the fol-following effect:

"My father, in the year 1760, had "a very valuable negro, called John. "He was maſter of one of our fiſhing-"boats! he underſtood his buſineſs "thoroughly. He knew the art of "catching the fiſh, and ſelling them "to advantage. The people in the "market had a very high opinion of "his honeſty and ſkill, and he bore "the character of being a very fair "dealer. My father placed unlimit-"ed confidence in him, and was not "deceived. When my father came "to England, in the year 1761, my "mother was extremely ill for great "part of his abſence, and John had

" the government of houſe, negroes,
" &c. and ſhe thought herſelf very
" much obliged to him for his great
" care and attention. He was a to-
" lerable ſcholar; he could read very
" well. He took a deal of pains in
" teaching me to read. He gave me
" in my infancy good advice; and
" particularly before I was coming to
" England for education, in the year
" 1761, I have ſat with him for hours
" by the ſea-ſide, while he was mend-
" ing his nets, and uſed to aſk him
" many queſtions about England,
" about learning, &c. &c. He gave
" me a pretty good notion of the
" manners and cuſtoms of England,
" and of the things which would be
" taught me at ſchool; and uſed to

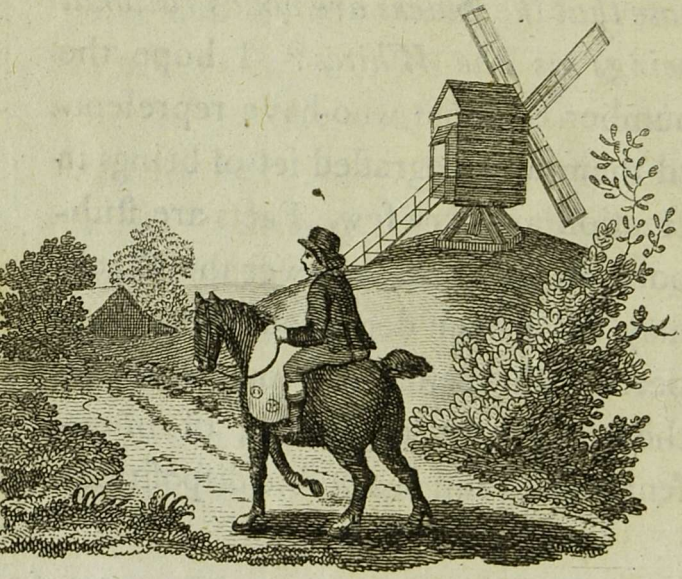
" exhort me very much to be *submis-*
" *sive to my masters and superiors.* I
" feel to this day ſome impreſſion of
" the excellent advice which has been
" given me by John! and I have
" a very great reſpect for his memo-
" ry."

After these testimonies of African capacity, can any persons now suppose that the Blacks are not as rational beings as the Whites? I hope the number of thoſe who have repreſented them as a degraded ſet of beings in creation are very few. Facts are ſtubborn things; and however the Blacks may have been degraded, there have been both men and women among them of great capacities, of liberal ſentiments, and charitable diſpoſitions.

For the preſent we will drop this diſcourſe.

Hannah, ring the bell for Molly; deſire her to bring a cup of chocolate as ſoon as ſhe can; for it looks ſo pleaſant, I think a walk to Windmill Hill would contribute to health.

What do they grind at the windmill? Wheat; which makes flour, bran, and



pollard; and, ſometimes, oats to make oatmeal.

Then mills are useful things. Yes; a good invention. Some work by water, ſome by wind, others are worked by horſes, and ſome are now worked by ſteam; and are ſo contrived as to ſaw wood, hammer out iron and copperplates; ſome grind tobacco-leaves and ſtalks into ſnuff; and at Manchester, which is in the North of England, they have a mill for ſpinning cotton-wool into thread. I am told there is a mill now invented for weaving of cloth; and I have ſeen one ſo contrived as to ſplit leather. *Charles says, he has seen oil mills at Tottenham; what are they for?* Various kinds of ſeeds are ground to make

oil; as rape, hemp, flax (or linſeed) muſtard, aniſe, almonds, &c. When the ſeeds are bruiſed by the millſtones, the meal (for ſo it is then called) is put into a pan over a ſlow fire to be made warm, and in this ſtate it is put into a woollen bag, and preſſed very tight by a wedge, which the works of the mill hammer down; in this preſſure, the oil from the ſeeds falls into a ciſtern: the meal contained in the bag becomes a hard cake, called oil-cake, and is uſed with potatoes or turnips, to fatten cattle in winter.

This chocolate is very pleasant drink, does it grow, or is it made from any thing? Chocolate is made chiefly from the kernels of cocoa-nuts, and is a very nouriſhing drink. *Where*

do cocoa-nuts come from? South-America, and from other warm climates; the proper name of the chocolate-tree is cacao, though commonly called cocoa. There is a ſpecies of palm-trees, the fruit of which is called cocoa-nuts; the ſhells of them are uſed for drinking-bowls, the bark is made into cordage, the kernel contains a milky liquor, cooling and pleaſant; and is quite a different kind of fruit to the chocolate-nut.

Where does ſago grow? In the Eaſt-Indies. *Will not the ſeeds grow in England?* I am not acquainted with the ſeed of the ſago-tree; thoſe are not ſeeds which we buy as ſago. *I al-*

ways thought they were ; pray what are they? The manufactured pith of the ſago-tree ; which, being mixed with water, is beaten in a large mortar, then ſtrained through a cloth into a proper veſſel ; this is made into a paſte, dried, baked in an oven, and ſent to Europe.

Where is Europe? Europe is one quarter of the world: England is in Europe. Italy, France, Spain, Portugal, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, great part of Ruſſia and Turkey, with many other places, are in Europe. But I need not ſay any more on this ſubject at preſent, for the maps I have got will give the beſt information.

Come, let us prepare to walk ; the ſun invites us abroad.

Thomas and Charles muſt walk ſoberly, and not run ſo faſt down the hill: let us walk gently, and view the country. There is but little wind this morning; the ſails of the windmill ſcarcely move. How pleaſant the flocks of ſheep and lambs appear, while grazing on the plain! See, the young colt trips nimbly round its mother, and the new-born calf ſkips over the meadow ground; the falling water murmurs down the rock, whilſt birds are ſinging pleaſant notes. View the hanging wood, and mark the purling ſtream that glides along the vale! and, at a diſtance, ſcarcely ſeen, the merchant's ſhip is ſailing on the ſea; how pleaſant the ſight!

Look under that hedge, there is a

fire! It is some Gipsies boiling their pot. *Why are they called Gipsies?* From the name of the country they are said to have come from, namely, Egypt. *Is not that the same place into which Joseph was sold by his brethren?* Yes, it is. *What part of the world is it in?* In Africa, on the North-East coast, which is bordered by the Mediterranean and Red Seas. *How are Gipsies employed in England?* They travel about, pretending to tell the people their fortunes; they often impose upon weak minds, but I caution you never to listen to their conversation: they are generally of wicked lives, very idle, and too often make more free with their neighbours' goods than they should do. They sometimes

ſpeak a foreign language, which is ſuppoſed to be the ſame as uſed in Egypt. Some young people have been greatly cheated by truſting to their deceitful advice.

I was once informed, that a farmer's man outwitted ſome Gipſies in the following manner:—Going with an empty cart to London, two or three women requeſted they might ride, and they promiſed to tell him his fortune: "Tell my fortune? (ſaid the country-"man) you do not know your own!" "—That we do (ſaid one of them) "and we will tell your fortune, only "let us ride." At laſt he conſented, "and they rode quietly for two or "three miles, when, by the way-ſide, coming to a pond, upon Stamford-

Hill, he got upon the copſe of the cart, and drove in to water his horſes: it was neceſſary he ſhould unrein the horſe in the ſhafts, and in doing which, he ſlily ſlipped out the plugs that kept up the body of the cart; when the horſes had drank ſufficiently, he drove them out of the pond, and at the ſame time ſhooting the Gipſies into the water, he called out, "You tell my fortune! I told you, you did not know your own, or you would not have got "into my cart:" ſo drove on to London as faſt as he could, leaving the Gipſies to walk out of the pond, which was not very deep, but ſufficient to give thoſe pretenders to foreknowledge a good ducking.

Publiſhed October 11th 1802 by Wm. Darton & Jos Harvey London.

There is a delightful ſhady bank, let us ſit down, and as I have a volume on Natural Hiſtory, and on other curious ſubjects with me, Charles may read ſome part. *I hope there are no ſnakes on this bank, as I ſaw a ſnake upon a bank one day.* I believe there are none here, Charles; and if there were, I believe they would be as eager to get from us as we from them; yet it is well to be careful, and to look upon banks in the country in the ſummer time, before we ſit down.

Is the bite of all ſnakes poiſon? I believe not; the common ſnake is ſaid to be a harmleſs animal; but the bite of the viper is very poiſonous. *Do ſnakes bite? I thought it was their ſting that poiſoned.* They have no

ſting that I know of. *Is not that a ſting that comes out of their mouths, forked at the end?* No, my dear, that is only their tongue: it is true, the mouth only is the ſeat of the poiſon in a ſerpent; for, at the bottom of its long fangs or teeth, with which it gives a wound, is lodged a little bag, containing the poiſonous liquid, a very ſmall portion of which, mixed with the blood, proves fatal. *Have I not read that vipers are used in medicines?* The fleſh of the viper is perfectly innocent and nutritive. I was informed by the ſon of an officer in the late unhappy war in America, that his father, with many others, frequently ate of the rattle-ſnakes, which came in great numbers from the woods in cold

nights, being attracted by the fires kindled in the camp. *What are rattle-snakes?* Very large ſerpents, which inhabit the woods of America, and their bite is oftentimes fatal. Some are from ſeven to ten feet long, and have a rattle at the end of their tails of a horny ſubſtance, compoſed of a number of cells, which rattle as the ſerpent turns: but it ſeldom attacks a man, unleſs provoked. Naturaliſts aſſert, they have the power of wounding with their poiſonous teeth at pleaſure, being ſo placed, that they can retract or thruſt them out, as the lion and cat-kind do their claws.

There are ſome ſtrange reports of this ſerpent having the power of charm-

ing ſome animals, and as it is in the book I have, Charles may read it.

" The charming, or faſcination, of " the rattleſnake, as it is uſually call- " ed, has exerciſed the wits of many " naturaliſts in vain, and ſome have " diſbelieved the fact. Sir Hans " Sloane mitigates the matter, by ſup- " poſing the creature firſt to ſeize " and bite its prey, it then ſuffers it " to eſcape, as far as the poiſon will " let it, watching its death, that it may " devour it without trouble: and that " it is in this poiſoned ſtate that peo- " ple have ſeen the ſquirrels, &c. " dancing about before the rattle- " ſnake, and dying convulſed: all " which they have attributed to the " power of charming in the eye of the

" ſnake, not conceiving that it was the
" effect of the creature's having before
" bitten them. This, though a very
" plauſible account, however wants
" experience to confirm it, and the
" general teſtimony of people who
" have ſeen the fact ſeems in favour
" of the charm."

The ſame author gives us the whole proceſs of the charm from Colonel Beverley. The Colonel acquaints us, " that ſome company whom he was " once with, ſaw a hare, about half " grown, ſitting quietly in an orchard, " and on ſtriking her ſhe only remov- " ed a few yards; when, wondering at " the cauſe, they ſaw a rattleſnake, " about ten feet diſtance, eyeing the " hare as his deſtined prey. The poor

" creature was by this time in agonies
" and convulsions, often getting on its
" legs, as if intending to run away,
" but always immediately falling down
" again, and growing worse and worse,
" it soon lost the use of its hinder
" legs, and panting vehemently, fell
" on its side. In about half an hour
" more, the hare seemed to be done
" with all struggles, and to be dead;
" on which the snake uncoiled it-
" self, and moved gently towards it,
" but the poor hare starting a little,
" he stopped; when all was again
" quiet, he moved up to it, and rais-
" ing his head, looked all over his
" prey, his colours appearing at that
" instant more beautiful than before,
" and his eyes sparkling. The hinder

" part of the hare had been towards
" the ſnake all this time, and it had
" periſhed without much looking at
" its enemy. The ſnake, wetting the
" body all over with his ſlaver, firſt
" took the head into his mouth, and
" then after ſome difficulty in getting
" paſt the ſhoulder, he ſwallowed the
" body and remaining parts gently
" down." It is certain, upon the whole, that there is much in this account to favour Sir Hans Sloane's opinion of the hare's having been firſt bitten, though that was not ſeen, ſince the convulſions and loſs of the uſe of the hinder legs ſeem a very natural effect of poiſon; but we are aſſured by perſons who have been eye-witneſſes to the fact, that a bird hopping about in

all this agony and terror, has, on frightening the rattlesnake away, flown off without any difficulty; so that the whole seems not yet to be understood.

I never heard the like of that before; it is very surprising! Yes, my dear, the works of Providence are wonderful! and all nature declares the wisdom of the Creator. The more we search and examine, the greater his power appears; and our knowledge, however extensive it may be, when compared to what is yet unknown, is small indeed: in truth, may we yet say, "Marvellous are all his "works, just and true are all his "ways!"

" His hand how wide it ſpreads the ſky,
" How glorious to behold!
" Ting'd with a blue of heav'nly dye,
" And ſtarr'd like ſparkling gold.

" There he has bidden the globes of light
" Their endleſs circles run;
" There the pale planet rules the night,
" And day obeys the ſun.

" On the thin air, without a prop,
" Hang fruitful ſhowers around:
" At his command they ſink, and drop
" Their fatneſs on the ground.

" How did his wond'rous ſkill array
" Yon fields in charming green;
" A thouſand herbs his art diſplay,
" A thouſand flow'rs between.

" The bleating flocks his paſture feeds,
" And herds of larger ſize
" That bellow thro' the num'rous meads,
" His bounteous hand ſupplies.

" His glories ſhine all nature round,
" And ſtrike the gazing ſight,
" Thro' ſkies, and ſeas, and ſolid ground,
" With terror and delight.
" *Infinite* ſtrength and equal ſkill
" Shine thro' the worlds abroad ;
" Our ſouls with vaſt amazement fill,
" And ſpeak the Maker God."

It is time to move from this bank, for I perceive numbers of ants on our clothes, and if they be not troubleſome to us, we may occaſion them much labour, ſhould we walk far with them upon us, as they may not eaſily find their neſts again.

What is the meaning of " *Go to* " *the ant thou ſluggard?*" That he may learn to be induſtrious, and not only ſo, but to be patient in induſtry.

We have not time now to enter into the particulars of the induſtry of ants; but Thomas may read a page or ſo of the great patience of this little inſect, as was obſerved by a perſon who kept ants in a box. If Thomas looks to the index, under the word *Ant*, he may find it. *Yes; here it is.*

"I ſaw one of the ſmall ants car-
"rying a large grain of wheat with
"incredible pains: when ſhe came
"to the box in which the neſt was,
"ſhe made ſo much haſte that ſhe fell
"down with her load, after a very
"laborious march: ſuch an unlucky
"accident would have vexed a phi-
"loſopher. I went down, and found
"her with the ſame corn in her paws,
"ſhe being ready to climb up again.

" The ſame misfortune happened to
" her three times. Sometimes ſhe fell
" in the middle of her way, and ſome-
" times higher; but ſhe never let go
" her hold, and was not diſcouraged.
" At laſt her ſtrength failed her; ſhe
" ſtopped, and another ant helped her
" to carry her load, which was one of
" the largeſt and fineſt grains of wheat
" that an ant can carry. If they cannot
" find the grain that has dropped, they
" look for another, or take ſomething
" elſe, being aſhamed to return to their
" neſts without bringing ſomething.
" This I have repeatedly tried, by
" taking away the grain which they
" looked for. All theſe experiments
" may eaſily be made by any one that
" can endure long enough: they do

" not require ſo great a patience as " that of ants; but few people are ca- " pable of it."

How admirable is the account of theſe little inſects! here is a leſſon for mankind to imitate: what patience! what labour to make themſelves uſeful! and how kind in aſſiſting one another.

I think the ſame author informs us, that they take great care to dry the grain they gather, by expoſing it to the ſun in the middle of the day: and to prevent its growing, they always bite off the ſhoot.

Are there not different kinds of ants? Yes, my dear; but the moſt particular kind I ever heard of, is the white ant, or termites, found in Africa and

other hot climates: they are ſaid to be as tranſparent as glaſs, and they bite ſo forcibly, that in the ſpace of one night, they can eat their way through a thick wooden cheſt, and the goods in it, making them as full of holes as if ſhot through with hail-ſhot. On theſe accounts, the Europeans are careful to ſet their cheſts and boxes on glaſs bottles or bricks; yet this precaution does not always preſerve them; for it is related by Captain Phillips, who was ſome time at the Brazils, "That an engineer returning from "ſurveying the country, left his trunk "on a table; the next morning, not "only all his clothes were deſtroyed "by theſe ants, but his papers alſo, "not a piece remaining of an inch

" ſquare. The black-lead pencils were " likewiſe ſo completely deſtroyed, " that the ſmalleſt piece, even of the " black lead, could not be found."

Stakes, poſts, and even dried and fallen trees, are eaten up by theſe ants. If they have a good ſound bark round them, they will enter at the bottom, and eat all but the bark, which will remain and exhibit the appearance of a ſolid ſtake; but, upon a gentle tap with a walking-ſtick, it will loſe its form, and fall into ſmall fragments. There are many other curious things related of theſe white ants, but I cannot recollect them at this time.

Now let us deſcend the hill, and walk to the village by the river-ſide; there we may ſee the fiſhes ſwim;

here one, and there another, jumping at a fly.

Look upon the river at the fishermen with their nets; pray let us go near to see what fish they catch. Be careful not to go too near the bank, for fear of falling in. *Now the net is drawing out: what fish have they caught?* Some roach, some dace and gudgeons, with two or three eels. *I see no herrings: and have they caught no mackerel or lobsters?* They do not catch these kinds of fish in fresh-water rivers, but in bays and on the shores of the sea, where the water is salt. *Well, I never tasted salt water.* It is very brackish, unpleasant to the taste, and only drank as a medicine.

When ſhips go to ſea, the ſailors take freſh water with them to drink.

Does this river run to the sea? All rivers finally empty themſelves into the ſea. *What a large pond the sea must be!* That is quite a child's remark; he forgets that a pond is a ſtanding pool of water, and the ſea is ſeldom or never quiet; there is a conſtant moving of the tide. *What causes that motion?* The revolution of the moon, and the motion of the ſun, have a ſenſible effect upon the waters. In the river Thames at London, we may ſee the effect of the tide riſing and falling: it is generally twelve hours in coming from the ocean to London-Bridge; ſo that when it is high water there, a new tide is ready

come to its height in the ocean, and in ſome intermediate places it muſt be low water at the ſame time.

The ſhip looked very pretty ſailing on the ſea; I ſhould like to ſail in a ſhip. It was a calm when we ſaw the ſea; but, in a ſtorm, or windy weather, it is very different in appearance: how would Tom like to be toſſed up mountains high, then down again, as into a deep valley, expecting every moment to be ſwallowed up by the waves? Sometimes the ſeamen are waſhed overboard, and the ſhip is overturned: ſometimes they are driven upon the ſhore, or upon a craggy rock: then, who can deſcribe the caſe of the poor mariners? Affecting is the narrative of the loſs of the Halſe-

well Eaſt-Indiaman (a ſhip employed by the Eaſt-India Company of Merchants in London) which was wrecked on a rock on the coaſt of Dorſetſhire, in the year 1786. Among divers perſons who loſt their lives by this accident, were the captain and two of his daughters, with ſeveral young women eſteemed for their innocence and beauty. I hope Thomas will be contented on ſhore, for great are the dangers of the ſeas.

Not leſs remarkable was the loſs of the Groſvenor, another Eaſt-India ſhip, which was wrecked on the coaſt of Africa: great numbers of the crew were drowned; yet one hundred and twenty-ſeven perſons were drifted to the ſhore upon a large part of the

wreck; amongſt whom were ſeveral women of delicate conſtitutions, and ſix children: theſe unhappy people had all the difficulties of a wilderneſs to encounter, which were ſo great, that only nine perſons arrived at the Cape of Good Hope, four of whom came to England and told the diſmal tale. The remaining one hundred and eighteen perſons who were driven on ſhore, it is ſuppoſed, periſhed with fatigue and hunger in the wilderneſs.

Were none of the children saved?

None that we read of.

Although many perſons have loſt their lives at ſea, yet wonderful has been the preſervation of others: ſome have ſat upon a cheſt, or on part of a maſt. I have read of two men who

ſat upon a hen-coop which was in the ſhip when wrecked, and, after floating for ſeveral days upon the ſea, they were ſeen and taken up by the people of another veſſel. Some have ſailed for hundreds of miles in an open boat, with a blanket for a ſail, having but little or no food.

Remarkable was the preſervation of a ſhip on the coaſt of Newfoundland, which is in the North part of America: the ſhip was freighted with live cattle, but, in a dreadful ſtorm, was ſplit in two about the middle: the commander, whoſe name was Drummond, had the preſence of mind to faſten a rope round the horns of a bullock, who towed the remaining

part of the ſhip to the ſhore, and ſaved the lives of the crew.

If going to ſea is ſo dangerous, I would rather ſtay upon the ſhore; and I hope Charles will be of the ſame mind. It is good for us all to be contented in our preſent ſituation of life; and though I have mentioned the effects that ſometimes happen in ſtormy weather, yet there are many perſons who have uſed the ſeas for a livelihood, without ever being hurt. *But I think it is more dangerous going to ſea than living aſhore.* Without doubt, my dear, and as there is much danger and expence (for ſhips are expenſive things) in going to and from foreign parts, the profits upon the merchandize is greater than ſimple

trading on land; and this is an allurement for perſons to go to ſea.

As it is ſo far across the ſea to America, and to the East Indies, how did they firſt find out thoſe places? If we look into the map of the world, we ſhall find it divided into hemiſpheres, called the old and the new world. Now the old world, as it is called, being Europe, Aſia, and Africa, was in great part known ſo far back as the time of Moſes: but they were but little acquainted with navigating the ſeas till within the laſt three or four hundred years. The Portugueſe were the firſt people who diſcovered the way by ſea to the Eaſt-Indies. The diſcovering of America and the Weſt-India Iſlands was effected by Chriſ-

topher Columbus, a native of Genoa: he had conceived that the world was round, contrary to the general opinion in that day, and concluded, that if he ſailed Weſt from Europe, he ſhould arrive at ſome part of the Indies in the Eaſt. Although this was a good idea, he found much trouble to convince others of the probability of his ſcheme being a true one. At laſt, he prevailed on the Spaniſh government to furniſh him with ſhips, and fit him for the adventure. He had been at ſea for ſeveral weeks, ſteering conſtantly weſtward: when the proviſions growing ſhort, and no proſpect of land appearing, his men began to complain and to mutiny; indeed, he almoſt deſpaired himſelf.

But, to their great joy, early one morning they deſcried land! The ſailors, who were but a day or two before about to kill him, and return back with the ſhips, now begged his excuſe, careſſed him, and even kiſſed his feet. Columbus was ſomewhat diſappointed, in not finding the land he had diſcovered to be the ſame Indies he had expected. This diſcovery was made in the year 1492, above three hundred years ſince. *And did Columbus find any people of the land?* That I cannot remember; as the land he firſt ſaw was only a ſmall iſland: the great continent, (upon which there were ſo many thouſand natives, called Indians) having ſince been explored by various navigators.

How could America have people in it, when Columbus was the first man who found it? He was the firſt European; but that queſtion cannot be anſwered to a certainty; yet, as Captain Cook has diſcovered that the North-Weſt part of America and the North-Eaſt of Aſia are only parted by a ſmall ſtreight of the ſea, and in that ſtreight are ſome iſlands, it is not unreaſonable to ſuppoſe America might have been peopled from the old world; but this is only conjecture.

There are some bullrushes, pray, Charles, get me one. I fear they are too far out of Charles's reach; and ſhould he ſlip in, he may be very dirty, if not drowned. *O, there is a man cutting some; perhaps, he may give*

each of us one. What does he cut them for? When properly dried, they are uſed to make mats for door-ways, paſſages, and rooms; with ſome they make baſkets; and great numbers are uſed for making and repairing chair bottoms.

There is something hops in the grass: see, there it hops again! It is only a harmleſs frog. *Charles says, there are boys at his school who eat young frogs: may we catch some and eat them?* By no means. I know it is a cuſtom with ſome lads to do many things of this kind, braving others to do the ſame; but I hope neither Thomas nor Charles will ever attempt to eat any thing they are not well acquainted with, leſt it ſhould prove as

fatal to them as it lately did to a little boy, at a ſchool in Hertford, who ſwallowed a young toad inſtead of a frog, and died ſoon after.

The ſun is now near its meridian height; it grows too warm to walk much farther; come, my dear children, let us leave the river-ſide, and return through the meadows to the village. *May we go home by the farm-house, as there is a pump near it, and I am very hot and dry?* But that is not a proper ſtate to drink cold water in; many perſons have received great injuries by drinking cold water when they were very hot: it is ſafer to endure thirſt, or to quench it by eating an apple, or ſome ripe fruit. Sorrel is a plant frequent in moſt mea-

dows, it is very cooling, and has a pleaſant acid taſte. *What is an acid?* Every thing that is ſour to the taſte is called an acid, and allays thirſt.

Sweet is the ſcent of the new-made hay; ſee the men and maidens are at their work, ſome with forks and ſome with rakes. *There is one aſleep on some hay, and his dog lies by, guarding his coat.* That reminds me of a ſtory related in Huntingdonſhire, of a poor man who had taken up his lodging on a cock of hay, in hay-making time; a great flood came haſtily down the river in the night, while he was faſt aſleep, and carried him upon the hay-cock down the ſtream towards Wiſbeach, in the Fens; when, being ſeen by ſome fiſhermen almoſt

in the open ſea, they awoke him and took him up: upon aſking him where he lived, he anſwered, at Wandsford in England; without doubt ſuppoſing, upon his firſt awaking, he had got in ſome foreign part of the world. There is a ſign at a great inn, near the bridge at Wandsford, of this circumſtance, and it is now uſually called Wandſford in England.

I have ſeen a ſign of an eagle and child; what could that be for? It might be in remembrance of the preſervation of ſome child from the dangers of an eagle; as it is recorded in Scotland, that two children were carried off by ſome eagles to their neſt, but the theft was diſcovered by a neighbouring ſhepherd in time, and

the infants reſtored to their affrighted parents unhurt.*

In the North of the ſame country, a peaſant reſolved to rob an eagle's neſt, built on a rock in one of the lakes. He took an opportunity whilſt the old ones were away, ſtripped himſelf, and ſwam to the rock. He faſtened the young eagles with a ſtring, and was about to ſwim back with them; whilſt he was in the water, the old eagles returned, miſſed, and ſought for their young: upon ſeeing the plunderer, they attacked him with great fury, and in ſpite of all his efforts to defend himſelf, they killed him with their beaks and talons.

They are ſo pernicious to the in-

* Hiſtory of Scotland.

habitants, that there is a law in the Orkney-Iſlands, which obliges the maſter of every houſe in the pariſh where an eagle is killed, to give the perſon who deſtroyed it a hen*.

The eagle has a very keen ſight, and is ſaid to diſcern the fiſhes at the bottom of lakes and rivers, plunging down upon them with the rapidity of an arrow. This bird is frequently alluded to in the Scriptures.

Where are the Orkney Islands? In the North of Scotland, the climate of which is much colder than in England.

I should like to live in the North, then we should not be so hot as we are now. And yet, there may be ſome other things not ſo agreeable as Charles

* Cambden's Britannia.

might expect: the winters in thoſe countries are very ſevere; the ſnow lies long upon the ground, and ſhould he get chilblains upon his feet or hands, he might then wiſh himſelf back again. It is good for us to be contented where we are, ſince

Happineſs is to no place nor time confin'd,
Reſiding only—in a contented mind.

Hark! methinks I hear an uncommon noiſe in the village: many voices are calling out at one time. *What can be the matter?* I fear there is ſomething more than ſhould be, conſiſtent with peace; for many words, and loudly ſpoken, ariſe from confuſion of one kind or other. The noiſe ceaſes, and here comes a man running from the village; ſtep on Thomas,

and aſk him the cauſe of the noiſe we heard.

Well, what does he ſay? *That two boys have been fighting; and one of them by a fall has got his head badly cut against a stone, and he is going for a surgeon to dress the wound.* Theſe are the conſequences of fighting, and the bad effects of anger.

What are the best methods to prevent being angry? To think before we ſpeak, and never to raiſe our voices; endeavouring to cheriſh that diſpoſition which is more ready to forgive than to return an injury. *I think if those boys who have been fighting, were to read and mind the verses I wrote the other day, they might be prevented from fighting another*

time. What verſes were they? Endeavour to repeat them Charles.

Let dogs delight to bark and bite,
For God hath made them ſo;
Let bears and lions growl and fight,
For 'tis their nature too.

But, children, you ſhould never let
Such angry paſſions riſe;
Your little hands were never made
To tear each other's eyes.

Theſe verſes are very ſuitable to the occaſion; it might be well, if all who read them would attend to the advice.

The labourers in the fields have left their work, and are returning to the village for refreſhment. See the attention of the village maiden to her father's poultry; ſhe feeds them morning, noon, and night: at thoſe ſeaſons they

await her coming forth, and run to partake of her bounty. *It is very good of the little maid to take care of the poultry.* It is the duty of every one to take care of the creatures they are permitted to uſe. *Then, why do some men make the poor aſſes carry such great burdens?* I fear all men are not ſo kind to their horſes or aſſes as they ſhould be. *I ſaw a man one day beating his horſe very ſeverely, though heavy laden; at laſt the beaſt kicked him down, and he lay motionleſs for ſome time.* Then did Charles call any body to aſſiſt the man? *No, I did not; he ſeemed ſuch a naughty man.* Then I muſt ſay, that my Charles was not ſo kind as he ought to have been.

It is our duty to help every one we

may meet with in diſtreſs; we ſhould not, like the Prieſt and the Levite, mentioned in the parable, paſs by the man, who, in travelling from Jeruſalem to Jericho, had fell among thieves, was robbed, and grievouſly wounded; but, like the good Samaritan, render every ſervice in our power. We find that this man did not ſtand to inquire who or what he was; it was ſufficient that he had found a man in diſtreſs. Indeed, the truly charitable man returneth not evil for evil, he hateth not even his enemies; he aſſiſteth the poor in their trouble; he forgiveth the injuries of men. May we endeavour to do likewiſe.

THE END.

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To Mr.

CERTIFICATE of Charge made upon the [illegible]
certain Duties [illegible]

INHABITANTS NAMES.