

Treuer

S.B.

JAUFFRET, L. F.

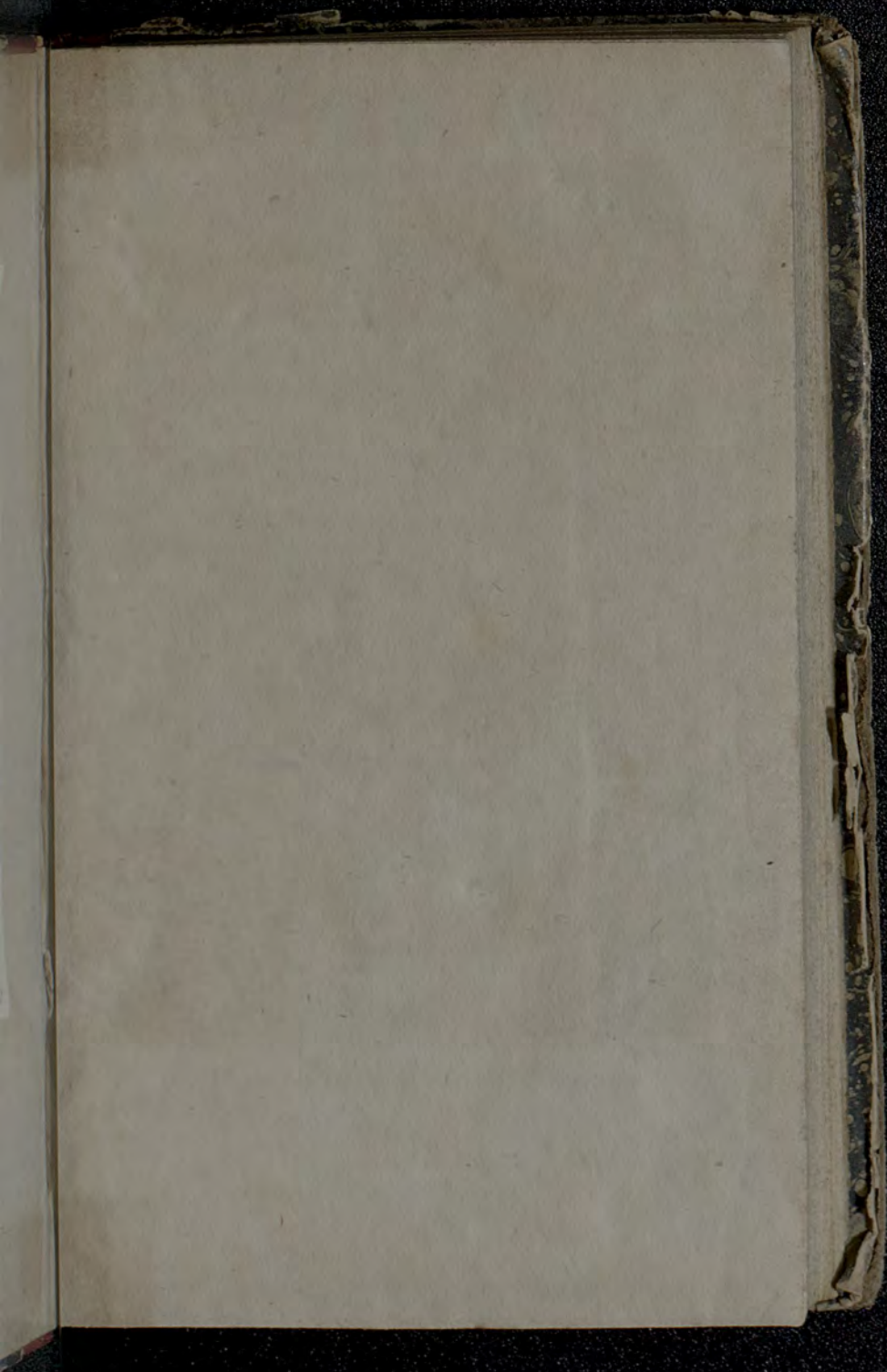
LITTLE...

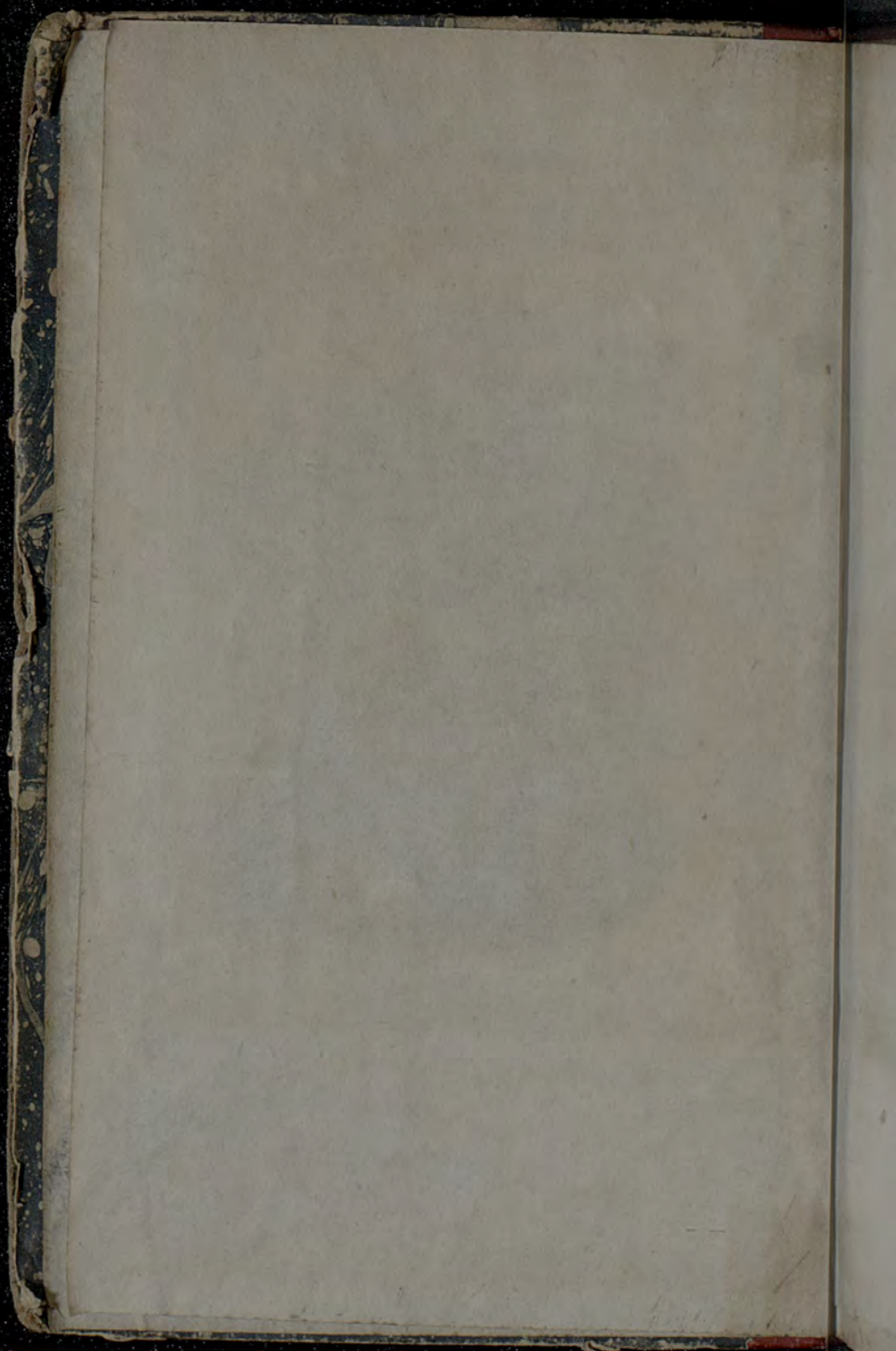
1804

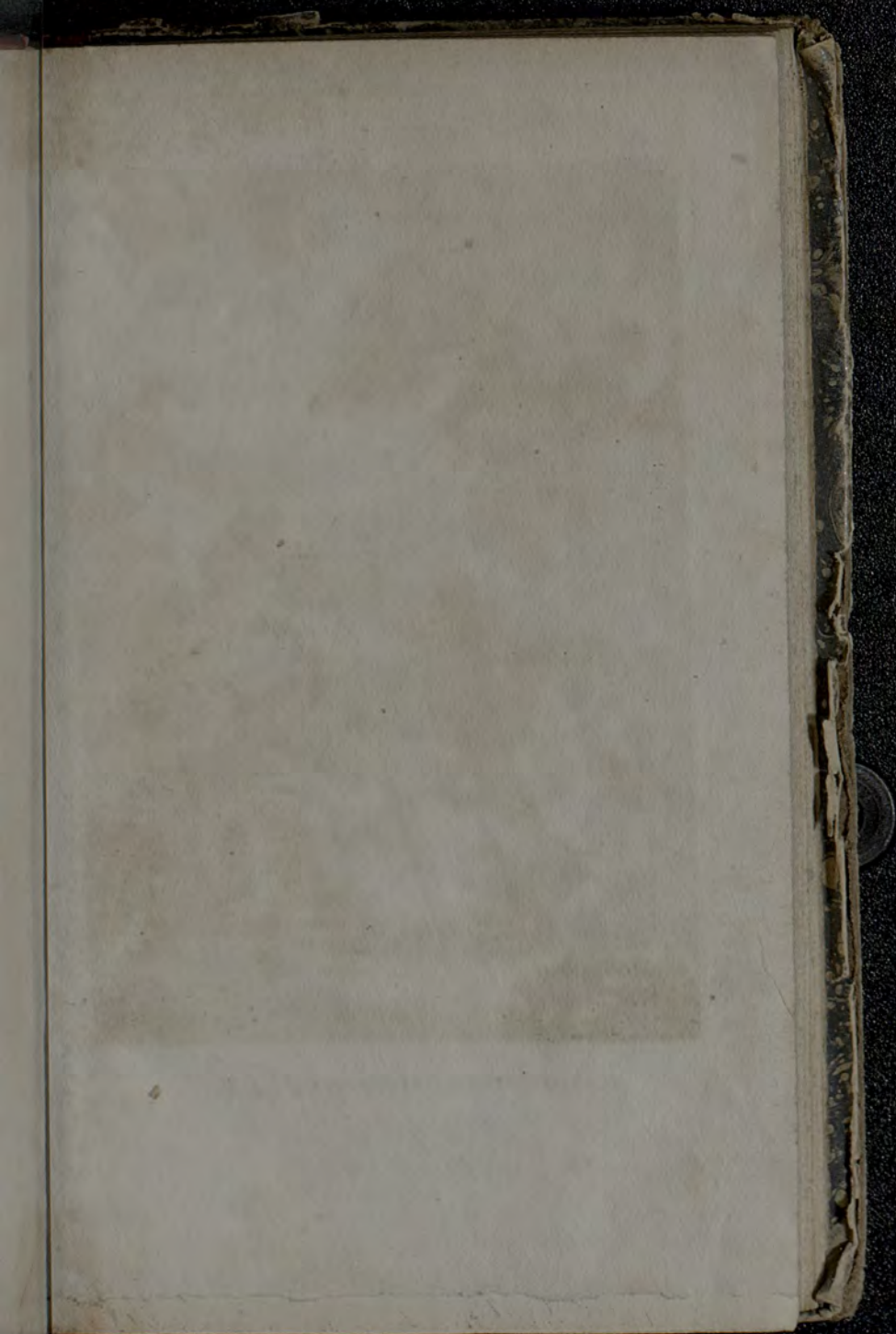


37131039927843

II899-900







To face the Title.



LITTLE HERMITAGE.

Page. 7.

THE
LITTLE HERMITAGE,

AND OTHER TALES;

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH

OF

L. F. JAUFFRET,

AUTHOR OF THE

TRAVELS OF ROLANDO.

SECOND EDITION.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR R. PHILLIPS, NO. 71, ST. PAUL'S
CHURCH-YARD; AND SOLD BY ALL BOOKSELLERS.

Taylor, Printer, Black-Horse-Court.

1804.

[Price Two Shillings.]

ADVERTISEMENT

OF THE

AND

WORK

OF

by

the

and

the

gener

which

To

added

Father

Wood

Cour

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Tales contained in the present volume were first published, and universally admired, in the periodical work entitled *The Monthly Preceptor*, or *Juvenile Encyclopædia*.

As several of them were pronounced by competent judges to be “among the most delightful pieces that were ever written for the entertainment and instruction of young persons,” the Publisher could not refrain from the satisfaction of printing them in a size and type better calculated for general circulation than the form in which they originally appeared.

To *The Little Hermitage* are now added *The Characters*, *Winter*, *The Father and his Three Sons*, *The Wooden Leg*, *Selico*, and *True Courage*.

ADVERTISEMENT

Also at the same time were published the following superior Little Books for the Use of Young Persons :

POETRY for CHILDREN, consisting of such Pieces, partly original and partly selected, as may be committed to Memory at an early Age.

BY MISS AIKIN.

Price half a crown bound.

VISITS to the MENAGERIE and the BOTANICAL GARDEN at PARIS, containing a rapid and very pleasing View of Animated Nature, adapted to the Capacities of Children. Translated from the French of L. F. JAUFFRET. In two small volumes, Price 3s. bound.

The JUVENILE PLUTARCH, consisting of the Lives of extraordinary Children, and of Accounts of the Infancy and early Progress of illustrious Men: intended to stimulate by Example. Price 2s. 6d. bound.

The TRAVELS of ROLANDO round the WORLD.

BIBLE STORIES. Memorable Acts of the ancient Patriarchs, Judges, and Kings: extracted from their original Historians. For the Use of Children. By WILLIAM SCOLFIELD. In two Volumes; price 4s. half-bound.

THE
LITTLE HERMITAGE.

AT a small distance from a lone farm-house in the country, a winding path, worn along the side of a deep dell, descends into a solitary valley. On the left of this valley a tufted wood appears; which clothes the whole side; and on the opposite hill a green turf is extended like an immense curtain; in front, and in the distance, appear the blueish tops of mountains confounded with the horizon.

From the bottom of the dell is heard the bubbling of a fountain, which starts in an undivided silver stream from the hollow of an old uprooted trunk, into a bason whitening with foam, and covered with a dark skreen of bushes bending over its banks. From the neighbouring slopes several other springs burst forth, whose united waters form a rapid current, which darts through tufts of aromatic plants into a fertile meadow. On the banks of this stream rise, here and there, bushes of sloes, and crabs with their thorny stalks, clumps of alders, and hazels, whose leaves are nearly similar; stumps of willows, and those high poplars whose long branches are continually agitated by the wind.

Attracted

Attracted by the natural charms of this rustic spot, Louis, Paul, and Honorius frequently came hither to employ themselves in those innocent sports which are the delight of childhood. Sometimes, leaning over the banks of the rivulet, they amused themselves with dividing its course by little trenches; or damming it up by means of little mounds of turf, to make it fall in cascades; or suspending little mills in it, which they were never weary of admiring, as in turning they threw up little sparkling waves, like the wheel of a mill. Sometimes, climbing over the crags of the high grassy hill, they emulously exerted their agility in reaching its summit, and descending again to its base.

Sometimes, creeping with short steps round the bushes or through the wood, with fixed eyes and outstretched necks they endeavoured to discover, among the thick foliage, nests of young birds, with which they wished to people their aviary. Sometimes, stooping down on the soft grass, they employed themselves in building little walls of stones bending over in an arch, which they called houses; then forming around little enclosures planted with nosegays, they called these gardens.

When surprised, in the midst of these amusements, by an unexpected shower, they ran to skreen themselves under the shelter of an old tree, extending in the form of an umbrella:

but

but if the rain continued long, they were soon drenched by the numerous drops which penetrated between the wet leaves, and knew not whither to run for refuge.

This inconvenience gave rise to the thought of building a little hut, in which they should be completely covered, and under shelter. "O," said they among themselves, "this time we must make a real house; a house which will hold us all three, or even four; so that, when one of our friends comes to see us, we may be able to receive him in our own house: in short, it must have a window, a door, and a chimney. O, that will be quite grand!" Delighted with the idea of so fine a project, they got up very

early one morning, and went into the valley to begin their edifice. And first, in order to have the necessary materials within their reach, they determined to settle themselves at the bottom of a dingle, where the waters had thrown together a great heap of sand and stones. They all bent down towards the ground accordingly, panting and toiling in every limb; and uniting all their forces to raise and roll, by degrees, the largest stones, of which they thought proper to form the foundations of their building.

They had already succeeded in placing several on a square plan, when the sun, with which they had risen, began to conceal itself behind the mountains. But they were so
ardent

ardent in their employments that they did not perceive the decline of day. Scarcely had they given themselves time to eat a few morsels of provision, which they had brought for their dinner, when suddenly they heard a little dog barking behind them. They turned round, and saw a stranger who advanced from the bottom of the meadow, by the little path which coasted the hill, leaning heavily on a long staff, as if he was very much fatigued. He had a threadbare gray coat on, and carried a kind of knapsack on his back. When he came up to the children, "My good little boys," said he, "cannot you tell me of some farm near here, where they would have the kindness to give me
a night's

a night's lodging?" "Ours," replied Louis, the eldest of the children, "is not far off. You may be sure of being taken in there. Our parents have a pleasure in showing hospitality to all poor passengers who ask for it." "And do you know whether they are in want of a labourer?" "Yes: the herdsman, who used to keep our cattle in this meadow, has quitted us within a few days. Perhaps his place would suit you?" "It is not one that I have been accustomed to fill," replied the stranger; "but there is none which I should not prefer to the humiliating necessity of begging my bread, without being able to procure it."

As he spoke these words, he seated himself on a stone by the brink of the stream;

stream; and taking up some water in the hollow of his two hands, he drank it with great eagerness. "You seem very thirsty," said one of the children to him. "Alas!" replied the stranger in a half smothered voice, "I am still more hungry." "Here," said the three children, "in this basket are the remains of our day's provisions; take what you please. Here is a piece of bread and two apples and a little bit of salt-beef." But the poor man would only accept of the piece of bread, which he immediately began to devour, after having given a portion to his little black dog.

Louis, Paul, and Honorius, who, in any other circumstances, would have been frightened at finding themselves alone,

alone, in a retired place, at dusk, with a stranger so shabbily dressed, felt, however, no apprehensions from this man; they paused to contemplate him with placid satisfaction. The stranger, with the appearance of poverty and wretchedness, had, however, nothing repulsive. He appeared young; and through a thick beard which blackened his countenance, and the neglected hair which covered his cheeks, an air of gentleness was distinguishable in his countenance, by no means common among beggars by profession. The shades of night beginning to thicken in the valley, the children offered to conduct him to their father's farm.

His services were willingly accepted
by

by the farmer; and the very next morning he was sent to drive the herds into the meadow. Louis, Paul, and Honorius repaired thither also to go on with their building. The new herdsman, who had taken the name of Joseph, came towards them, as soon as he saw them, from gratitude for the kindness which they had shown him the evening before. After having informed himself of the motive of their labour, he offered to assist them by all the means in his power. "But it seems to me, my good little masters," said he with a modest frankness, "that you have not chosen the situation of your house well. You are here at the bottom of a dingle, through which the water appears to
flow

flow in torrents during rainy weather. The first shower that falls, all your work will be carried away." "O how foolish we were not to have thought of that!" exclaimed the children. "It would be a great pity, however, to abandon what we have already done; it was beginning to get into shape." "Yes," replied Joseph; "but yet how could you ever have accomplished your design, by continuing your building as you have begun it? If your walls are not held together with a cement of earth, lime, or plaister, they will be incapable of supporting any thing, and will be completely overthrown by the smallest shock. Besides, supposing your walls firmly built, remember that you will but half have

completed your undertaking, for upon these walls a roof will be necessary. To support the roof you must have a wooden frame, and upon this frame you must have tiles or thatch. Nor will a covering for your house be the only thing requisite; you will want to shut it. In order to shut it you must have a door, hinges, and a lock; a frame and glass for a window, and stones or brick for the floor. See, my little friends, what a number of things go to the building of a common house! what tools, what materials, what hands must be employed! You must have a stone-hewer to dig out the stone, a plaisterer to furnish the plaister, a man to make lime, a mason who employs all these; a carpenter,

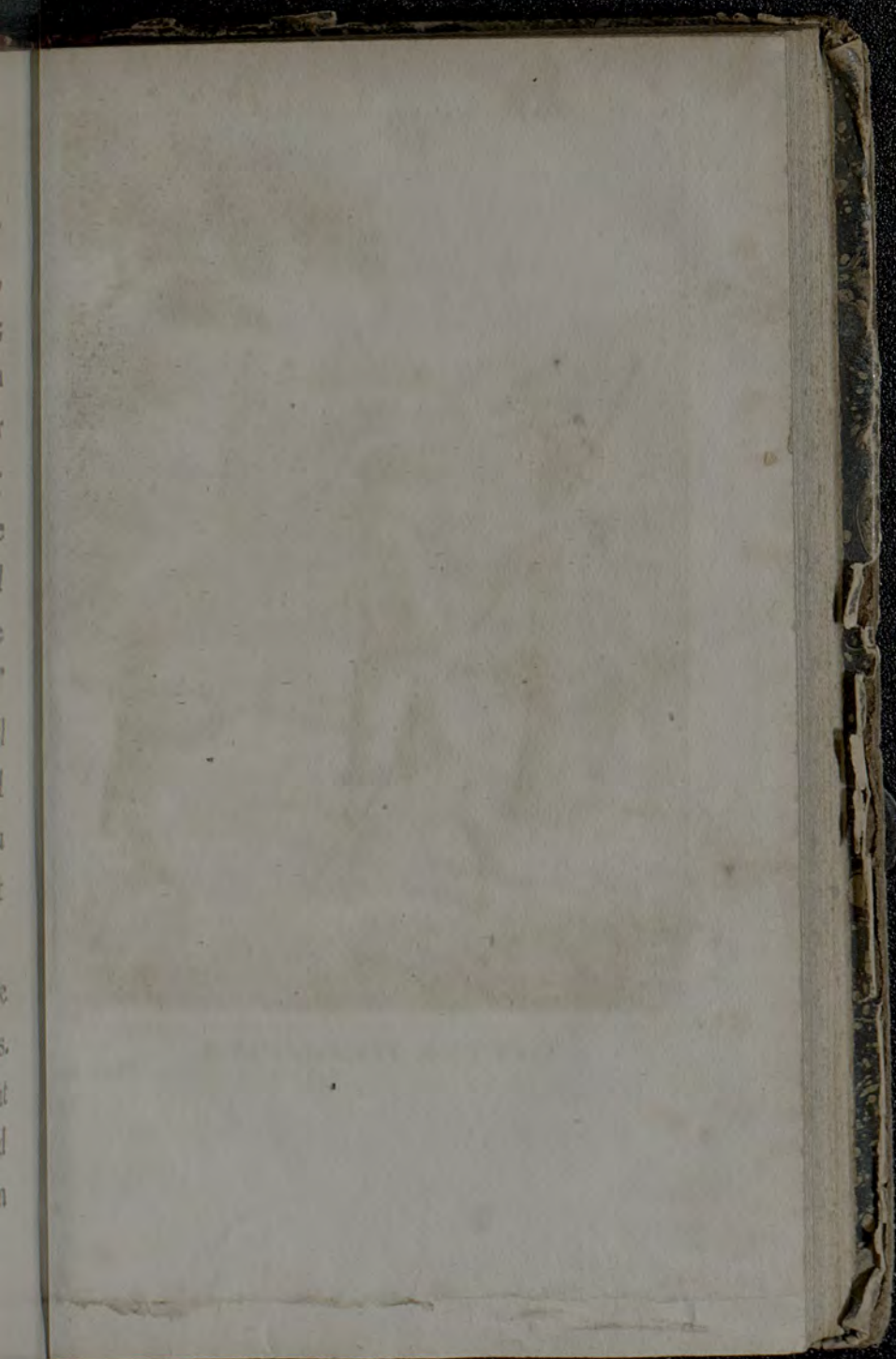
penter, a tiler, a smith, a lock-maker,
 a joiner, a glazier, a paviour, &c.
 How can you hope to supply the
 hands and the industry of so many
 workmen, whose assistance is indis-
 pensable in the slightest building?"
 The children, confounded by so many
 difficulties, which they had not thought
 of, knew not what to answer, and
 looked at each other with an air of
 embarrassment. "Stop, my little
 friends," added Joseph; "would not
 a cabin, made only with branches of
 trees, and covered with reeds, be suffi-
 cient to shelter you from the rain,
 when it surprises you in the valley?"
 "O yes!" answered the children, "we
 should be very well contented with
 such an one, but we do not know how
 to

to make it." "Well, I will engage to teach you, and even to do the most difficult part, if you please. I only want two implements, a bill and a spade."

Among the various windings formed by the stream at the bottom of the valley, rose a little hill, in the form of a circular peninsula. The trunks of two willows, of equal height, planted seven or eight feet from each other, occupied the middle of it. Joseph had observed this place, and pointed it out the next day to the children. "See," said he to them, "this, I think, is the most suitable spot for our design. Between these two willows we will first place a thick pole, supported at the two ends by their
c 2 clefts;

clefts; then, on each side of this horizontal pole, we will place others, set obliquely, in the form of a roof; we will fill up the interstices between these poles with bushes, reeds, or rushes, only leaving a little opening for a door; then we will cover the whole with a layer of solid turfs, and you will have a cabin impenetrable to all the injuries of the weather." "That is the very thing!" cried all the three children; and, delighted with the idea of a hut on so simple a construction, they desired to set about making it immediately.

They went accordingly into the neighbouring woods to cut down poles. Each of the children would carry at least one; and whilst Joseph disposed
them





LITTLE HERMITAGE.

them in the form of rafters, Paul cut the rushes, Honorius collected the brushwood, and Louis cut the turf. In short, they carried on their work with so much zeal and ardour, that in less than three days the cabin was completely finished. Then what a pleasure it was to the children to go into this little hut, built by their own hands; to stand, to sit down in it, to observe the structure of its inside, and to see that not a ray of light could pierce through its walls! "O how comfortable we are here!" said the children one to another. "This is my place." "This is mine: now let it blow, rain, or hail, we have nothing to fear." What a pleasure was it too, at their return to the farm, to an-

nounce this great news to their good parents, and to Catharine their little sister! How proud were they to take her the very next morning to this new habitation of their own making, of which they regarded themselves as the sole owners, and to which they attached a greater value than if it had been the most magnificent palace! They called it their *country-house*: and every moment that they could dispose of they came to pass at their seat. But it was not enough to be lodged, they soon felt a desire to have a garden round their house: and Joseph, who was become their great friend, took pleasure in assisting them in this new enterprise. They first consulted about the form and dimensions to be given
to

to this garden, and the productions to be cultivated in it: and it was settled, in the first place, that all vain symmetry, all frivolous ornaments, should be banished; that only a few borders round the house should be reserved for flowers, and that the remainder should be entirely consecrated to what was useful; that nothing should be admitted into it but fruit trees, and vegetables employed in food; "for as to flowers," said the children, "we shall have enough of them in the meadow; that shall be our parterre."

The plan thus fixed, Joseph began by fastening a little stick to each end of a cord; after which he showed the children how to make use of it, in tracing on the ground the different divisions

divisions of their land. After having marked the limit on the side of the meadow by a curved line, drawn from the two extremities of the semi-circle formed by the stream, they made two straight and parallel lines, to mark the principal walk, which was to go from the meadow to the cabin, separating the garden into two parts. Joseph then made them distribute the rest of the ground into little compartments of different shapes, in order to enable them to draw circles, ellipses or ovals, quadrangles or squares, parallelograms, lozenges, trapeziums, polygons, triangles with right, acute, and obtuse angles; and he explained to them, at the same time, the properties of these different figures. The various divisions

divisions of the garden thus traced out, they began to dig up the parts which were to be sown; and, as the earth became sufficiently prepared, Joseph showed them the manner of planting or sowing the different seeds which they brought from the farm. They were particularly desirous of planting a great number of roots which are good to eat with roasting in the ashes, as potatoes, &c. "With these," said they, "we shall be sure of having food here, and we shall need no other cook than ourselves."

As for fruit trees, there were already some wild stocks of plums, apples, and quinces, in the hedge bordering the stream on the side of the garden; but the children wished to have them of
all

all kinds, and planted along the walks. But how were they to procure these, having no nursery in the farm, or any where near? Joseph went to seek for them in the neighbouring woods, and his three little companions did not fail to follow him.

In the midst of the oaks, beeches, birches, elms, and maples, with which these woods were furnished, he taught them to distinguish the wild quince, whose leaves are of a whitish green, with a fruit resembling the pear, covered with a cottony down; the cherry tree, which bears little black cherries; the chesnut and hazelnut, the fruit of which all the children knew; the medlar, the cornel, whose red fruit is shaped like an olive; and the service tree,

tree, whose little apples, when fermented, afford an agreeable and refreshing liquor. Joseph carefully dug up several young plants of these different kinds, and made them up into little bundles bound with a pliant branch. Each of the boys took one on his shoulder, and gaily carried off these new riches to adorn the little domain. Joseph having first planted one of the young trees, they chose to set all the others themselves. The apples they planted in two lines along the principal walk crossing the garden, and the nuts they ranged in a circle round the cabin, that they might watch them more closely, and defend them from the incursions of the robber birds,

birds, who came to divide their crop with them.

But these trees, taken thus from the forest in a state of nature, would only have given small, tasteless fruits, such as would be produced by all our orchard trees, had they not been perfected by culture. This Joseph observed to the children, and spoke to them of the necessity of grafting those in their garden which were capable of it. Louis, Paul, and Honorius, who had perhaps seen many grafts in their father's garden, but without paying any attention to them, did not understand what Joseph meant by grafts, and he was obliged to enter into some explanations with them. "To graft,

or

or bud," said he to them, "is to cut off the head or the arms of a tree, to give it a new head or arms, and to force it to produce fruits of a different kind from its own. You see there among those bushes by the side of the stream stocks of white and black thorn, and of wild pears, apples, and plums. Well, by the operation of grafting, I can make medlars and plums grow upon the thorns; on the wild plums, peaches and apricots; on the other stocks, all the best flavoured kinds of pears and apples; on the little black cherries, I will rear all the finest sorts; from the wild chesnuts I will produce fine large ones of the cultivated kind; and from the hazels fine filberts."

"O, how can that be?" cried the chil-

D

dren,

dren. "Come, let us begin directly."
"You must first get me some grafts,"
resumed Joseph. "Grafts are little
branches, or even buds only, cut from
the trees of which you wish to have
the fruits, which are afterwards intro-
duced into other trees, on which you
want these fruits to grow. So, if you
only tell the gardener at the farm to
cut you grafts of the different trees
that you choose to have, he will know
very well what you mean. You may
bring them to me here, and I will
show you how the operation of grafting
is performed."

A few days afterwards the children
came well provided with different
grafts from the best trees in their fa-
ther's garden, and Joseph showed them
the

the manner of using them, by making first a cleft graft on a wild plum. "Now, my little friends," said he, "on this wild stock I can graft at will a peach, an apricot, or another plum. Say which you like best." "We should like a peach best," replied they. "Well, choose a peach among these grafts that you have brought." "Here is one." "Good. I begin by cutting off the smallest end, so as to leave it only about three inches long, taking care that it should have, at least, three good eyes or buds. Now I cut it at the largest end in form of a wedge, leaving on each side a little strip of bark sticking close to the wood, and broader on one side than on the other; and thus the graft is prepared. Now

I turn to the stock, which the gardeners call the subject. I clear away neatly all the little branches which spring from the trunk, and I behead the stem, at the height of about five feet, by a somewhat oblique cut. To the top of the trunk I then apply the blade of my knife, and I make in it, as you see, a vertical cleft, large enough to contain the end of the graft. With the point of my knife I keep this cleft half open for a moment, and I neatly slip in the foot of the graft, in such a manner that the bark of the broadest side shall come even with the bark of the subject, and that the two barks shall exactly answer. The graft thus placed, I cover it round with a lump of clay, mixed

mixed with dry grass, that the air may not penetrate the parts newly cut, and then the operation is finished. Some time hence the two woods will be fastened together; you will see the little branch engrafted on this wild stock spread and grow as the stock itself would have done; and instead of having little, sour, black plums on the tree, you will have fine red peaches of an excellent flavour."

The boys could scarcely give credit to such a prodigy, and asked Joseph a great number of questions about the causes of so astonishing a metamorphosis; which gave him occasion to explain to them the principles of vegetation, the course of the sap in the veins of the plant, and its con-

version into wood, leaves, and fruits, of the same species as the tree through the pores of which it is filtered. Joseph then grafted by budding a little wild pear, whose weak stem could not have borne cleft grafting. From among the young shoots that the children had brought for grafts, he told them to choose one of the *bon-chrétien*. "Observe well," said he, "what I am going to do. I first choose from this young branch the bud which appears to be the best formed: here is one. Now I must take it off, separating with it nothing but the bark to which it grows. For this purpose I make three cuts in the bark surrounding the bud, in the manner that you shall see. The first across the branch through to
the

the wood, a little above the bud, that I wish to cut out; the second downwards on one side of the bud; and the third on the other side, so that they shall cross about half an inch below the bud; and the three cuts shall form together a kind of triangle with the point downwards. Then with the point of my knife I easily detach the bud which is within this enclosure. Now the bud being loosened, it is to be introduced into the bark of the wild stock, in such a manner that it shall shoot there as it would have done upon this branch. For this purpose I shall make two incisions in this stock with the point of my knife; the first horizontally, or across the stem; the second vertically, or downwards, so that they

they shall make the figure of a great T. That being done, I raise the bark on each side of the vertical incision ; I then introduce the bud, slipping it downwards, little by little, till the cut at the top of the bud answers exactly to the horizontal incision of the stock, and now nothing more is necessary than to keep it in this situation. See, there is a little lock of wool sticking to a bush on the other side of the stream ; be so good as to fetch it me. Very well. I make of it a thread about as thick as a quill, and wind it round the graft in such a manner that only the eye remains uncovered, as you see. I finish by cutting off the stock four fingers breadth above the graft, so that the sap, no longer finding

ing

ing an issue, may all fly back towards the graft. After healing the incisions, it will cause the little bud to shoot, as it would have done upon the tree from which it was taken; and instead of a paltry wilding, you will have an excellent *bon-chrétien* pear tree."

Joseph continued to graft, either by clefts or buds, the other wild trees that grew on the banks of the stream, observing to engraft the pippin-bearing trees, such as apples and pears, only upon stocks of a similar nature; and those producing stone fruits, such as peaches, apricots, and plums, on wild plums or black thorns. On the white thorn, commonly called the hawthorn, he grafted medlars; on the hazels, filberts; he grafted even the dog-

dog-rose trees with those of the garden, which would afterwards produce fine double roses of all kinds. At the foot of these grafted trees he planted slips of honeysuckle and jessamine; he mixed with them young plants of lilacs, syringas, and Spanish broom; so that the line of bushes which stretched along the banks of the stream, became changed into a rich border of fruit trees and flowering shrubs, which in course of time would present a most delightful prospect, and diffuse the richest perfumes.

Joseph caused the children to execute several of these grafts themselves. "Remember well, my little friends," said he, "how to perform this interesting operation, the master-piece of agricultural

cultural industry, the triumph of man over nature: for these other trees that we have brought from the forest, which will languish some time from being transplanted, cannot be grafted till next year, and perhaps I shall not be here to graft them." "Why not?" interrupted the children. "Do you wish to leave us, Joseph? Are you uncomfortable with us?" "Heaven forbid! my good little masters; it is long since I have tasted moments so tranquil as during the month that I have passed with you in this solitude: but no man can answer for the lot destined him by Providence; and, in my wretched condition, I less than any one can flatter myself with the hope of living long exempt from new misfortunes."

fortunes." "O good Joseph," replied the children, "you must always stay with us: we will not let you be in want of any thing." And, as the day began to decline, they collected the herd, and left the valley, taking the road towards the farm.

On the following days they employed themselves in planting flowers and sweet smelling shrubs round their cabin. But one day, as they were returning to their habitation with plants of violets and strawberries to set in the borders, what was their grief when they perceived, at a distance, a goat, which had strayed from the rest of the flock, and, penetrating into the midst of their garden, was browsing without mercy on the young shoots of
their

their trees and shrubs. Furious at the sight, the boys immediately began to pick up sticks and stones, and ran to attack the beast. "What are you going to do?" said Joseph, who was with them. "Do you not consider that by terrifying the animal with your blows you will make it commit still greater mischief? Do you stand still, and let me go round to the bottom of the garden, and drive it out gently."

Happily the damage was not considerable, and was soon repaired. But this accident made the children perceive the necessity of inclosing their property in such a manner as to protect it from future invasions. The stream, which surrounded two-thirds

of it with a semicircular bend, already formed a very sufficient fence to these parts, particularly as the bank was much higher on the side nearest to the garden than on the other. It then only remained to inclose the space opening to the side of the meadow. This space was about thirty feet, separating the two angles of the brook. But how were they to fence in so great a distance? A council was held on this important point. Louis advised making a dry hedge with branches of thorns, held together between thick stakes. But they soon perceived the difficulty of making this inclosure of thorns, and it would have presented but a melancholy appearance. Paul proposed to dig a trench,

and to plant on the further side some young plants of thorns, which they might transplant from the wood, and which, when grown large, would make an excellent quick. But till this hedge had reached to a considerable height the garden would have remained defenceless. Honorius said that nothing would be necessary but a fence made with planks, stretched from stakes placed at equal distances. But this the goats and sheep might easily have got through. What then was to be done?

“I can tell you,” said Joseph, “of a fence which I have observed in several countries that I have passed through, with the simplicity of which I was greatly struck. It is a sort of

live hedge, which grows in a very short time, and which from the very moment of its plantation, forms an inclosure equally firm and pleasing to the eye. They begin by opening a trench of about a foot in depth. In this trench they plant, a foot distant from each other, stakes or cuttings of willows, poplars, or osiers, about six feet high, observing to place one row bending obliquely from left to right; and a second row, crossing the other, bending from right to left, so that these poles crossing each other, and tied together at every joint with a band of osier, present the appearance of a lozenge-shaped lattice. The trench is then filled with the earth which had been taken out of it, and it is trodden down

down in such a manner as to render the whole pallisade firm. The poles, buried a foot deep in fresh earth like this, immediately take root, and send out a great number of branches, which fill up all the intervals. When supported besides, by strong stakes, they form a barrier firm the first year, and impenetrable the second."

This kind of fence was unanimously approved by the children, and to make it was their employment for five or six days. In the middle of this pallisade, and opposite to the principal walk, they did not forget to contrive an entrance, shutting with a hurdle turning upon a pivot, to which Joseph knew how to adapt a kind of wooden lock.

Thus shut up and defended without, our young solitaires only thought of tending and adorning the inside of their little hermitage. They shut up their cabin with a door of wicker-work, which was raised and put down at pleasure: On the inside they dug a cellar, and several little cupboards to hold their provisions. On each side of the door they raised a bench of turf to sit down upon at their leisure moments, and enjoy the pleasing sight of their own creation. At the feet of the young trees, on each side of the great walk, they planted vine cuttings, which would in time, stretch in garlands from one trunk to another. They also set raspberry and gooseberry bushes along
the

the fence, to render it at once more firm and more useful.

In the mean time the sun, rising higher and higher over our hemisphere, had begun to dry up the moisture of the earth necessary for vegetation. The plants, which had already taken root, began to languish. The children thought of no other method of watering them than by bringing from the farm a bucket, which they filled at the brook, and afterwards emptied upon the plants which drooped the most. But it may be easily imagined that this method was both tedious and laborious. It was as much as two of them could do to carry this bucket two-thirds full of water, a great part of which was spilled

led by the way. Joseph, seeing their distress, came again to their assistance. "You give yourselves a great deal of trouble there," said he, "when there is a much simpler way of procuring as much water as you please in the midst of your own garden." "And how are we to manage that, Joseph?" "You see that the stream is only about four feet deep below your garden. Well, make a hole of this depth in whatever place you please, and you will immediately see the water flow into it, and maintain itself on the same level as in the brook." "How can it pass from the brook into the hole?" "Water is composed of parts so minute, that they easily filtre through the earth, even to more considerable distances.

distances. In consequence of their extreme tenuity, these particles, having also a great tendency to motion, and being of equal weight, are always inclined to place themselves on a level in every place with which they have any communication; for the same reason that you see two equal weights in a balance remain in equilibrio." "But when our hole is made, how shall we manage to draw water out of it? The labour will be still the same?" "I will then show you a method of making it easier." "In that case we will make one near our house; that will be in the centre of the garden."

Accordingly they immediately prepared to open a little trench in the
form

form of a pit, about three feet broad; and when they had dug it to the level of the stream, they saw the bottom of it directly filled with water. But how was it to be drawn out? they inquired. Joseph planted near it a strong pole, forking out at the top in the form of a V, and placed upon it another pole, to the two extremities of which he had tied two ropes made of willow bark. Then, having suspended the bucket from one of these ropes, and placed the pole transversely on its support, he let down the bucket into the well, and when he saw it full, he bid Honorius, the youngest of the children, pull the other rope. He pulled up the bucket with one hand, without the slightest effort.

effort. "O how light it is! cried he: "this bucket, that two of us together had so much difficulty in carrying, is now scarcely any weight at all!"

Paul and Louis wished also to convince themselves by experience of this fact, which they could not believe. They came to draw water in their turn, but Joseph having moved the pole on its support, a new subject of astonishment arose; they could scarcely raise the bucket with their utmost strength. "Why, how is this?" said they; "we two cannot do what Honorius has just done alone!" Joseph immediately replaced the pole in its first situation, and desired them to try again, when the bucket rose directly,

directly, without the smallest resistance.

Louis, Paul, and Honorius, pleased with this discovery, immediately began to make use of their new watering pot. Whilst one of them largely sprinkled the withering plants, another worked the bucket, in order continually to renew the supply of water; and relieving each other by turns at this double exercise, they found it an amusement so much the more agreeable, as in a short time they had the pleasing recompense of seeing all their plantations acquire a force of vegetation which promised a most plentiful crop.

Their most necessary labours being thus terminated, and the care of their
cabin

cabin and garden taking only a part of their time, they often betook themselves to exercises of another kind. Sometimes, playing in the meadow, they challenged each other to leap over a broad ditch or a high bush. Sometimes running in a line, at a certain distance from each other, the first would stop suddenly, stoop down his head, stretch out his back, and the two followers would spring with agility over his shoulders, then stop themselves at a proper distance to be jumped over by the first in his turn, and so on successively. Sometimes placed at three points, the extremities of a large triangle, they made an elastic ball bound on the turf, and they would strive with their hands

F

and

and feet to send it to each other, making it describe long semicircles in the air. Sometimes snatching a bow that Joseph had taught them to string, and directing their arrows against a hat, fixed for a butt, on the slope of a green terrace, they founded a prize for the best shot; or mounting on the highest summit of a hill, and brandishing a sling on their arm, they alternately tried who could throw a stone with force enough to make it cross the valley. They themselves were astonished at the strength and suppleness which they daily acquired by these games; and they said among themselves: "We were not so strong as this before we built our house; papa was right in saying that

that it is work which makes little boys grow."

"But why," they one day asked each other, "do these stones and arrows, which we discharge with so much force, and which fly so swiftly that the eye can scarcely follow them, always end by falling to the ground, inclining more and more towards it to the end of their course? What is it that hinders them from going further?" "Have you not observed," said Paul to Louis, "that in proportion as a stone thrown into the air approaches the ground, it seems to fall faster?" "O, phoo!" replied Louis "you think you see that, but you are mistaken; there is no reason why a stone should
F 2 fall

fall faster at one time than another."

"But I assure you that I am not mistaken. Look now, I will roll this great stone from the top of the hill to the bottom, and you shall see whether, in proportion as it descends, it does not move more and more rapidly."

Honorius was of Paul's opinion, but Louis would not give up; they agreed to refer the question to Joseph. They found him at the bottom of the meadow, seated among tufts of trees, and labouring to form an elder stalk into a little flute, whilst his faithful dog was watching his flock. After having heard the subject of their debate, he decided that Paul was in the right, and that the effect
which

which he had observed was by no means an error of the sight.

“It is a first law of nature,” said he, “that all bodies, all the material objects that compose our world, even those which appear to us to float in the air, and have no weight, should tend, always and every where, to move towards the centre of the earth. They seem as if perpetually drawn towards it by an invisible hand, which exercises its power over them, to whatever distance they may be removed.

Now it is this force, which is called *attraction*, which is the cause of all the effects which you see in the fall of bodies. When, for example, you shoot an arrow, or throw a stone,

towards the sky, or from one place to another, what do you do? You impress on this body a particular motion, and one contrary to the attraction which governs it. What then happens? As long as the impulse which you have communicated to it is stronger than its tendency towards the earth, it obeys your motion. But as it proceeds, it does not cease to struggle against the power of attraction which always attends it; but in proportion as it struggles against this force, it loses that which you had given it, and in proportion as it loses it, it recovers its natural direction. This is the reason that you always see a stone, or any other body, however strongly it may be launched,

end

end by falling again to the earth, describing a curved line, which is called a parabola.

This is, then, the difference between that motion which men can communicate, and that which results from the power of attraction;—that men cannot renew the motion which they have given to a body, when once it is out of their hand. On the contrary, the force of attraction has the property of augmenting and continually accelerating the motion of a body, which it recalls to the earth. This is so true, my little friends, as you will one day learn, that a body suffered to fall down by itself, falls fifteen feet in the first second, forty-five in the second, and seventy-five in the third;

so that a person may know exactly the time that a body will take in falling from the top of a tower whose elevation is known. It is in consequence of this acceleration of motion in the fall of bodies, that you see a stone in falling down make a percussion on the bodies which it touches, stronger in proportion to the length of space that it has passed through. This is also the reason why a little boy who leaps from a high window will hurt himself much more than if he only jumped off a table."

Whilst he spoke to them in this manner, his three little auditors fixing their eyes on the instrument which he was turning in his fingers, boring it with several holes, appeared to give
more

more attention to the motion of his hands than to the sense of his explanation of the motion of bodies. As soon as he had finished his discourse: "What are you doing there?" said they to him. "What are you going to make of that little bit of elder?" Joseph made them understand directly, by placing the little tube cross-wise on his lips, and uttering a sound very like that of those flutes known by the name of flageolets. I leave to be imagined the surprize, the joy, the wishes, the impatience, the disputes of the three children, to blow, in their turn, this instrument which was quite new to them, and the form and construction of which they were never weary of examining. It is need-
less

less also to say that Joseph had no rest till he made one like it for each of them. During the first days that they tried they could only produce harsh and discordant sounds; but little by little Joseph taught them to modulate the tones with sufficient regularity to be able to form with them little concerts in four parts. Thus, in the midst of this deep solitude, during the calmness of a clear serene day, the astonished echoes were often awakened by notes hitherto unknown to them.

One day when our young musicians had placed themselves on the slope of a high hill, under the shade of two elms which bent over in an arch, they were inexpressibly surprised to hear the conclusions of their airs repeated

two

two or three times over from the opposite side. "Does it not seem," said they to one another, "as if there were people hid in the wood down there, who amused themselves with counterfeiting all the sounds that we make? But as there is certainly nobody in all this country who has instruments like ours, it is not possible that it should be any living person who produces this imitation. Then how can it be made?" Joseph, whom they consulted, soon put an end to their uneasiness, by explaining to them that the air alone produces all the noise that we hear; that it alone is essentially sonorous, and that the different modifications of sound which affect our ears are the effect of the differ-

different vibrations or agitations produced in its parts. "When the wind," said he, "which is nothing but air in motion, blows strongly, as it passes by doors or windows which are ill closed, or among the leaves of trees, you hear it produce different noises, different sounds; well! in the same manner, when we sing, or blow a wind instrument, when we cause the string of a harp or pianoforte to vibrate, when we strike upon a bell or other metallic body, we excite a quivering, a trembling in the particles of the air, which, by repulsing them and making them strike against each other, causes a peculiar sound to result. Air being, as I have already told you, a fluid mass, nearly like water,

water, which presses and floats upon the whole surface of the earth, it follows that, as soon as a shock is produced on one point of this mass, a shaking is communicated to all the circumjacent air at a greater or less distance, nearly similar to those circular undulations which you see extending by degrees over the whole surface of a river or canal, when you throw a stone into it. Now what do you observe further when you see these undulations reach the bank of the canal, which prevents their extending further? They return upon themselves, and extend in a contrary direction, as long as they have force enough remaining. It is the same with regard to the undulations of

c

sound

sound produced in the mass of air. When they meet in their passage with an obstacle which opposes the continuation of their motion, as a mountain, a building, or a wood, they are reflected, and turn back again; and if they have force enough to arrive again at the place whence they set out, they produce upon the ear of the person stationed on that spot the double sound, which we call an echo. It is necessary, however, that the observer should be placed at a proper distance from the obstacle, so that he may distinguish the sound which it sends back, otherwise he will only hear one at a time. Now I must also tell you on this subject, my little friends, that sound travels in a second
the

the distance of two thousand yards, or rather more than a mile. Thus, from the place where you stand, you see it is only about six hundred yards to the opposite side. But you also see that this side forms different bendings, different angles, both prominent and retreating, more or less distant from each other. The sounds proceeding from this cannot, consequently, arrive thither and return but successively, and at different times. Thence proceed, my little friends, the repeated echoes that you have heard."

It was particularly when rain, or some passing storm, obliged them to remain under the shelter of their cabin, that the boys attempted to form little symphonies to divert their lei-

sure. Sometimes, too, during these leisure moments they employed themselves in platting baskets of rushes, in making some gardening utensils, in repairing those that were damaged, in shaping bows and pointing arrows; and, during the silence of these sedentary occupations, some one was commonly employed in relating some story. When Joseph was with them it may be well imagined that the office of narrator devolved upon him. They were particularly pleased when he told them stories of travellers, and spoke of the countries that he had passed through, and the people who inhabit the different countries of the earth. When, for instance, in the course of a tale he offered to them the picture of
a tra-

a traveller bewildered in the midst of gloomy forests inhabited by savages, or that of a ship assailed by a violent tempest, dashed to pieces against the rocks, and swallowed up in the deep abysses of the ocean; then that of a poor passenger escaping alone from the fury of the waves, and saving himself by swimming on a desert island, where he remains abandoned to nature alone; or when he gave them a description of a battle, after which the ferocious troops were seen overrunning the country, ravaging the harvests, carrying every where fire and sword; at these relations the three children remained almost breathless; the emotion with which they were filled was painted on every feature of their

countenances; and the idea of these distant dangers redoubled in their minds the sentiment of sweet security, which they enjoyed under the peaceful shelter of their little cabin.

The mildness of the season caused the cares which the children continued to bestow on their garden to prosper more and more; and already the greater part of the plants that they had cultivated in it offered to their eyes a rich mixture of all kinds of flowers. Struck, as if for the first time, with the brilliancy and variety of their colours, the elegance of their forms, and the wonderful combination of all their parts, they often stopped to observe them in a kind of ecstasy. They often questioned Joseph on their names,

names, their origin, their properties, their destination. One day as they were making him admire a fine lily which adorned the entrance of their cabin, Joseph seized the occasion to teach them the principal characteristics by which all plants are distinguished.

“You know already,” said he to them, “that every plant is composed of roots, a stalk, branches, flowers, and fruits. But the flower, above all, deserves particular attention, for it is in this part that Nature has placed the germ for the perpetual reproduction of all vegetables, and it is this that offers the most remarkable signs for distinguishing and recognizing them.

“Every flower is composed of several parts, which it is necessary to know

know first, in order to arrive at more important knowledge. Thus, for example, in the lily, the first thing that strikes your eye is that beautiful white flower, which has the appearance of a vase of alabaster. Well, this part is called the corolla. You next observe that this corolla is itself composed of several pieces or segments, which are joined at the bottom, but separated at the top; these are what are called the petals. Every corolla, which is thus divided into pieces, is called a polypetalous corolla. Those that are only in one piece, like the flowers of a convolvolus, which you see there, are called monopetalous. But to return to our lily. Just in the middle of this corolla you observe a kind of little column,

column fastened to the bottom, and pointing upwards. This whole column is called the pistil. But it is divided into three parts; first, the base, which you see swelled into the shape of a little gland, which is the germ; secondly, a little thread, in the shape of a needle, that you see on the germ, which is called the style, thirdly, a little hat crowning this style, which is called the stigma. Round this pistil you see, besides, six other columns, much smaller, terminated by little tufts; these are called the stamens. But in each of these stamens also two things are to be distinguished, which have different names; the thread, which is the slender part, connected with the corolla, and the anther, which

which is the little tuft fastened to the extremity of the thread. Each of these anthers is a kind of little box, which opens when it is ripe, and out of which comes a yellowish dust, which serves to render the germ fruitful. This dust is called farina.

“Such are the different parts which constitute the greater number of flowers as well those of herbs as those of trees and shrubs; with the addition, however, of the calyx, which commonly makes another part, but which is wanting in the lily. What is called the calyx in other flowers is that green part which supports and embraces the lower part of the corolla, and which envelops it completely before its opening, as you see there, in those buds of roses and pinks.”

After having thus analysed the component parts of the flower, Joseph made them remark their figure, position, and various combinations in the different plants which offered themselves to their eyes; he made them observe their similarities and differences, and he taught them how, from these similarities, a methodical order of classification had been invented, indispensably necessary for recognizing that multitude of plants which covers the surface of the earth. Thus the children already knew that all the plants whose flower resembles the lily, such as tulips, hyacinths, narcissuses, tuberoses, and even the onion, leek, and garlic, form a separate class, called the liliaceous. Thus they knew which
should

should be placed in the cruciform class, or those whose flowers are in the shape of a cross, such as the single stock and wall-flower, the cabbage, radish, and turnip; those which are comprehended under the name of papilionaceous, on account of their resemblance to the wings of a butterfly, such as peas, beans, broom, lentils, French beans, &c. Those too that are called umbelliferous, or flowers growing like an umbrella, such as carrots, parsley, chervil, &c.; the rose-like flowers, such as poppies, ranunculuses, the apple and strawberry blossom, roses themselves, &c., the labiated and hooded, or flowers with a throat, like sage, white nettle, balm, &c.

Often a little insect, a worm, an
ant,

ant, a fly, became the subject of conversation of another kind, which was not less interesting to the children. They listened with particular avidity to the singular accounts which Joseph gave them of the metamorphoses of butterflies, and the greatest part of winged insects; of the labours, the instinct, and the battles of ants; of the kind of artillery which their enemy, the lion-ant, plays off against them from the bottom of his little funnel-shaped fosse; of the cause of that greenish light which the glow-worm emits in the dark; of the multiplication of polypes in fresh water, and of those large earth-worms which children so often amuse themselves with observing and cutting in pieces; of

H

the

the structure and purpose of that fine tissue which spiders weave around them; and of the wonderful industry and admirable government of the bees.

One day, when they were occupied in their garden by some of their usual amusements, they suddenly heard a great humming; they raised their eyes, and saw a large swarm of flies, who, after having balanced themselves some time in the air, at length attached themselves in the form of a cluster to the branches of a neighbouring willow. The children immediately called Joseph. He came, and saw that they were a swarm of bees emigrating: he approached them without fear; and, after covering his face with
a piece

a piece of thin cloth, hanging like a veil from his hat, he observed them some time in silence. Then, in the midst of these bees, who were humming and crowding one upon another, he perceived one much larger than the rest, with shorter wings: recognizing her for the directress of the colony, he seized her adroitly in his fingers. Then, having placed her upon his arm, the children immediately saw all the other bees detach themselves from the branch, and settle in a groupe on the same part of his body, without giving him a single sting. Joseph brought them in this manner to another tree, situated in the garden itself, by the side of a stream, in the trunk of which he had

observed a hollow fit for their habitation. Joseph took the new queen bee in his fingers, and placed her on the side of this cavity, and all the other bees followed her in an instant. Thus the little hermitage was furnished with a natural hive of bees, from which the children promised themselves great advantage*.

Another day, when they were sitting in the cabin with Joseph, talking of lions, tigers, and other wild beasts which people the deserts of Africa, Joseph suddenly began to say to them with a terrified air, "Take care, my

* This mode of managing bees, which may, perhaps, appear improbable to many persons, has, however, been several times repeated by Mr. Wildman before the Royal Society.

little friends, I see here, almost close to us, a downy, yellowish monster, which has eight great legs, each of which is armed with two great claws, which contain a kind of wet sponge; this monster has also near his throat something like two hands, which he uses in devouring his prey. Like Argus, his head is all covered with eyes; he has eight ranged in an oval form on his forehead, and two horrible pincers, set with sharp hooks, appear to proceed from his bloody throat."

"But, where is the monster?" asked the children, looking anxiously around them. "Just by you! There, Paul; take care, it is just going to climb up your leg." "What! is it that spider?"

"Yes;" and Joseph, instantly seizing

it, and pointing out all the parts of its body, showed them that its structure exactly answered to his description of it.

At the same moment they suddenly heard the steps of a little animal trotting under the shelter of their cabin. Honorius, who was sitting near the door, turned his head round gently, and exclaimed, as he darted out of the cottage, "Come, come, and see, here is a little red animal, with a great tail turned over his back like a plume. O, he is running away up the trees! Look, look, how he leaps from bough to bough!" Louis, Paul, and Joseph, who came out directly, had scarcely time to catch a glimpse of him. He had already gained a row of poplars which extended to the border

der of the wood, and almost in the twinkling of an eye he had returned to its shade. "O!" cried the children, addressing themselves to Joseph, and looking at each other with an air of astonishment, "what is this little animal? How quickly it bounded from tree to tree! One would have thought it had been a bird; yet, I think, it had no wings." "It has no wings," replied Joseph; "it is a little quadruped, nearly of the size of a rat, which, like it, has only four legs to move with, but which has, however, almost all the agility of birds, and their habits and manner of living. Like them it is almost always in the air; like them it inhabits the tops of trees, builds its nest upon them, feeds

on

on their seeds, leaps from one branch to another merely by the elasticity of its legs, and only descends when it is obliged, as now, to come and seek its food on the ground. In short, this little animal is the squirrel, which you have perhaps sometimes heard of."

"Yes, we had heard, indeed, that there were some in the forest down there, but we had never seen any before. Ah, it was a pity we did not catch this: what an elegant air it had!"

"Do not distress yourselves," replied Joseph, "this is certainly not the only one inhabiting this wood, where it has taken refuge; and this is exactly the season when these animals have young ones. Perhaps, if you search well, you may discover a nest."

"O, then

then we will look over all the trees with the greatest care. But how are we to know a squirrel's nest?" "It is commonly on the largest trees, in the forking of a great branch, near the trunk, that they fix their habitation. They form it of little twigs, which they interweave with moss and a little moulded earth, so that the whole appears at a distance to be only a tuft of greenish moss, which seems to have grown naturally on the trunk of the tree. The inside is hollow, and large enough to contain the whole family, which usually consists of the father, mother, and three or four little ones. This nest has only one narrow opening in the upper part, and above this opening is a kind of roof, like a pent-house,

house, which shelters the whole, and causes the rain to run down the sides, without penetrating the little mansion."

The three children, impatient to make so interesting a discovery, immediately set out on the search. Several times their ardour was painfully deceived by old birds'-nests, or mere tufts of moss, which they mistook for the object of their search. But at length they were well rewarded for their trouble. In the evening they had the satisfaction of bringing home three new guests, a little squirrel, and two young doves.

By care they soon rendered them very familiar; and the company of these pretty little animals added new charms

charms to their habitation. When they came in the morning, on one side the two young doves hastened to them, clapping their wings, and fluttering from one to another; sometimes on their heads, sometimes on their shoulders, and uttering little cries of joy, as if to express their pleasure in seeing them again. On the other side was the little squirrel, who, still more lively, more active, and more petulant, climbed up and ran over every part of their bodies, rummaged in all their pockets to find something good to eat, and often snatched from them, with the swiftness of lightning, the food that they held in their hands, or even in their mouths. When the children were busy working in their garden,

garden, or playing in the meadow, these little animals still followed them, and remained perched upon their shoulders, or upon some neighbouring bush. They were so tame, that, in the absence of their young masters, they did not leave their cabin, though they were at full liberty. If sometimes they wandered to a little distance to procure food, yet they never failed to return at night. The squirrel commonly passed the night in a little cell which he had scooped out for himself in the roof, whilst the two doves remained side by side on a stick placed across the top of the cabin for a perch.

The children soon wished to increase still more the population of
their

their little colony; and one day they told Joseph how glad they should be to have an aviary full of birds by the side of their cottage. "I could easily," replied Joseph, "show you how to catch a great number, and of almost all the kinds that inhabit this part of the country; but it is on one condition, that you will not keep them in captivity, and will suffer all those that do not choose to stay with you to return to the woods; for it is a cruel thing, my little friends, for these poor animals, as well as for men, to be deprived of their liberty." "Well," replied the children, "we promise you to let them all go; but we shall be very glad to look at them nearer for a moment, to hold them in our hands,

I

and

and particularly to see how you will manage to catch so many as you say.” “I shall do it by a very simple method; I want nothing but birdlime.” “Ah, you will catch them with a call then!” “Exactly so.” “O, we have often heard of that way of catching birds, but we have never had the pleasure of seeing it. Well, Joseph, it is a holiday to-morrow; and if you will go to the town, we will give you all our money to buy as much birdlime as will be necessary.” Joseph consented to their wish with his usual civility. The next day he went to the town; but, on his return, he informed them that he had heard some news which would oblige him immediately to take a journey into his own country, and that

that night he begged leave of absence for several days of their father. This was, as may easily be imagined, a great cause of grief to the children, who made him promise to return, and to perform his journey with all possible diligence.

The time of absence allowed him was much more than expired, and Joseph did not return. One day the farmer received a letter from the neighbouring town, which informed him that a box, directed to him, had arrived by the Paris carrier, which he was desired to send for. Accordingly, the next day, a man on horseback was dispatched to bring it; and the box being brought in the evening, as all the family were assembled, ready to sit

I 2 down

down to supper, the farmer prepared to open it. All the children were mounted on chairs round the table, with their eyes fixed on the box, in the most lively impatience to see what it might contain. The lid having been taken off, with several sheets of paper which covered the contents, there were first seen four pretty pocket-books of nice red morocco, with letters of gold upon them; and on one was read Louis, on another Paul, on the third Honorius, on the fourth Catherine.

Judge of the surprise, the agitation, the joy, of the four children, on hearing their father pronounce these words. "That is for me! that is for me!" cried they, one after another, leaping

leaping and gesticulating with all their limbs. "Let us see, papa."—"Where is mine?"—"There is yours."—"No, it is mine."—"No, it is mine." They could not hear one another speak in the house.

Below these pocket-books were four pretty ebony writing-desks, surrounded with circles of silver; four cases of mathematical instruments, crayons of all colours, rulers, compasses, four pretty knives with ivory handles, four little pruning-hooks, pens, penknives, little fine scissars, four botanical magnifying glasses, and four pocket compasses. Beneath were some pretty little books, bound in red and green morocco, on the backs of which were read these titles, The Children's

dren's Friend, Telemachus, Robinson Crusoe, Paul and Virginia, &c. Under these were several books of engravings, drawings, writing-copies by the best masters, and papers of different kinds.

At length, at the bottom of all these, was found a sealed letter directed to the farmer, in which he immediately read these words:

" Worthy Citizen,

" You deigned to receive me into your house when I was unfortunate, and without an asylum. I shall never forget this service, and more especially the touching interest in my welfare which your amiable children constantly showed in the days of my adversity, when they often diverted the bitter reflections

reflections which harrowed my soul. Accept for them, I beg, these slight testimonies of my gratitude and tender attachment. I shall soon have the pleasure of seeing again and embracing them, and of teaching you to recognize in your former servant a constant friend.

“JOSEPH B—.”

THE

THE
CHARACTERS.

THE childhood of man is a mirror, in which, with more observing eyes, we might see his whole life in miniature. The dispositions which imagination engraves on our hearts at an early age, grow with us, and it is afterwards very difficult to subdue them.

That child who regarded the glittering of gold with so much complacency,

ceency, who amassed his sweetmeats with a greedy hand, who saw with an envious eye all that was given to others, who made a sport of theft and lying, who counted over and over the money that he received for Christmas-boxes; that child, who was able to learn no art but the art of computation, is to-day a miser, and lends at sixty per cent.

When you see the elegant Jessamine bearing about his idleness and arrogance from circle to circle, you remark what he was in his childhood. The pretty little master rolled proudly along, drawn by his companions in a fine gilded coach. He got his nurse to carry him before a looking-glass, where he smiled with pleasure,
and

and stroked his smooth chin with his hand: he ate, played, slept, and chattered, but he never thought.

I recollect an anecdote on this subject, which naturally finds its place here.

Some years ago, travelling among the mountains of Auvergne, I saw, in the neighbourhood of a poor-looking village, four little boys, who were playing together. As I have always felt myself very much interested by children, I approached them. I joined in a little conversation with them; and wishing to leave them a slight remembrance of my passage and my visit, I drew some pieces of money from my pocket, which I presented to them in turn. "Here, my friend," said I to the

the first, "take this." The child took it with joy. I was curious to know the use he would make of it. "What will you do with it?" said I to him. "I will buy apples with it on Sunday," he replied directly.

I presented my penny-piece to the second; and asking him too what he would do with it, "I will keep it," he answered, and put it in his pocket with an air of mystery.

I approached the third, who held down his head through timidity. "Here, my boy," said I, "I have got something for you." He took the money, and immediately slipped away. I observed him: he went straight to the door of a neighbouring cottage, in which was a woman, and cried out,
"Mother,

"Mother, do you see that gentleman below there? Look what he has just given me."

I had still one child to satisfy. "Come," said I, "now it is your turn, and you shall not have less than the others. Take this money." "I will not," replied he: and, in fact, I found it impossible to make him accept of it.

In the mean time the third of the lads returned to me with his mother, who thanked me with a smile of gratitude. I congratulated her on having so tender a son; and, on quitting the village, I said within myself, "I leave here, in these four children, four very different characters; a very common one, in him who keeps his money

money to buy fruit with on Sunday; a proud one, in him who will accept nothing from me; an avaricious one, in him who only takes money to hoard it. But may God bless the sensibility of him who, from his childhood, chooses his mother for the confidante of his smallest actions, and has not a pleasure but what he wishes her to partake of!"

WINTER.

DURING a fine winter's morning Julius and Julia, silently sitting in the two chimney corners, were occupied, one in building a frail edifice of cards, the other in cutting out grotesque figures of paper, whilst Damonville, their father, placed in front of the fire, was reading to them out of the "Tales of the Castle." For several days they had not gone out of the house; the snow, which covered the ground, had interrupted their usual country

country walks. But, on this day, the brightness of the sun, which was obscured by no cloud; the serenity of the sky, whose azure shone as in the middle of spring; the beauty of the snow itself, whose silvery surface appeared strewed with diamonds; all invited them to quit the concentrated heat of their apartments to breathe the keen and pure external air.

Damonville ceased reading, and, turning towards a window which looked upon the country, "My children," said he, rising after a few moments of silence, "let us not suffer so fine a day to pass without profiting by it; let us go and take a little walk; we shall not, perhaps, find again of a long time so favourable an opportunity."

"O papa!" replied the children, "we are so comfortable here! it is too cold out of doors."

"Good," resumed Damonville, who had approached the window: "my thermometer, which was this morning only at nine and a half, is now at thirteen and a half; so the cold is very bearable."

"Papa," said Julius, "what do you call your thermometer? Is it that little piece of board which is hung out of the window?"

"Yes, my dear."

"But how can that mark the different degrees of cold?"

"That is a thing very easily explained. First, do you see a little tube of glass fastened to that little board?"

"Yes,

"Yes, papa."

"Do you see at the bottom of the tube something shining?"

"Yes, it looks like silver."

"It is mercury, or quicksilver. This metal never freezes in our climates without the assistance of a great degree of artificial cold. The only effect produced upon it by cold is that of contracting or condensing it, by diminishing its volume; heat, on the contrary, makes it swell or expand. This property suggested the idea of making little glass tubes, like this which you see. They are first filled about half full of mercury; the tube is then plunged in snow or ice. The liquor condensed by the cold descends to a point marked thirty-two in

Fahrenheit's thermometer. This is the point of congelation or freezing, as you see it written: that is to say, that when the mercury is at this point the cold is sufficiently great to freeze the water. If the fluid falls below this point it indicates that the cold increases, and that the ice is proportionally stronger. When, on the contrary, it rises above it, it shows that it does not freeze, and that the heat is greater, or less, in proportion to the rise. Now, Julius, do you understand what is meant by a thermometer?"

"Yes, papa, very well. For example, when the tube of mercury is twenty degrees below the freezing point, as it was this morning, the frost
is

is twenty times as strong as when it is at thirty-two."

"Exactly so, my dear."

"And then, papa, is the ice strong enough to bear?"

"Yes: I am sure that at this moment all the boys of the village are sliding in the meadow."

"O papa, let us go then to see them: I am quite ready to set out. Sister, will you come with us?"

"With all my heart; but on condition that we do not go upon the ice. I should be afraid of falling."

"You need not go, unless you like it; for my part, I am not afraid."

"Come, children," resumed Damonville, "get your gloves, kiss your mamma, and let us set out."

Damonville,

Damonville, holding both his children by the hand, led them along the road which descended to the meadow. When they were once out, Julius and Julia thought no more of the cold, Wrapt in admiration at the sight of the brilliant and varied pictures which the country still afforded, though buried under the snow, they contemplated with unwearied attention; here those long crystals suspended around the cottages, which formed as it were so many large lustres, sparkling with all the colours of the rainbow; there long furrows, the green of which, mingled with white, presented the image of a rich turf enamelled with fresh daisies; further on, old stumps of trees lately lopped by the bill of the

the woodman, whose bare brown trunks broke the uniform whiteness of the plain; and on each side of the road, shining aigrets and long pearl-like garlands, formed by the hoar frost, encrusting the slender flexible branches of the bushes.

Julius and Julia, as they walked along, were continually questioning their father upon the different objects which struck them the most. "Papa," said one, "what are those black spots that we see upon the snow yonder, which appear to move?"

"Those are crows, who are scratching up the snow, and trying with their long beaks to break the frozen crust of earth, in order to get out some grains of the seed. There, do you

you see them flying away, flapping their large black wings? Now you may see them alight, and settle a little further on."

"But when the ground is frozen, as at present, and they can draw nothing from it, what do these crows feed upon?"

"On every thing that they happen to find, but principally on the flesh of dead animals. When they do not find any, hunger often prompts them to attack other birds, and even small quadrupeds."

"They are then very cruel; are they capable of being tamed?"

"The young ones, taken from the nest very early, are easily tamed, and even become very familiar. They
are

are naturally full of action and mimicry, and amuse themselves with counterfeiting the voice of men, the barking of dogs, and the clucking of hens. But it is unsafe to trust too much to their gentle appearance; for they are treacherous, and always inclined to peck. They are also naturally thievish, and very cunning in concealing what they steal. There is an amusing way of catching them when there is snow on the ground, as at present. Several cones of paper are made, the insides of which are smeared with birdlime, and a piece of raw meat is put at the bottom. These cones are scattered over the snow in places frequented by the crows. As soon as these birds perceive the meat, they

they greedily plunge their heads to the bottom of the cone; immediately they find themselves enveloped in a hood which blinds them, and from which they cannot release themselves. They then begin to whirl about on the ground, without knowing whither they go, or else they rise up in a straight line through the air, till they are out of sight, and fall down again very soon, exhausted with fatigue."

"Ah, papa!" cried the children with one voice, "we must get some birdlime directly, and we will amuse ourselves with this pretty play."

"Papa," resumed Julia, "what is that large flock of great birds flying very high in the air, ranged in two columns, in the form of a V?"

"Those,"

“Those,” replied Damonville, “are wild ducks, who come from the northern countries, and they place themselves thus, one behind another in two lines, coming to a point before, that they may mutually relieve one another in their long passage. The one that is placed at the head cuts the air, and facilitates the flight of those that follow: when it is fatigued, it goes and places itself at the end of a column, and the one that was behind it takes its place. Each in its turn thus becomes the conductor of the caravan.”

“And whither do they go in this manner?”

“They seek those pools, rivers, or fountains, the waters of which are

not frozen. These birds, who only live in water and among the slime of marshes, where they feed on worms and aquatic insects, make their most usual habitation in Siberia, Sweden, Norway, and other northern countries abounding in lakes and morasses. They pass there the spring, the summer, and autumn; but during the winter, having no means of subsistence in these cold regions, where all the water is covered with ice and snow, they adopt the expedient of emigrating into warmer countries; and this is what brings them to us, every year at this season, or sometimes sooner. If they find a sufficient quantity of running water with us, they remain; if they do not, they pass

on, always steering southward. When the cold weather is over the ducks depart to return to their native country, where they remain till the following winter. Some, indeed, stay in our ponds, but only a few; and it is from the eggs of these wild ducks that the ducks of our poultry-yard have been produced."

"But how do they contrive to find the way to their own country when they wish to return?"

"Without map or compass, without any other guide than instinct, they invariably pursue the road which leads to the place at which they propose to arrive. It is the same with all other birds of passage."

"What are birds of passage?"

L 2

"Those

“Those that only pass a part of the year in our country, who arrive in one season, and go away in another at fixed periods. Thus ducks, woodcocks, and snipes, only appear among us in winter. On the other hand, the swallows, the quails, the doves, the nightingales, and the greater part of the other birds that so agreeably people our woods and fields during the summer, abandon them in autumn or the beginning of winter, which they pass in warmer climates.”

“See, papa,” interrupted Julius, “what is that numerous flock of little birds just risen from the midst of the snow, who appear to fly with difficulty, and are resting down there at the foot of the hill?”

“Those,

“Those, my dear, are poor little larks benumbed with the cold, of which, during these winter nights, the villagers make a plentiful prey, by means of a large net, which is dragged along the ground.”

“Papa,” resumed Julia, “what is that very little bird hopping backwards and forwards in the hedge, that seems to follow us, and endeavour to attract our notice by its little hoarse tremulous cry?”

“It is a wren, the smallest of all our birds: during the summer it keeps itself concealed among the woods and bushes; but at the approach of winter it flies towards human habitations, and seems to have so little distrust of man, that it often fixes its retreat even in houses.”

As they were conversing in this manner, Damonville and his children came to the meadow, which a little river that had overflowed its banks had converted into one sheet of ice. It was entirely covered with boys, some sliding, and exciting frequent burst of laughter by their falls; others skaiting in a thousand different directions, with the velocity of swallows sporting over a brook in a fine summer's evening. They stood for some time contemplating the lively scene, when the dinner hour approaching they took the road homewards. As they walked, Julius was silent, and appeared deeply engaged with what he had just seen; then breaking his thoughtful silence—"Papa," said he,

"how

“how happens it that water, which is commonly so soft, so liquid, that one is drowned by falling into it, should be changed all on a sudden, during winter, into a solid mass as hard as marble?”

“My dear,” replied Damonville, “that is a thing which does indeed appear very singular at the first glance, but it is what you will very easily understand when I shall have explained to you what water is. Water is a substance composed of round particles, so extremely minute as to be imperceptible to the most piercing eye; and even to the best microscopes; you may form an imperfect idea of it from the steam which rises from the tea-pot, and from the smoke which
you

you see proceeding from the fire. This smoke, this vapour, is an aggregation of little balls of water, divided by the heat, which being lighter than the air are buoyant in it. When these little globules are reunited and condensed, so as to become heavier than the air, they fall again in rain, and form the fluid matter that we call *water*. This substance remains liquid as long as it retains a sufficient quantity of fire or heat to keep its parts divided and disunited; but as soon as they cease to be penetrated with heat to a certain degree, the parts approach, become compressed, attached to one another, and form what we call *ice*. Thus the fluidity of water results from the presence of fire, which keeps its
elementary

elementary parts divided, and its freezing results from the absence or diminution of fire in water: it is thus that we see wax and metals dissolve and become fluid, when they are exposed to the action of fire, and afterwards harden or freeze, in proportion as they become cold. Why is the air cold during the winter? It is because there is less of the matter of fire in it than during the summer; then a part of the fire that was in the water passes into the air, till there is an equal portion of fiery matter in the air and the water; and the fiery matter remaining in the water not being sufficient to preserve the mobility of its parts, they fall one upon another, congealing more or less swiftly, according

ording as the fiery substance which disunited them evaporates more or less rapidly on this side or that. It is thus that water, from a fluid as it was, becomes solid, and is converted into ice. It is the same with snow and hail; they are rain congealed in the midst of the air where they are formed; if the particles of water are congealed before they are united into large drops, they form snow; if they are united in drops before they are seized by the cold, they are converted into hail. Do you now understand?"

"Yes, papa; but I should also like to know what that fire is which causes the fluidity of water."

"I will readily explain to you that also, my dear; but we are entering
the

the village; this must remain for another walk."

Damonville and his children, talking in this manner, arrived at the door of their house: as soon they entered the court, Julius and Julia ran into the chamber of their mother, who was expecting them, and related to her at dinner all that they had seen.

THE FATHER

AND

HIS THREE SONS.

A FATHER loaded with wealth and years resolved to divide among his three sons the fruits of his industry. "I have reserved a diamond," said the old man, "which I intend for him among you who shall distinguish himself most by some noble and generous action." The sons dispersed to obtain this reward; but at the end of three months they returned to the

3 paternal

paternal mansion. The eldest of the brothers addressing himself to his father spoke thus: "During my travels, a stranger trusted a deposit to me without requiring a security, and as soon as he asked for it I restored it faithfully. Tell me, does not this action deserve praise?" "You did your duty, my son," replied the father: "he who would have acted otherwise would have been a knave, for honesty is a duty; your action was right, but not generous." "In my journey," said the second son, "I one day passed by a pond, into which a poor child had just fallen; I ran immediately to his assistance, drew him out, and saved his life. The whole village can bear witness to the deed."

deed." "You, my child," replied the old man, "did what we are all, as men, obliged to do for our fellow creatures."

The youngest son in his turn said: "One day I found my enemy asleep by the brink of a precipice—his life was in my hands, I awoke him gently and drew him out of danger." "O my son!" cried the old man, looking at him with tenderness, "the jewel is yours. What magnanimity to do good to an enemy!"

THE

THE WOODEN LEG

A YOUNG Swiss shepherd was one day feeding his goats on the mountain, from which the torrent of Ranti precipitates itself into the valley. His lively pipe awoke the echoes from their caverns in the rock, and seven times the echoes repeated its melodious sounds to the valleys. He suddenly perceived a man climbing up the side of the mountain—he was old; his head was whitened with age, and his stick bent under his heavy and tottering steps, for he had a

wooden leg. He approached the young man, and seated himself beside him on the moss. The shepherd looked at him with surprise—his eyes were fixed by the wooden leg. “My son,” said the old man, smiling, “do you not think, decrepid as I am, that I should have done better to have remained in the valley? Know, however, that I take this journey only once in the year, and that this leg, such as you see it, is much more honourable to me than the best shaped and most active one to many other people.”

“It may be more honourable,” replied the young man, “but I imagine the other must be more convenient: you must be fatigued; shall I bring you

you some of my goat's milk, or some fresh water from the spring that gushes down yonder from the hollow of the rock?"

Old Man.—"I love the openness of your countenance—a little fresh water will recruit me sufficiently, and if you will bring it to me here, I will tell you the history of this wooden leg." The young man ran to the fountain, and was soon back again. The old man refreshed himself with it, and then began:

"When you see your fathers maimed and covered with scars, young people, adore heaven and bless their valour, without which you would have been compelled to bend your necks beneath the yoke, instead of
 M 3 rejoicing

rejoicing in the gentle heat of the sun, and teaching the echoes to repeat your cheerful songs. Mirth and joy inhabit the hills and valleys, and their notes resound from mountain to mountain. Liberty, sweet Liberty! it is thou that sheddest happiness on this favoured land! All that we see around us belongs to us—we cultivate our fields with satisfaction, for they are our own—the crops that we raise upon them are our own, and our harvests are days of festival.”

Young Man.—“He is not worthy to be a free man, who forgets that his liberty was purchased by the blood of his fathers.”

Old Man.—“He, my son, who in their place would have done otherwise

wise than they did, is not a free man. Ever since the bloody day of Nefels*, I have visited this mountain every year; but I feel that this will be the last time: from this spot I still see all the order of that battle in which Liberty made us victorious. Look, from that side the army of the enemy advanced—thousands of lances glittered from afar, and the splendid armour of more than two hundred knights, the plumes that shaded their helmets waved in the air, and the ground shook under the feet of their horses. Our little troop had been already broken. We were only from

* The battle of Nefels was fought in the canton of Glaris in 1388.

three to four hundred combatants. Cries of distress resounded from all sides—Nefels was on fire—The smoke filled all the valley, and spread horribly along the sides of the mountain. But our chief had posted himself at the foot of this very mountain. I think I see him still, surrounded by a small band of warriors, firm and immoveable, and rallying his dispersed troops around him. I hear the rustling of the standard which he waved in the air; it sounded like the blasts, forerunners of a storm. We rushed towards him from all sides. Do you see these torrents dashing down from the summits of the mountains? Stones, rocks, and up-rooted trees, in vain oppose their course—they leap
 over,

over, or carry away every obstacle, and collect at the bottom of that abyss. Thus we sprung forward at the voice of our general, forcing ourselves a passage through the enemy. Ranged around the hero, we all swore, and God heard us, to conquer or die! The enemy approached in battle array, and fell on us with impetuosity—we attacked in our turn. We had already charged eleven times; but being always compelled to retire to the shelter of these heights, we collected here in ranks firm as the rock that protected us. Then reinforced by thirty warriors from Schwitz, we fell upon the foe like the fall of a mountain, like a rock which breaks, tumbles, rolls across the forest, and
overturns

overturns with a crash all the trees in
 its course. On all sides the enemy,
 horse and foot, confounded in the
 most horrible tumult, trampled each
 other down in endeavouring to escape
 from our fury. Enraged in the fight
 we trod down the dead and the
 dying, to complete the revenge and
 the destruction. I was in the thickest
 of the fray—a horseman of the enemy
 overthrew me in his flight, and his
 horse broke my leg. The warrior
 who fought next me perceived me,
 took me upon his shoulders, and bore
 me from the field of battle. A good
 hermit was prostrate on the rock not
 far distant, imploring heaven for our
 success. ‘Take charge of this war-
 rior, father,’ said my preserver, ‘he
 has

has fought like a free man.' He spoke, and flew back to the combat. The victory was ours, my child, it was ours! But many of our friends remained stretched on heaps of their foes. I was taken care of and cured. But I have never been able to discover him to whom I owe my life: I have sought for him in vain—I have made vows and pilgrimages, in order that some saint or angel might reveal him to me. Alas! all my efforts have been useless. I shall never in this life be able to prove to him my gratitude."

The young shepherd had listened to the old soldier with tears in his eyes. "No, my father," said he, "you can never prove your gratitude to him in this life."

“O heavens!” exclaimed the old man, with surprise, “what do you say? do you then know who was my deliverer?”

Young Man.—“I am much mistaken if it was not my father—yes, it was himself; I have often heard him relate the history of the battle; and he has often said, ‘Can the man whom I bore from the field be yet alive?’”

Old Man.—“O God! and this generous man was your father?”

Young Man.—“He had a scar here,” pointing to his left cheek, “he had been wounded by a lance—perhaps it was before he carried you from the fight.”

Old Man.—“His cheek was covered

vered with blood when he took me up. O my child! my son!"

Young Man.—"He died two years ago; and as he was poor, I am reduced to keep these goats for a livelihood."

The old man embraced him. "Heaven be praised," said he, "I may repay his benefits to you. Come, my son, come with me, let another keep your goats."

They descended into the valley together, and walked towards the house of the old man. He was rich in fields and flocks, and an amiable daughter was his only heir. "My child," said he, "he who saved the life of your father was the father of this young shepherd: if you can love him, I shall be happy to see you united to him."

N

The

The young man was of an agreeable figure; health and gaiety shone in his countenance; ringlets of auburn hair shaded his forehead, and the fire of his sparkling eyes was tempered by gentle modesty. The young maid, with ingenuous reserve, demanded three days to consider of the affair: but the third appeared very long to her. She gave her hand to the young man.

“May my blessing rest on you, my children!” said the old man, with tears of joy: “to-day I am made the happiest of men!”

SELICO.

SELICO.

IN the kingdom of Juida, on the coast of Guinea, beyond cape Three Points, and not far from the city of Sabi, in the year 1727, lived the widow Darina. She was the mother of three sons, whom she had nursed with a tenderness fortunately very common in nature, but not so in these climates, where children are looked upon as objects of commerce, and sold by their unnatural parents. The eldest was called Guberi, the second Teloné, the younger Selico. All of them

had good dispositions and adored their mother, who now, aged and infirm, only existed by their attentions and care. The riches of this family were comprised in a hut, which they inhabited together, and a small field near it, which supplied them with maize. Every morning one of the brothers alternately went a-hunting, cultivated the field, or attended their mother. At night they met together, the hunter brought his partridges, his parrots, or his comb of honey, the farmer his herbs and roots, and he who remained at home had the repast ready prepared; they supped all four together, contending with each other for the pleasure of waiting on their mother; and afterwards laying themselves

selves down on straw, slept in quiet till the return of day.

Selico, the youngest of the brothers, went often to Sabi to carry the earliest fruits as offerings of his poor family to the temple of the deity: this deity, as is well known, was a huge serpent, of the sort called *fetiches*, which have no venom, and who devour others which are venomous: they are so much revered in Juida, that any person killing one would be thought guilty of a great crime; therefore this species of snake is increased to a prodigious degree; and, being sacred, they are found in quantities in every town or village, where they eat familiarly from their plates, and even lay their eggs in the beds of the natives,

who look upon it as the most fortunate of events, and a certain presage of their well-doing.

Selico was the handsomest, the best made, and the most amiable of all the negroes of Juida; he had seen, in the temple, Berissa, the daughter of the high priest, who surpassed all her companions in elegant grace and beauty. Selico adored her, and was happy in having his love returned. Every Wednesday, sacred to religion and repose among the negroes, the young lover hastened to the temple, and passed the day with his dear Berissa, conversing with her of his mother, his love, and the happiness they should enjoy when Hymen had united them. Berissa did not disguise her

sen-

sentiments, and the aged Faculho, her father, who approved of this union, promised, as he embraced them, that he would soon crown their mutual tenderness.

At length this long wished for epocha came: the day was fixed for the ceremony; the mother of Selico and his two brothers had already prepared the hut for the bride and bridegroom, when the famous Truro Audati, king of Dahomai, whose rapid conquests have been celebrated even in Europe, invaded the kingdom of Andia, and exterminated its inhabitants. In advancing at the head of his formidable army, he was stopped by the large river which divides it from Juida, whose king, a pusillanimous
and

and cowardly being, governed by his wives and ministers, never thought of opposing any troops to those of the conqueror; he thought that his gods would defend his country, and ordered all the serpents fetiches to be carried to the banks of the river. The conqueror, surprised and piqued to have only such reptiles to combat, plunged into the river with his troops and soon swam over. The gods, from whom such miracles were expected, were soon cut into pieces, roasted, and devoured by the conquerors. The king of Juida, not thinking any further effort of any avail, fled and hid himself in a neighbouring island. The warriors of Audati spread all over his kingdom, and
with

with fire and sword burnt villages and forests, and massacred all without pity. Fear had dispersed what few inhabitants had escaped this butchery; the three brothers, at the first approach of the conqueror, had fled with their mother on their shoulders, to hide themselves in the thickest forest. Selico would not quit Darina as long as she was exposed to the smallest danger; but he no sooner saw her in safety than, trembling for Berissa, he hastened to Sabi to inquire after her, to save her, or perish together. Sabi had just been taken by the Dahomais; the streets ran with blood; the houses pillaged and destroyed; the palace of the king, the temple of the serpent, were no longer any thing
but

but smoking ruins, covered with carcasses, whose heads the barbarians had, according to their custom, carried away with them. The unhappy Selico, in despair, wished for death, and dared it a thousand times in the midst of this soldiery, drunk with brandy and with blood. Selico searched all these miserable ruins, looking for, and calling, with cries of grief, on Berissa and Faculho; but in vain! he could not discern their bodies amidst so many mutilated trunks. After having given up five days to this fruitless and melancholy search, Selico set out to return to his mother, no longer doubting but that Berissa and her father had fallen victims to the ferocious Dahomais. He
found

found his mother in the same wood where he had left her with his brothers. The melancholy and distracted looks of Selico frightened and alarmed a family already miserable. Darina wept over his misfortunes, and attempted consolations to which her son was insensible. He refused all food, and seemed determined to starve himself to death. Guberi and Teloné did not endeavour to alter his resolution by reasoning or entreaties; but pointed to their old mother, who now had not any longer home or bread, or any thing in this world but her children, and then asked if, after such a sight, he did not feel himself bold enough to live. Selico promised he would; and endeavoured to think

no more of his misfortunes, but to divide with his brothers their attention to his mother. They penetrated more into the interior parts of the forest, build a hut in a sequestered valley, and endeavoured to supply by the chase the maize and roots of which they were in want. Having lost their bows and arrows, and other things which they had not time to carry off with them, they soon felt the effects of famine. Fruits were scarce in this forest, where the monkeys disputed them with the three brothers. The land only produced grass; they had ~~no~~ instruments to work it, and no seed to sow, if it had been worked. The rainy season was setting in, and their distress still augmented.

mented. The poor mother, continually suffering upon a bed of dried leaves, never complained, but was declining very fast: her sons, worn out with hunger, could no longer go into the woods, which were now under water: they set traps for small birds; and when they took any, which was very seldom, they carried it to their mother, and gave it her with a forced smile; but the mother scarcely would eat it, because she could not make her sons partake of it.

Three months passed without bringing any change to their miserable situation. The three brothers, obliged at last to come to some determined resolution, consulted together unknown to Darina. Guberi proposed first that they

o

should

should go to the coast, and that one of them should be sold to the first European factory, in order to buy bread, maize, instruments of agriculture, and every thing necessary to support their aged parent. A melancholy silence was the answer of the two brothers. To separate, to quit each other for ever to be the slave of white men! that idea distracted them. “Who will be sold?” cried out Teloné with a doleful voice.—“Fortune shall determine it,” answered Guberi: “let us throw three different-sized stones into this pitcher of muddy water, shake it well, and he who draws out the smallest shall be the unfortunate person.”—“No, brother,” interrupted Selico: “fortune has already determined.

mined. It is I who am the unfortunate person: you have forgotten then that I have lost Berissa, and that you alone hindered me from dying, by telling me I should be useful to my mother: now is the time, perform your promise, and sell me." Guberi and Teloné endeavoured, but in vain, to oppose the generous offer of their brother: Selico was deaf to their prayers, refused to draw lots, and threatened to go alone to the factory, if they obstinately persisted in refusing to accompany him. The two eldest at last consented; and it was agreed on that Guberi should remain with his mother, and that Teloné should accompany Selico to the Dutch factory,

where he should receive the price of his brother's liberty, and should then return with the provisions, &c. of which they were in want.

During this agreement Selico was the only one who did not weep: but what difficulty and distress did he suffer to hide his tears when he was to leave his mother, and bid her an eternal adieu! to embrace her for the last time! and to deceive her in swearing that he would soon return with Teloné! that they were only going to revisit their former habitation, and find if they could not again take possession of it! The good old woman believed them, but she could scarcely tear herself out of the arms of her sons; she trembled for the dangers they

they were about to run; and by an involuntary foresight she ran after Selico, when he had disappeared from her presence.

The two young brothers, of whom it was difficult to say which was the most to be pitied, arrived in a few days at the city of Sabi. The murders had ceased; Peace began to raise her head; and the king of the Dahomais, quiet possessor of the states of Juida, wished to encourage an intercourse with Europeans, and had given them an establishment within his walls. Many English and French merchants were admitted to his court, to whom he sold his numerous prisoners, and he divided among his soldiers the lands of the conquered.

Teloné soon found a merchant who offered him a hundred crowns for his brother.

Whilst he was hesitating and trembling at this horrible bargain, a trumpet sounds in the square, and a public crier proclaims with a loud voice, that the king of Dahomai would give four hundred ounces of gold to whoever would deliver a negro, as yet unknown, who had dared to profane, the preceding night, the seraglio of the monarch, and had escaped at day-break amidst the arms of his guards.

Selico, on hearing this proclamation, made a sign to Teloné not to conclude the bargain with the merchant; and, taking his brother aside, spoke thus

thus to him in a firm and determined voice: "Thou must sell me, and I am resolved on it, in order to preserve my mother; but the moderate price this white offers thee will not make her comfortable. Four hundred ounces of gold will be a large fortune for her and you both. You must not let this opportunity slip: no, brother, you must bind me directly, and conduct me to the king as the criminal he is in search of. Don't be frightened. I know as well as you what punishment awaits me; I have calculated its duration, and it cannot last longer than an hour." Teloné trembled so much that he could not answer. Full of alarm and tenderness, he fell at the feet of Selico, embraced his
knees,

knees, and, pressing them, besought him by the name of their mother, by that of Berissa, by every thing he held dear and sacred on this earth, to give up so terrible a resolution. "Of whom dost thou speak?" replied Sellico with a smile of anguish: "I have lost Berissa; I am anxious to meet her again: I preserve my mother by my death, and render my brothers richer than ever they could have expected; and I save myself a slavery that might have lasted forty years. My determination is fixed: do not argue longer, or I will go and deliver myself to the king: thou wilt lose the benefit of my death, and be the means of destroying her to whom we are indebted for our existence."

Inti-

Intimidated by the tone and manner with which Selico pronounced these last words, Teloné dared not to make any reply; he obeyed his brother, and went for cords to bind him. He tied his two arms behind his back, as he bathed it with his tears; and, driving him before him, went to the palace of the king.

Stopped by the first guards, he demanded to be conducted to the king: his name and purpose are announced, and he is presented to the monarch. The king of Dahomai, covered with gold and precious stones, was half reclined upon a sofa of scarlet and gold, his head leaning on the breast of one of his favourites, clothed with petticoats of brocade, and naked from
the

the waist upwards. The ministers, nobles, and officers, very richly drest, were prostrated at twenty steps from him; the bravest were distinguished by a collar of human teeth, each of which was a mark of a victory. Many women, with firelocks on their shoulders, guarded the doors of the apartment: large vases of gold, containing palm wine, brandy, and strong liquors, were placed indiscriminately at a little distance from the king, and the floor was paved with the skulls of his enemies.

“Sovereign of the world!” said Teloné, bowing his forehead to the ground, “I come, according to thy sacred orders, to deliver into thy hands——” He could say no more, his

his voice faltered, the king questioned him, but he could not answer. Selico then spoke: "King of Dahomai, you see before you the criminal who, instigated by a fatal passion, penetrated last night into your seraglio. He who holds me bound was so long my confidential friend, that I intrusted him with my secret: zealous to serve thee, he has betrayed his friend. He surprised me when sleeping, bound me, and brings me here to demand thy promised recompense: give it him, for the wretch has well earned it." The king, without deigning to answer him, makes a sign to one of his ministers, who seizes the culprit, delivers him to the armed women, and counts out to Teloné the four hundred

hundred ounces of gold. He, loaded with this gold, whose touch is dreadful to him, hastens to buy provisions, and then rushes out of the city in a hurry to carry them to his mother.

Already, by orders from the monarch, they had begun the preparations for the terrible execution with which adultery with the king's wives was punished in Juida. Two wide ditches are dug at a short distance from each other. In that destined for the guilty wife the criminal is fastened to a stake; and all the ladies of the seraglio, drest in their best apparel, carrying large vases of boiling water, march to the sound of drums and flutes, and pour this water upon her head until she expires. In

barband

the

the other ditch there is a pile of wood, above which is an iron bar supported by two stakes: to this bar the other criminal is tied; and when the pile is lighted, the extremity of the flames does but touch him, and he perishes by length of torture. The square was full of spectators. The whole army under arms formed a square battalion of firelocks and darts. The priests, in their dresses of ceremony, were waiting to lay their hands on the victims and devote them to death. The prisoners came from opposite quarters, guarded by women. Selico, calm and resigned, marched with an erect countenance and firm step. Having come to the fatal spot, an involuntary movement made him turn

stante

P

his

his eyes to view his companion in misery: what is his surprise, what is his grief, to see Berissa! He screams out and attempts to fly to her, but his executioners prevent him. Indignation directly takes possession of him. "Wretch!" says he to himself, "during the time when I was bewailing her loss, and seeking death in order to follow her, she was one of those vile mistresses that dispute the heart of a tyrant! Not content with having betrayed her love, she was faithless to her master! she deserved the name of adulteress, and the chastisement with which they are punished. O my dearest mother! it is for you alone I die! it is you alone that I wish to think of!" At the same instant

stant the unfortunate Berissa had discerned Selico: she cries out, and calls the priests to her, and declares that the young man at the stake is not the person who broke into the seraglio; she confirmed this by the most redoubled oaths. The priests are alarmed, stop the execution, run to inform the king what had happened, who comes in person to the great square. Anger and indignation are strongly painted on the face of the monarch, as he approaches Berissa. "Slave!" says he with a tremendous voice, "thou who disdainedst the love of thy master, thou whom I wished to raise to the dignity of my first wife, and whom I suffered to live in spite of your refusals, what is thy object in
 P 2 denying

denying the crime of thy accomplice? Dost thou wish to save him? If he is not thy lover, name him then, guilty girl; point him out to my justice, and I will immediately deliver the innocent."

"King of Dahomai," replied Berissa, who was then tied to the stake, "I could not accept of thy heart; mine was no longer in my possession, and I was not afraid to tell thee so. Dost thou imagine that she who would not tell a falsehood to share a throne, could be capable of it at the moment she is going to expire? No: I have owned every thing; I will repeat all I know. A man penetrated last night into my apartment; he only quitted me at day-break; but that prisoner is
not

not the man. Thou askest me to name him: neither my duty nor my will can consent to do so. I know nothing can save me, and I only wish to prolong these terrible moments to hinder you from committing a crime. I swear again, king of Dahomai, that the blood of this innocent man will fall on thine own head. Let him be released, and let me suffer; that is all I request." The king was struck with the tone and manner with which Berissa had pronounced these last words: he remained musing, holding down his head; and was astonished himself at his own secret repugnance, for once, to shed blood. But recollecting that this negro had accused himself as being guilty, and fancying that

Berissa's eagerness to save him was from her love to him, all his rage returned; he makes a sign to the executioner, who immediately sets fire to the pile; the women begin the procession with their vases of boiling water;—when an old man, quite out of breath, and covered with blood and wounds, pushes through the crowd, and throws himself at the king's feet. “Stop!” he cried, “stop! it is I who am the guilty person; it was I who scaled the walls of thy seraglio to carry off my daughter. I was formerly the priest of the deity who was worshipped on this spot; my daughter was torn from my arms, and dragged to thy palace; ever since I have constantly watched to see her.

This

This last night I got into her chamber; she in vain attempted to follow me; thy guards saw her, and I escaped amidst showers of arrows, of which you see here the marks. I come to give myself up as a victim to you, to expire with her for whom alone I wished to live." He had not finished, when the king ordered the two prisoners to be unbound and brought before him. He interrogated Selico: he was desirous to know what motive could be powerful enough to make him wish for so cruel a punishment. Selico, whose heart beat with joy to find that his Berissa had not been faithless to him, was not afraid to inform the monarch of every particular. He related his misfortunes,

tunes, the indigence of his mother, and the resolution he had taken to gain the 400 ounces for her. Berissa and her father listened in shedding tears of admiration. The chiefs, the soldiers, and the people were affected; the king felt tears run down his cheeks for the first time: such is the force of virtue, that even barbarians adore it.

The king, after Selico had finished, stretched forth his hand and raised him up; then turning to the European merchants, whom this sight had brought there, "Tell me," says he, "you whom wisdom and long experience have taught the nicest valuation of a man, how much is Selico worth?" The merchants blushed at this

this question: but a young Frenchman, bolder than the rest, cried out, "Ten thousand crowns of gold." "Let them be given directly to Berissa," replied the king; "and with this sum she shall not purchase but marry Selico." After this order, which was immediately executed, the king retired, surprised at feeling a sensation of joy which he had never before experienced. Faculho this same day gave his daughter to Selico. The next day they all three set out with their treasure for the hut of Darina, who almost expired with joy, as well as his brothers, at the sight of them. This virtuous family were never again separated, enjoyed their riches, and in a barbarous country were for a long

long time the brightest example under heaven, namely, happiness and opulence acquired by virtue.

TRUE

TRUE COURAGE.

As Valcour was walking with his two children, Adrian, the younger, fell down, and, scratching his hands a little, began to cry. Victor, the elder, laughed at him, and called him a coward.

“Are you so very brave yourself then?” said his father.

“See, papa,” replied he, “there is a boy who is much taller, and seems stronger than I: if you will let me, I will go and wrestle with him, and you shall see whether I am brave or not.”

Victor

Victor immediately engaged with the boy, and acquitted himself with honour. He displayed great address, ardour, and firmness. After the battle had continued a long time, Victor returned triumphant to his father.

“I confess, my dear,” said his father, “that exercises like this are useful in forming and hardening the body; but all this does not give me the idea of true courage. What is there, indeed, in opposing efforts with more or less success to those of an adversary? A person is supported by a strong desire of victory, he shows a great deal of emulation, a little strength or agility, and that is all.”

They continued their walk; and
I passing

passing by a vineyard, the attention of Valcour and his children was engrossed by a peasant lad, about twelve years old, whose foot was all covered with blood. He did not even appear to perceive the wound, but was exerting all his efforts to comfort a child who had received no hurt, but was sobbing with all his might.

“Oh!” cried Victor, “what pain this poor child must suffer! how fast the blood flows! My lad, why do not you get your foot dressed? and what is the matter with that little boy whom you are comforting?”

“Sir,” replied the peasant, “he is my brother: he was working beside me, and has unintentionally given me a blow with a pick-axe: he is crying
about

about it, and I tell him it is not worth while."

"How?" replied Victor: "does not the wound give you a great deal of pain?"

"A little, sir; but one must learn to bear that,—these accidents so often happen!"

As he said this he tried to wipe his foot, which was terribly cut. Valcour wanted to take the lad home with him to have it dressed. He thanked him; but said that "he found himself able to go on with his work, and that the less attention is paid to such little hurts, the less is suffered from them." Valcour, however, stanchd the blood with his handkerchief; whilst the younger brother loaded him with thanks for his kindness.

As

As they returned, Adrian and Victor talked to their father of what they had seen ; and Victor, in particular, was unwearied in expressing his admiration.

“ This,” said his father, “ is true courage ; you will understand it better now than from any thing I could have said. Observe how inseparable generosity and kindness are from this quality ! Forgetful of his own sufferings, how sensible was this lad to the grief of his brother ! How surprised was he at our praises ! What he did seemed to him so natural, that he needed no encouragement, and attached to it no glory.”

THE END.

ELEMENTARY BOOKS

For the Use of Schools and Young Persons.

Biography.

1. THE BRITISH NEPOS, or MIRROR of YOUTH; being select Lives of illustrious Britons, who have been distinguished for their Virtues, Talents, or remarkable Advancement in Life; written for Young Persons, on the obvious Principle—that Example is more powerful and more fascinating than Precept. By WILLIAM MAVOR, LL. D. Vicar of Hurley, in Berkshire, and Chaplain to the Right Honourable the Earl of Moira. Price 4s. 6d. bound.
2. THE LIVES of PLUTARCH, abridged, containing Accounts of the most illustrious Characters of Greece and Rome; by the same Author. Price 4s. 6d. bound.
3. THE UNIVERSAL BIOGRAPHICAL and HISTORICAL DICTIONARY; being a faithful Account of the most eminent Persons of all Ages and Countries, containing two thousand Articles more than are to be found in the General Biographical Dictionary in fifteen Volumes. By the Rev. JOHN WATKINS, LL.D. Price Half-a-guinea in boards, or 12s. bound.
4. SCRIPTURE BIOGRAPHY, or the Lives and Characters of the principal Personages recorded in the Sacred Writings, practically adapted

adapted to the instruction of Youth, and to the use of Private Families. By Dr. WATKINS. Price 5s. bound.

5. FEMALE BIOGRAPHY, or Memoirs of the Lives of illustrious and celebrated Women of all Ages and Countries. By MARY HAYS. In six elegant volumes, 12mo. price 1l. 11s. 6d. in boards; or, intended as presents to Ladies, may be had elegantly bound and gilt, price Two Guineas.

History.

6. A UNIVERSAL HISTORY, Ancient and Modern, comprehending a general View of the Transactions of every Nation, Kingdom, and Empire, on the Globe, from the earliest Accounts of Time to the general Peace of 1801. By WILLIAM MAYOR, LL.D. in twenty-five elegant Volumes. The Ancient Part consists of nine Volumes, and the Modern Part of sixteen Volumes; price 5s. in boards, or 5s. 6d. half-bound; or upon small and common paper 3s. 9d. boards, or 4s. half-bound.

This work will be a most desirable acquisition to Young Persons, to Public Schools, to Ladies, to Circulating Libraries, to all private Collections, and, in general, to all Persons to whom the great Universal History in sixty-six volumes is either too voluminous or too expensive.

7. THE HISTORY of GREECE from the earliest Periods till its Reduction into a Roman Province.

Province. By Dr. MAVOR. In two Volumes, with a Map and Plates, price 10s. in boards.

8. THE ROMAN HISTORY, from the Foundation of Rome till the Destruction of the Eastern Empire. By Dr. MAVOR. In three Volumes, with Maps and Plates, price 15s. in boards.

9. THE HISTORY of ENGLAND for the Use of Schools, embellished with nearly fifty copper-plates, representing all the most remarkable events of English History. By WILLIAM MAVOR, LL. D. In two thick Volumes, price 10s. 6d. in boards, or 12s. bound.

Natural History.

10. THE ELEMENTS of NATURAL HISTORY, founded on the Linnæan Arrangement, with popular and entertaining Descriptions in the Manner of GOLDSMITH and BUFFON; embellished with fifty-three copper-plates, representing one hundred and eighty Objects. By Dr. MAVOR. Price 5s. bound.

11. ANIMAL BIOGRAPHY; or Anecdotes of Natural History; containing all the most remarkable Facts and Anecdotes which have ever been published, relative to Quadrupeds, Birds, Fishes and Insects. Collected and arranged by the Rev. J. BINGLEY, F.L.S. &c. &c. In three Volumes, 8vo. price 11. 7s. in boards.

Manners

Manners and Knowledge of the World.

12. THE ELEMENTS OF A POLITE EDUCATION; consisting of practical Information relative to Manners, Behaviour, and Conduct in Life, and to a Knowledge of Mankind and of the World, in a Series of Letters from a Father to his Son. By GEORGE GREGORY, D.D. Price 4s. 6d.

Elements of the English Language.

13. AN ENGLISH SPELLING - BOOK, accompanied by a progressive Series of easy and familiar Lessons, in the manner of BARBAULD, TRIMMER, EDGEWORTH, BERQUIN, &c. intended as a modern and improved Introduction to the English Language, and to the first Elements of Knowledge. By Dr. MAVOR. Price 1s. 6d. bound, with a full allowance to Schools.

Style and Composition.

14. THE ELEMENTS of ENGLISH COMPOSITION, containing plain and practical Directions for writing the English Language with Ease, Perspicuity, and Elegance; and designed in the Progress of Education to succeed to the Study of the various English Grammars, and of the Latin and Greek Classics. By D. IRVING, A.M. Price 4s. boards, or 4s. 6d. bound.

Geography.

Geography.

15. A GRAMMAR of the FIRST ELEMENTS of GEOGRAPHY, practically adapted to the Business of Teaching, and simplifying the Science of Geography, exactly in the same manner as the Introductory Grammars of MURRAY, DEVIS, and ASH, simplify the study of the English Language, illustrated with several Maps; price 2s. 6d. bound, with a liberal Allowance to Schools.

16. GEOGRAPHY for the Use of Schools, and Young Persons of both Sexes, on a new and popular Plan, so practicable to Teachers, and so highly fascinating to Youth, that the Work cannot fail to recommend itself to universal adoption and preference, the moment it is examined; price 10s. 6d. bound and lettered (being one of the cheapest Books in the English Language), decorated with Sixty beautiful and interesting Copper-plates, representing the Customs and Dresses of all Nations, and illustrated with a Variety of Maps.

Taylor, Black-Horse-Court, Fleet-Street.

