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Law is a Bottomless Pit:

OR, THE

H I S T O R Y

OF

J O H N B U L L.

Published from

A Manuscript found in the Cabinet of the
famous Sir *H. Poleworth*, in the Year
1712.

WITH

Large EXPLANATORY NOTES.

L O N D O N:

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M, DCC, LXXVI.



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T H E
P R E F A C E.

WHEN I was first called to the office of historiographer to *John Bull*, he expressed himself to this purpose: * *Sir Humphry Poleworth, I know you are a plain-dealer; it is for that reason I have chosen you for this important trust; speak the truth, and spare not.* That I might fulfil those his honourable intentions, I obtained leave to repair to, and attend him in his most secret retirements; and I put the journals of all transactions into a strong box, to be opened at a fitting occasion, after the manner of the historiographers of some *eastern* monarchs: This I thought was the safest way; though I declare I was never afraid to be † *chopp'd* by my master for telling of truth. It is from those journals that my memoirs are compiled: Therefore let

A not

* A member of parliament, eminent for a certain cant in his conversation; of which there is a good deal in this book.

† A cant word of *Sir Humphry's*.

not posterity, a thousand years hence, look for truth in the voluminous annals of pedants, who are entirely ignorant of the secret springs of great actions; if they do, let me tell them they will be * *nebus'd*.

With incredible pains have I endeavoured to copy the several beauties of the antient and modern historians; the impartial temper of *Herodotus*; the gravity, austerity, and strict morals of *Thucydides*, the extensive knowledge of *Xenophon*, the sublimity and grandeur of *Titus Livius*; and to avoid the careless style of *Polybius*, I have borrowed considerable ornaments from *Dionysius Halicarnassens* and *Diodorus Siculus*. The specious gilding of *Tacitus* I have endeavoured to shun. *Mariana*, *Davila*, and *Fra. Paulo*, are those amongst the moderns whom I thought most worthy of imitation; but I cannot be so disingenuous, as not to own the infinite obligations I have to the *Pilgrims Progress* of *John Bunyan*, and the *Tenter Belly* of the reverend *Joseph Hall*.

From such encouragement and helps, it is easy to guess to what a degree of perfection I might have brought this great work, had it not been nipt in the bud by some illiterate people

* Another cant word, signifying *deceiv'd*.

plé in both *houses of parliament*, who, envying the great figure I was to make in future ages, under pretence of raising money for the war, * have padlock'd all those very pens that were to celebrate the actions of their heroes, by silencing at once the whole university of *Grubstreet*. I am persuaded, that nothing but the prospect of an approaching *peace* could have encouraged them to make so bold a step. But suffer me, in the name of the rest of the matriculates of that famous university, to ask them some plain questions: Do they think that peace will bring along with it the golden age? Will there be never a dying speech of a traitor? Are *Cethegus* and *Catiline* turned so tame, that there will be no opportunity to cry about the streets, *A dangerous plot*? Will peace bring such plenty, that no gentleman will have occasion to go upon the highway, or break into a house? I am sorry that the world should be so much imposed upon by the dreams of a *false prophet*, as to imagine the *millennium* is at hand. O *Grubstreet*! thou fruitful nursery of tow'ring geniuses! How do I lament thy downfall! Thy ruin could never be meditated by any who meant well to *English liberty*: No modern *Lycæum* will ever equal

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thy

* Añ restraining the liberty of the press, &c.

thy glory : whether in soft pastorals thou did'st sing the flames of pamper'd apprentices and coy cook-maids ; or mournful ditties of departing lovers ; or if to *Mæonian* strains thou rais'dst thy voice, to record the stratagems, the arduous exploits, and the nocturnal scalade of needy heroes, the terror of your peaceful citizens, describing the powerful *Betty*, or the artful *picklock*, or the secret caverns and grottos of *Vulcan* sweating at his forge, and stamping the queen's image on viler metals, which he retails for beef, and pots of ale : or if thou wert content, in simple narrative, to relate the cruel acts of implacable revenge, or the complaints of ravished virgins blushing to tell their adventures before the listening crowd of city damsels ; whilst in thy faithful history thou interminglest the gravest counsels and the purest morals. Nor less acute and piercing wert thou in thy search and pompous description of the works of nature ; whether in proper and emphatic terms thou didst paint the blazing comet's fiery tail, the stupendous force of dreadful thunder and earthquakes, and the unrelenting inundations. Sometimes, with *Machiavelian* sagacity, thou unravelledst intrigues of state, and the traiterous conspiracies of rebels, giving wise counsel to monarchs. How didst thou move our terror and our pity with thy passionate scenes between *Jack-catch* and the heroes

heroes of the *Old-Bailey*! How didst thou describe their intrepid march up *Holburn-hill*! Nor didst thou shine less in thy theological capacity, when thou gavest ghostly counsel to dying felons, and didst record the guilty pangs of sabbath-breakers. How will the noble arts of * *John Overton's* painting and sculpture now languish! where rich invention, proper expression, correct design, divine attitudes, and artful contrast, heightened with the beauties of *Clar. Obscur.* embellished thy celebrated pieces, to the delight and astonishment of the judicious multitude! Adieu, persuasive eloquence! the quaint metaphor, the poignant irony, the proper epithet, and the lively simile, are fled for ever! Instead of these, we shall have, *I know not what!*—† *The illiterate will tell the rest with pleasure!*

I hope the reader will excuse this digression, due by way of condolance to my worthy brethren of *Grubstreet*, for the approaching barbarity that is likely to overspread all its regions, by this oppressive and exorbitant tax. It has been my good fortune to receive my education there; and so long as I preserved some

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figure

* The engraver of the cuts before the *Grubstreet* papers.

† *Vide* bishop of *St. Asaph's* preface.

figure and rank amongst the learned of that society, I scorned to take my degree, either at *Utrecht* or *Leyden*, though I was offered it *gratis* by the professors in those universities.

And now, that posterity may not be ignorant in what age so excellent a history was written (which would otherwise, no doubt, be the subject of its enquiries) I think it proper to inform the learned of future times, that it was compiled when *Lewis XIV.* was king of *France*, and *Philip*, his grandson, of *Spain*; when *England* and *Holland*, in conjunction with the *emperor* and the *allies*, entered into a war against these two princes, which lasted ten years, under the *management* of the Duke of *Marlborough*, and was put to a conclusion by the treaty of *Utrecht*, under the ministry of the Earl of *Oxford*, in the year 1713.

Many, at that time, did imagine the history of *John Bull*, and the personages mentioned in it, to be *allegorical*, which the author would never own. Notwithstanding, to indulge the reader's fancy and curiosity, I have printed at the bottom of the page the *supposed* allusions of the most obscure parts of the story.

THE

T H E
H I S T O R Y
O F
J O H N B U L L.

P A R T F I R S T.

C H A P. I.

The occasion of the law-suit.

I Need not tell you of the great quarrels that have happened in our neighbourhood, since the death of the late Lord *Strutt**; how the Parson †, and a cunning Attorney ‡, got

* *Charles II. of Spain*, died without issue, and

† *Cardinal Portocarero*, and the

‡ *Marshal of Harcourt*, employed, as is supposed, by the *House of Bourbon*, prevail-

got him to settle his estate upon his cousin *Philip Baboon**, to the great disappointment of his cousin Esquire *South*†. Some stick not to say, that the parson and the attorney forged a will, for which they were well paid by the family of the *Baboons*: Let that be as it will, it is matter of fact, that the honour and estate have continued ever since in the person of *Philip Baboon*.

You know that the Lord *Strutts* have, for many years, been possessed of a very great landed estate, well-conditioned, wooded, watered, with coal, salt, tin, copper, iron, &c. all within themselves; that it has been the misfortune of that family, to be the property of their stewards, tradesmen, and inferior servants, which has brought great incumbrances upon them; at the same time, their not abating of their expensive way of living, has forced them to mortgage their best manors: It is credibly reported, that the butchers and
bakers

ed upon him to make a will, by which he settled the succession of the Spanish monarchy upon

* *Philip of Bourbon Duke of Anjou*, tho' his right had, by the most solemn renunciations, been barred in favour of

† the *Archduke Charles of Austria*.

bakers bill of a Lord *Strutt*, that lived two hundred years ago, are not yet paid.

When *Philip Baboon* came first to the possession of the Lord *Strutt's* estate, his tradesmen, as is usual upon such occasions, waited upon him, to wish him joy, and bespeak his custom: The two chief were, * *John Bull* the clothier, and † *Nic. Frog* the linen-dra- per: They told him, that the *Bulls* and *Frogs* had served the Lord *Strutt's* with dra- pery-ware for many years; that they were honest and fair dealers; that their bills had never been questioned; that the Lord *Strutt's* lived generously, and never used to dirty their fingers with pen, ink and counters; that his Lordship might depend upon their honesty; that they would use him as kindly as they had done his predecessors. The young lord seem- ed to take all in good part, and dismissed them with a deal of seeming content, assuring them, he did not intend to change any of the ho- nourable maxims of his predecessors.

 CHAP.

* The *English* and

† the *Dutch* congratulated *Philip* upon a succession, which they were not able to pre- vent: But, to disappoint the ambition of

C H A P. II.

How Boll and Frog grew jealous, that the Lord Strutt intended to give all his custom to his grandfather Lewis Baboon.*

IT happened, unfortunately for the peace of our neighbourhood, that this young lord had an old cunning rogue, or (as the Scots call it) a *false loon* of a grandfather, that one might justly call a *Jack of all trades* †; sometimes you would see him behind his counter selling broad-cloth, sometimes measuring linen; next day he would be dealing in mercery-ware; high heads, ribbons, gloves, fans, and lace, he understood to a nicety; *Charles Mather* could not bubble a young beau better with a toy; nay he would descend even to the selling of tape, garters, and shoe-buckles: When shop was shut up, he would go about the neighbourhood, and earn half a crown by teaching the young men and maids to dance. By these methods he had acquired
immense

* *Lewis XIV.* and hinder the *French* nation, whose

† *trade and character* are thus described, and whose king had a

immease riches, which he used to squander * away at back-sword, quarter-staff, and cud-gel-play, in which he took great pleasure, and challenged all the country. You will say it is no wonder, if *Bull* and *Frog* should be jealous of this fellow. “ It is not impossible “ (says *Frog* to *Bull*), but this old rogue will “ take the management of the young Lord’s “ business into his hands; besides, the rascal “ has good ware, and will serve him as “ cheap as any body. In that case, I leave “ you to judge what must become of us and “ our families; we must starve, or turn jour- “ neyman to old *Lewis Baboon*; therefore, “ neighbour, I hold it adviseable, that we “ write to young Lord *Strutt*, to know the “ bottom of this matter.”

CHAP.

* *strong disposition to war*, from becoming too potent, an alliance was formed to “ procure a reasonable satisfaction to the “ *House of Austria*, for its pretensions to the “ *Spanish* succession, and sufficient

C H A P. III.

A copy of Bull and Frog's letter to Lord Strutt.

My LORD,

I Suppose your Lordship knows that the *Bulls* and *Frogs* have served the Lord *Strutts* with all sorts of drapery-ware, time out of mind: And whereas we are jealous, not without reason, that your Lordship intends henceforth to buy of your grandfire old *Lewis Baboon*; This is to inform your Lordship, that this proceeding does not suit with the circumstances of our families, who have lived, and made a good figure in the world, by the generosity of the Lord *Strutts*.— Therefore, we think fit to acquaint your Lordship, that you must find sufficient *security* * to us, our heirs and assigns, that you will not employ *Lewis Baboon*; or else we will

* “ *security* to *England* and *Holland*, for
 “ their dominions, navigation and commerce;
 “ and to prevent the union of the two mo-
 “ narchies *France* and *Spain*.” To effect
 these purposes, *Queen Ann* was, by

will take our remedy at *law*, clap an 'action upon you of 20,000 *l.* for old debts, seize and distrain your goods and chattels, which, considering your lordship's circumstances, will plunge you into difficulties from which it will not be easy to extricate yourself; therefore, we hope, when your lordship has better considered on it, you will comply with the desire of

Your loving friends,

JOHN BULL,
NIC. FROG.

Some of *Bull's* friends advised him to take gentler methods with the young lord; but *John* naturally loved rough play. It is impossible to express the surprise of the Lord *Strutt*, upon the receipt of this letter: He was not flush in *ready*, either to go to law, or clear old debts, neither could he find good bail: He offered to bring matters to a friendly accommodation; and promised, upon his word of honour, that he would not change his drapers; but all to no purpose, for *Bull* and *Frog* saw clearly, that old *Lewis* would have the cheating of him.

C H A P. IV.

How Bull and Frog went to law with Lord Strutt about the premisses, and were joined by the rest of the tradesmen.

ALL endeavours of accommodation between Lord *Strutt* and his drapers proved vain; jealousies increased, and indeed it was rumoured abroad, that Lord *Strutt* had bespoke his new liveries of old *Lewis Baboon*. This coming to Mrs. *Bull's* ears *, when *John Bull* came home, he found all his family in an uproar. Mrs. *Bull*, you must know, was very apt to be choleric. “ You
 “ sot, says she, you loiter about alehouses
 “ and taverns, spend your time at billiards,
 “ ninepins, or puppet-shows, or flaunt a-
 “ bout the streets in your new gilt chariot,
 “ never minding me nor your numerous fa-
 “ mily. Don't you hear how Lord *Strutt*
 “ has bespoke his liveries at *Lewis Baboon's*
 “ shop? Don't you see how that old fox
 “ steals away your customers, and turns you
 “ out of your business every day, and you
 “ fit

* *the parliament*, precipitated into the war as a principal. Among her allies, were

“ sit like an idle drone, with your hands in
 “ your pockets? Fy upon’t; up man, rouse
 “ thyself; I’ll sell to my shift, before I’ll be
 “ so used by that knave.” You must think
 Mrs. *Bull* had been pretty well tuned up by
Frog, who chimed in with her learned har-
 rangue: No further delay now, but to coun-
 cil learned in the law they go, who unani-
 mously assured them, both of the justice, and
 infallible success of their law-suit.

I told you before, that old *Lewis Baboon*
 was a sort of a *Jack of all trades*, which
 made the rest of the tradesmen jealous, as well
 as *Bull* and *Frog*; they hearing of the quar-
 rel, were glad of an opportunity of joining a-
 gainst old *Lewis Baboon*, provided that *Bull*
 and *Frog* would bear the charges of the suit;
 even lying *Ned* *, the chimney-sweeper of *Sa-
 voy*, and *Tom* † the *Portugal* dustman, put in
 their claims, and the cause was put into the
 hands of *Humphry Hocus* ‡, the attorney.

A declaration was drawn up, to shew “ That
 “ *Bull* and *Frog* had undoubted right, by pre-
 “ B 2 “ scription,

* the *Duke of Savoy* and

† the *King of Portugal*; and

‡ *John Churchill Duke of Marlborough*,
 was appointed general in chief of the confe-
 derate army.

“ scription, to be drapers to the Lord *Strutt* ;
 “ that there were several old contracts to that
 “ purpose ; that *Lewis Baboon* had taken up
 “ the trade of clothier and draper, without
 “ serving his time, or purchasing his freedom ;
 “ that he sold goods that were not market-
 “ able, without the stamp ; that he himself
 “ was more fit for a bully than a tradesman,
 “ and went about through all the country fairs,
 “ challenging people to fight prizes, wrestling,
 “ and cudgel-play ; and abundance more to
 “ this purpose.”

C H A P. V.

*The true characters of John Bull, Nic. Frog,
and Hocus.*

FOR the better understanding the follow-
 ing history, the reader ought to know,
 that *Bull*, in the main, was an honest plain-
 dealing fellow, choleric, bold; and of a very
 inconstant temper; he dreaded not old *Lewis*,
 either at back-sword, single faulchion, or cud-
 gel-play; but then he was very apt to quar-
 rel with his best friends, especially if they pre-
 tended to govern him: If you flatter'd him,
 you might lead him like a child. *John's* tem-
per

per depended very much upon the air; his spirits rose and fell with the weather-glass. *John* was quick, and understood his business very well; but no man alive was more careless in looking into his accounts, or more cheated by partners, apprentices, and servants. This was occasioned by his being a boon companion, loving his bottle and his diversion; for, to say truth, no man kept a better house than *John*, nor spent his money more generously. By plain and fair dealing, *John* had acquired some plumbs, and might have kept them, had it not been for his unhappy law-suit.

Nic. Frog was a cunning fly whorson, quite the reverse of *John* in many particulars; covetous, frugal; minded domestic affairs; would pinch his belly to save his pocket; never lost a farthing by careless servants, or bad debtors. He did not care much for any sort of diversions, except tricks of *High-German* artists, and *leger-de-main*: No man exceeded *Nic.* in these; yet it must be owned, that *Nic.* was a fair dealer, and in that way acquired immense riches.

Hocus was an old cunning attorney; and though this was the first considerable suit that ever he was engaged in, he shewed himself superior in address to most of his profession: He kept always good clerks, he loved money, was smooth-tongued, gave good words, and fel-

dom lost his temper : He was not worse than an infidel, for he provided plentifully for his family ; but he loved himself better than them all : The neighbours reported, that he was hen-pecked, which was impossible, by such a mild-spirited woman as his wife was.

C H A P. VI.

Of the various success of the law-suit.

LAW is a bottomless pit ; it is a cormorant, a harpy, that devours every thing. *John Bull* was flattered by the lawyers, that his suit would not last above a year or two at most ; that before that time, he would be in quiet possession of his business : Yet ten long years did *Hocus* steer his cause through all the meanders of the law, and all the courts. No skill, no address was wanting ; and, to say truth, *John* did not starve his cause ; there wanted not *yellow-boys* to fee council, hire witnesses, and bribe juries : *Lord Strutt* was generally cast, never had one verdict.

dict in his favour * ; and *John* was promised, that the next, and the next, would be the final determination ; but alas ! that final determination and happy conclusion was like an enchanted island, the nearer *John* came to it, the further it went from him : New trials upon new points still arose ; new doubts, new matters to be cleared ; in short, lawyers seldom part with so good a cause till they have got the oyster, and their clients the shell. *John's* ready money, book-debts, bonds, mortgages, all went into the lawyers pockets : Then *John* began to borrow money upon *bank-stock* and *East-India* bonds ; now and then a farm went to pot : At last, † it was thought a good expedient, to set up *Esquire South's* title, to prove the

the

* The war was carried on against *France* and *Spain* with great success, and a peace might have been concluded upon the principles of the alliance ; but a partition of the *Spanish* dominions in favour of the *House of Austria*, and an engagement that the same person should never be king of *France* and *Spain*, were not now thought sufficient.

† It was insisted, that the will in favour of *Philip* was contrary to treaty ; and there was a parliamentary declaration for continuing the war, till he should be dethroned.

the will forged, and dispossess *Philip* Lord *Strutt* at once. Here again was a new field for the lawyers, and the cause grew more intricate than ever. *John* grew madder and madder; wherever he met any of Lord *Strutt's* servants, he tore off their clothes: Now and then you would see them come home naked, without shoes, stockings, and linen. As for old *Lewis Baboon*, he was reduced to his last shift, though he had as many as any other: His children were reduced from rich silks to *Doily* stuffs, his servants in rags, and bare-footed; instead of good victuals, they now lived upon neck-beef, and bullock's liver: In short, nobody got much by the matter, but the men of law.

C H A P. VII.

How John Bull was so mightily pleased with his success, that he was going to leave off his trade, and turn lawyer.

IT is wisely observed by a great philosopher, that habit is a second nature: This was verified in the case of *John Bull*, who, from an honest and plain tradesman, had got such a haunt about the courts of justice, and such

a jargon of law-words, that he concluded himself as able a lawyer as any that pleaded at the bar, or sat on the bench: He was overheard one day talking to himself after this manner: “ * How capriciously does fate, or chance, dispose of mankind! How seldom is that business allotted to a man for which he is fitted by nature! It is plain, I was intended for a man of law: How did my guardians mistake my genius, in placing me like a mean slave behind a counter? Bless me! what immense estates these fellows raise by the law? Besides, it is the profession of a gentleman: What a pleasure is it to be victorious in a cause? to swagger at the bar? What a fool am I, to drudge any more in this woollen trade? for a lawyer I was born, and a lawyer I will be; one is never too old to learn.” All this while *John* had conned over such a catalogue of hard words, as were enough to conjure up the devil; these he used to babble indifferently in all companies, especially at coffee-houses; so that his neighbour tradesmen began to shun his company, as a man that was cracked. Instead of the affairs of *Blackwell-hall*, and price of broad-cloth, wool,

* The manners and sentiments of the nation became extravagant and chimerical.

wool, and bayfes, he talks of nothing but *actions upon the case, returns, capias, alias capias, demurrers, venire facias, replevins, supersedeas's, certiorari's, writs of error, actions of trover and conversion, trespasses, precipe's and dedimus*. This was matter of jest to the learned in law; however, *Hecus*, and the rest of the tribe, encouraged *John* in his fancy, assuring him; that he had a great genius for law; that they questioned not but in time he might raise money enough by it to reimburse him all his charges; that if he studied, he would undoubtedly arrive to the dignity of a Lord Chief Justice*: As for the advice of honest friends and neighbours, *John* despised it, he looked upon them as fellows of a low genius, poor grovelling mechanics; *John* reckoned it more honour to have got one favourable verdict; than to have sold a bale of broad-cloth. As for *Nic. Frog*, to say the truth, he was more prudent; for though he followed his law-suit closely, he neglected not his ordinary business, but was both in court and in his shop at the proper hours.

 C H A P.

* Hold the balance of power.

C H A P. VIII.

How John discovered that Hocus had an intrigue with his wife; and what followed thereupon.

JOHN had not run on a madding so long, had it not been for an extravagant bitch of a wife, whom *Hocus* perceiving *John* to be fond of, was resolved to win over to his side. It is a true saying, *That the last man of the parish that knows of his cuckoldom, is himself.* It was observed by all the neighbourhood, that *Hocus* had dealings with *John's* wife*, that were not so much for his honour; but this was perceived by *John* a little too late: She was a luxurious jade, loved splendid equipages, plays, treats, and balls, differing very much from the sober manners of her ancestors, and by no means fit for a tradesman's wife. *Hocus* fed her extravagancy (what was still more shameful) with *John's* own money. Every body said that *Hocus* had a month's mind to her body; be that as it will, it is a matter of fact, that, upon all occasions,

* It was believed, that the general tampered with the parliament,

casions, she run out extravagantly on the praise of *Hocus*. When *John* used to be finding fault with his bills, she used to reproach him as ungrateful to his greatest benefactor; one that had taken so much pains in his law-suits and retrieved his family from the oppression of old *Lewis Baboon*. A good swinging sum of *John's* readiest cash, went towards building of *Hocus's* country-house †. This affair between *Hocus* and *Mrs. Bull*, was now so open, that all the world were scandalized at it. *John* was not so clod-pated, but at last he took the hint. * The parson of the parish preaching one day with more zeal than sense, against adultery †, *Mrs. Bull* told her husband, that he

† who settled upon him the manor of *Woodstock*, and afterwards entailed that, with 5000 *l. per annum*, payable out of the Post office, to descend with his honours; over and above this, an immense sum was expended in building *Blenheim House*. About this time (Nov. 6. 1709)

* *Dr. Henry Sacheverel* preached a sermon against popular resistance of regal authority.

† The house of commons voted this sermon a libel on her majesty and her government, the revolution, the protestant succession, and

was a very uncivil fellow to use such coarse language before people of condition; that *Hocus* was of the same mind; and that they would join to have him turned out of his living for using personal reflections. How do you mean, says *John*, by personal reflections? I hope in God, wife, he did not reflect upon you? “No, thank God, my reputation is too well established in the world, to receive any hurt from such a foul-mouth’d scoundrel as he; his doctrine tends only to make husbands tyrants, and wives slaves; must we be shut up, and husbands left to their liberty? Very pretty, indeed! a wife must never go abroad with a Platonic, to see a play or a ball; she must never stir without her husband; nor walk in *Spring-garden* with a cousin. I do say, husband, and I will stand by it, that without the innocent freedoms of life, matrimony would be a most intolerable state; and that a wife’s virtue ought to be the result of her own reason, and not of her husband’s government; for my part, I would scorn a husband

C

“ band

the parliament; they impeached him of high crimes and misdemeanours; he was silenced for three years, and the sermon burnt by the hangman.

“ band that would be jealous, if he saw a
 “ fellow a-bed with me.” * All this while
John's blood boiled in his veins : He was now
 confirmed in all his suspicions ; jade, bitch,
 and whore, were the best words that *John*
 gave her †. Things went from better to
 worse, till Mrs. *Bull* aimed a ‡ knife at *John*,
 though *John* threw a bottle § at her head,
 very brutally indeed ||. And, after this, there
 was nothing but confusion : Bottles, glasses,
 spoons, plates, knives, forks, and dishes, flew
 about like dust ; the result of which was,
 ** That Mrs *Bull* received a bruise in her right
 side, (of which she died half a year after.)
 The bruise imposthumated, and afterwards
 turned

* These proceedings caused a great ferment
 in the nation.

† The house complained of being *asperged*
 and *vilified* ; opprobrious terms were used by
 both parties ; and one had recourse to

‡ *military power*, because it was assaulted
 by the other with

§ *tumult and riot*.

|| The confusion every day increased ; the
 whig, or low-church party in the house of
 commons, began to decline ; after much con-
 tention and debate,

** the parliament was prorogued ;

turned to a stinking ulcer, which made every body shy to come near her; yet she wanted not the help of many able physicians, who attended very diligently, and did what men of skill could do; but all to no purpose, for her condition was now quite desperate, all regular physicians, and her nearest relations, having given her over.

C H A P. IX.

How some quacks undertook to cure Mrs. Bull of her ulcer †.

THERE is nothing so impossible in nature, but mountebanks will undertake; nothing so incredible, but they will affirm: Mrs. Bull's condition was looked upon as desperate by all the men of art; but there were those that bragged they had an infallible ointment and plaister, which being applied to the sore, would cure it in a few days; at the same time, they would give her a pill that would

C 2

purge

† and, notwithstanding many attempts to prolong it, particularly, some difficulties started by the

purge off all her bad humours, sweeten her blood, and rectify her disturbed imagination: In spite of all applications, the patient grew worse every day; she stunk so, nobody durst come within a stone's throw of her, except those quacks who attended her close, and apprehended no danger. If one asked them how Mrs. Bull did? Better and better, said they; the parts heal, and her constitution mends; if she submits to our government, she will be abroad in a little time. Nay, it is reported, that they wrote to her friends in the country; that she should dance a jig next *October* in *Westminster-Hall*, and that her illness had been chiefly owing to bad physicians. At last, one of them * was sent for in great haste; his patient grew worse and worse: When he came, he affirmed that it was a gross mistake, and that she was never in a fairer way: Bring hither the salve, says he, and give her a plentiful draught of my cordial. As he was applying his ointments, and administering the cordial, the patient gave up the ghost, to the great confusion of the quack, and the great joy of Bull and his friends. The quack flung away out of the house, in great disorder,

* Lord Chancellor, it was dissolved on the 21st Sept. 1710.

der, and swore there was foul play, for he was sure his medicines were infallible. Mrs. *Bull* having died without any signs of repentance or devotion, the clergy would hardly allow her a christian burial. The relations had once resolved to sue *John* for the murder; but considering better of it, and that such a trial would rip up old sores, and discover things not so much to the reputation of the deceased, they dropt their design. She left no will, only there was found in her strong box, the following words, wrote on a scrip of paper, " My curse on *John Bull*, and all my
" posterity, if ever they come to any com-
" position with the Lord *Strutt*."

She left him three daughters, whose * names were, *Polemia*, *Discordia*, and *Usuria*.

C 3

CHAP.

* War, faction, and usury.

C H A P. X.

Of John Bull's second wife, and the good advice that she gave him.*

JOHN quickly got the better of his grief, and seeing, that neither his constitution, or the affairs of his family, could permit him to live in an unmarried state, he resolved to get him another wife: A cousin of his last wife's was proposed; but *John* would have no more of the breed: In short, he wedded a sober country gentlewoman, of a good family, and a plentiful fortune, the reverse of the other in her temper; not but that she loved money, for she was saving, and applied her fortune to pay *John's* clamorous debts, that the unfrugal methods of his last wife, and this ruinous law-suit, had brought him into. One day, as she had got her husband in a good humour, she talked to him after the following manner: † “ My dear, since I have
“ been

* The new parliament, which was averse to the war, made

† a representation of the mismanagement in the several offices, particularly, those for victualling and clothing the navy and army,

“ been your wife, I have observed great abu-
“ ses and disorders in your family; your ser-
“ vants are mutinous and quarrelsome, and
“ cheat you most abominably; your cook-
“ maid is in a combination with your butcher,
“ poulterer, and fishmonger; your butler
“ purloins your liquor, and the brewer sells
“ you hogwash; your baker cheats both in
“ weight and in tale; even your milk-wo-
“ man, and your nursery-maid, have a fel-
“ low-felling; your taylor, instead of threads,
“ cabbages whole yards of cloth; besides,
“ leaving such long scores, and not going to
“ market with ready money, forces us to take
“ bad ware of the tradefinen, at their own price.
“ You have not posted your books these ten
“ years; how is it possible for a man of bu-
“ siness, to keep his affairs even in the world,
“ at this rate? Pray God this *Hocus* be ho-
“ nest; would to God you would look over
“ his bills, and see how matters stand between
“ *Frog* and you*; prodigious sums are spent
“ in this law-suit, and more must be borrow-
“ ed of scriveners and usurers, at heavy inte-
“ rest. Besides, my dear, let me beg of you
“ to lay aside that wild project of leaving
“ your

* and of the sums that had been expended
on the war,

“ your business, to turn lawyer, for which,
 “ let me tell you, nature never designed you.
 “ Believe me, these rogues do but flatter,
 “ that they may pick your pocket; observe
 “ what a parcel of hungry ragged fellows
 “ live by your cause; to be sure, they will
 “ never make an end on’t; I foresee this
 “ haunt you have got about the courts, will,
 “ one day or another, bring your family to
 “ beggary. Consider, my dear, how inde-
 “ cent it is to abandon your shop, and follow
 “ pettifoggers; the habit is so strong upon
 “ you, that there is hardly a plea between
 “ two country esquires, about a barren acre
 “ upon a common, but you draw yourself in
 “ as bail, surety, or solicitor*.” *John* heard
 her all this while with patience, till she prick-
 ed his maggot, and touched him in the tender
 point; then he broke out into a violent passi-
 on, “ What, I not fit for a lawyer! let me
 “ tell you, my clodpated relations spoiled the
 “ greatest genius in the world, when they
 “ bred me a mechanic. *Lord Strutt*, and
 “ his old rogue of a grandfire, have found to
 “ their cost, that I can manage a law-suit as
 “ well as another.”—“ I don’t deny what
 “ you

* which was, however, still a favourite with the people.

“ you say, replied Mrs. *Bull*, nor do I call
 “ in question your parts ; but, I say, it does
 “ not suit with your circumstances : You and
 “ your predecessors have lived in good repu-
 “ tation among your neighbours by this same
 “ clothing-trade, and it were madness to
 “ leave it off : Besides, there are few that
 “ know all the tricks and cheats of these law-
 “ yers ; does not your own experience teach
 “ you, how they have drawn you on from
 “ one term to another, and how you have
 “ danced the round of all the courts, still
 “ flattering you with a final issue, and, for
 “ aught I can see, your cause is not a bit
 “ clearer than it was seven years ago.”—“ I
 “ will be damn’d, says *John*, if I accept of
 “ any composition from *Strutt* or his grand-
 “ father ; I’ll rather wheel about the streets
 “ an engine to grind knives and scissars ;
 “ however, I’ll take your advice, and look
 “ over my accompts.”

C H A P. XI.

How John looked over his attorney’s bill.

WHEN *John* first brought out the bills,
 the surprise of all the family was in-
 expressible,

expressible, at the prodigious dimensions of them; they would have measured with the best bale of cloth in *John's* shop. Fees to judges, puny judges, clerks, prothonotaries, philizers, chirographers, under clerks, proclaimators, council, witnesses, jurymen, marshals, tipstuffs, cryers, porters; for inrollings, exemplifications, bails, vouchers, returns, caveats, examinations, filings of writs, entries, declarations, replications, recordats, *nolle prosequi's*, *certiorari's*, *mittimus's*, demurrers, special verdicts, informations, *scire facias*, *supersedeas's*, *habeas corpus*, coach-hire, treating of witnesses, &c. “ Verily, says, *John*, “ there are a prodigious number of learned “ words in this law; what a pretty science “ it is ! ” — “ Ay, but husband, you have paid “ for every syllable and letter of these fine “ words; bless me, what immense sums are “ at the bottom of the accompt ! ” — *John* spent several weeks in looking over his bills, and, by comparing and stating his accompts, he discovered, that, besides the extravagance of every article, he had been egregiously cheated; that he had paid for council that were never fee'd, for writs that were never drawn, for dinners that were never dressed, and journeys that were never made: In short, that the tradesmen, lawyers, and *Frog*, had agreed

agreed to throw the burden of the law-suit upon his shoulders.

C H A P. XII.

*How John grew angry, and resolved to accept a composition; * and what methods were practised by the lawyers for keeping him from it.*

WELL might the learned *Daniel Burgess* say, *That a law-suit is a suit for life.* He that sows his grain upon marble, will have many a hungry belly before harvest. This *John* felt by woful experience. *John's* cause was a good milk cow, and many a man subsisted his family out of it. However, *John* began to think it high time to look about him. He had a cousin in the country, one *Sir Roger Bold* †, whose predecessors had been bred up to

* When at length peace was thought to be eligible upon more moderate terms, a treaty was entered into by

† *Robert Harley*, afterward E. of *Oxford*, who was made treasurer in the stead of the *Lord Godolphin*, and there was now not only a new parliament, but a new ministry;

to the law, and knew as much of it as any body; but having left off the profession for some time, they took great pleasure in compounding law-suits among their neighbours, for which they were the aversion of the gentlemen of the long robe, and at perpetual war with all the country attorneys. *John* put his cause in *Sir Roger's* hands, desiring him to make the best of it; the news had no sooner reached the ears of the lawyers, but they were all in an uproar. They brought all the rest of the tradesmen upon *John*: † 'Squire *South* swore he was betrayed, that he would starve before he compounded; *Frbg* said he was highly wronged; even lying *Ned* the chimney-sweeper, and *Tom* the dustman, complained, that their interest was sacrificed; the lawyers, solicitors, *Hocus*, and his clerks, were all up in arms, at the news of the composition †; they abused him and his wife most shamefully, “ You silly, awkward, ill-bred, country-fow, (quoth one) have you no more manners, than to rail at *Hocus*, that has saved that clod-pated numskull'd ninny-hammer
“ mer

† the measure was opposed by the allies and the general;

‡ the house of commons was censured, as totally ignorant of business;

“mer of yours from ruin, and all his family ?
“It is well known how he has rose early, and
“fat up late to make him easy, when he was
“sotting at every ale-house in town. I knew
“his last wife, she was a woman of breeding,
“good humour, and complaisance, knew how
“to live in the world : As for you, you look
“like a puppet moved by clock-work ; your
“clothes hang upon you, as they were upon
“tenter-hooks, and you come into a room as
“you were going to steal away a piss-pot :
“Get you gone into the country to look after
“your mother’s poultry, to milk the cows,
“churn the butter, and dress up nosegays for
“a holy-day, and not meddle with matters
“which you know no more of, than the sign-
“post before your door : It is well known,
“that *Hocus* has an established reputation ; he
“never swore an oath, nor told a lie in all
“his life ; he is grateful to his benefactors,
“faithful to his friends, liberal to his depend-
“ants, and dutiful to his superiors ; he values
“not your money more than the dust under
“his feet, but he hates to be abused : Once
“for all, Mrs. *Mynx*, leave off talking of *Ho-*
“*cus*, or I will pull out these saucer eyes of
“yours, and make that redstreak country
“face look as raw as an ox-cheek upon a
“butcher’s stall ; remember, I say, that there
“are pillories and ducking-stools.” With this

away they flung, leaving Mrs. *Bull* no time to reply. No stone was left unturned to fright *John* from his composition: Sometimes they spread reports at coffee-houses, that *John* and his wife were run mad; that they intended to give up house, and make over all their estate to *Lewis Baboon**; that *John* had been often heard talking to himself, and seen in the streets without shoes or stockings; that he did nothing from morning till night but beat his servants, after having been the best master alive: As for his wife, she was a mere natural. Sometimes *John's* house was beset with a whole regiment of attorneys clerks, bailiffs, and bailiffs-followers, and other small retainers of the law, who threw stones at his windows, and dirt at himself, as he went along the street. When *John* complained of want of ready money to carry on his suit, they advised him to pawn his plate and jewels, and that Mrs. *Bull* should sell her linen and wearing clothes.

 C H A P.

* and it was said, that the nation would at last be sacrificed to the ambition of *France*.

C H A P. XIII.

Mrs. Bull's vindication of the indispensable duty of cuckoldom, incumbent upon wives, in case of the tyranny, infidelity, or insufficiency of husbands: Being a full answer to to the Doctor's sermon against adultery.*

JOHN found daily fresh proofs of the infidelity and bad designs of his deceased wife; amongst other things, one day looking over his cabinet, he found the following paper.

IT is evident that matrimony is founded upon an *original contract*, whereby the wife makes over the right she has by the law of nature to the *concubitus vagus*, in favour of the husband; by which he acquires the property of all her posterity. But then the obligation is mutual: And where the contract is broken on one side, it ceases to bind on the other. Where there is a right, there must be a power to maintain it, and to punish the offending party. The power I affirm to be that original right, or rather that indispensable duty of

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cuckoldom,

* The Tories representation of the speeches at *Sacheverel's* trial.

cuckoldom, lodged in all wives, in the cases above-mentioned. No wife is bound by any law to which herself has not consented: All œconomical government is lodged originally in the husband and wife, the executive part being in the husband; both have their privileges secured to them by law and reason: But will any man infer, from the husband's being invested with the executive power, that the wife is deprived of her share, and that which is the principal branch of it, the original right of cuckoldom? And that she has no remedy left but *preces et lacrymæ*, or an appeal to a supreme court of judicature? No less frivolous are the arguments that are drawn from the general appellations and terms of husband and wife. A husband denotes several different sorts of magistracy, according to the usages and customs of different climates and countries. In some eastern nations it signifies a tyrant, with the absolute power of life and death: In *Turkey* it denotes an arbitrary governor, with power of perpetual imprisonment: In *Italy* it gives the husband the power of poison and padlocks: In the countries of *England*, *France*, and *Holland*, it has a quite different meaning, implying a free and equal government, securing to the wife in certain cases the liberty of cuckoldom, and the property of pin-money, and separate maintenance. So that the arguments drawn

drawn from the terms of husband and wife are fallacious, and by no means fit to support a tyrannical doctrine, as that of absolute unlimited chastity, and conjugal fidelity.

The general exhortations to chastity in wives are meant only for rules in ordinary cases, but they naturally suppose three conditions of ability, justice, and fidelity in the husband; such an unlimited, unconditioned fidelity in the wife could never be supposed by reasonable men; it seems a reflection upon the church, to charge her with doctrines that countenance oppression.

This doctrine of the original right of cuckoldom is congruous to the law of nature, which is superior to all human laws; and for that I dare appeal to all wives: It is much to the honour of our *English* wives, that they have never given up that *fundamental point*; and that though in former ages they were muffled up in darkness and superstition, yet that notion seemed engraven on their minds, and the impression so strong, that nothing could impair it.

To assert the illegality of cuckoldom, upon any pretence whatsoever, were to cast odious colours upon the married state, to blacken the necessary means of perpetuating families: Such laws can never be supposed to have been designed to defeat the very end of matrimony,

the propagation of mankind. I call them necessary means; for, in many cases, what other means are left? Such a doctrine wounds the honour of families, unsettles the titles to kingdoms, honours, and estates; for if the actions from which such settlements spring were illegal, all that is built upon them must be so too: But the last is absurd, therefore the first must be so likewise. What is the cause that *Europe* groans, at present, under the heavy load of a cruel and expensive war, but the tyrannical custom of a certain nation, and the scrupulous nicety of a silly queen *, in not exercising this indispensable duty of cuckoldom, whereby the kingdom might have had an heir, and a controverted succession might have been avoided? These are the effects of the narrow maxims of your clergy, *That one must not do evil, that good may come of it.*

The assertors of this indefeasible right, and *jus divinum* of matrimony, do all in their hearts favour gallants, and the pretenders to married women; for if the true legal foundation of the married state be once sapped, and, instead thereof, tyrannical maxims introduced, what

* The queen of *Charles II.* of *Spain*, upon whose death, without issue, the war broke out.

what must follow, but elopements, instead of secret and peaceable cuckoldom?

From all that has been said, one may clearly perceive the absurdity of the doctrine of this seditious, discontented, hot-headed, un-gifted, unedifying preacher, asserting, *That the grand security of the matrimonial state, and the pillar upon which it stands, is founded upon the wife's belief of an absolute unconditional fidelity to the husband's bed*: By which bold assertion, he strikes at the root, digs the foundation, and removes the basis upon which the happiness of a married state is built. As for his personal reflections, I would gladly know who are those *wanton wives* he speaks of? who are those ladies of high stations, that he so boldly traduces in his sermon? It is pretty plain who these aspersions are aimed at, for which he deserves the pillory, or something worse.

In confirmation of this doctrine of the indispensable duty of cuckoldom, I could bring the example of the wisest wives in all ages, who by these means have preserved their husband's families from ruin and oblivion, by want of posterity: But what has been said, is a sufficient ground for punishing this pragmatistical parson.

C H A P. XIV.

*The two great parties of wives, the * Devoto's and the Hitts.*

THE doctrine of unlimited chastity and fidelity in wives, was universally espoused by all husbands; who went about the country, and made the wives sign papers, signifying their utter detestation and abhorrence of Mrs. Bull's wicked doctrine of the indispensable duty of cuckoldom. Some yielded, others refused to part with their native liberty; which gave rise to two great parties among the wives, the *Devoto's* and the *Hitts*. Tho' it must be owned, the distinction was more nominal than real; for the *Devoto's* would abuse freedoms sometimes; and those who were distinguished by the name of *Hitts*, were often very honest. At the same time, there came out an ingenious treatise, with the title of *Good advice to husbands*; in which they are counselled, not to trust too much to their wives owning the doctrine of unlimited conjugal fidelity, and so to neglect family duty, and a
due

* Those who were for and against the doctrine of *non-resistance*.

the watchfulness over the manners of their wives; that the greatest security to husbands was a vigorous constitution, good usage of their wives, and keeping them from temptation; many husbands having been sufferers by their trusting too much to general professions, as was exemplified in the case of a foolish and negligent husband, who, trusting to the efficacy of his principle, was undone by his wife's elopement from him.

C H A P. XV.

An account of the conference between Mrs. Bull and Don Diego.

THE lawyers, as their last effort to put off the composition, sent * *Don Diego* to *John*. *Don Diego* was a very worthy gentleman, a friend to *John*, his mother, and present wife; and therefore supposed to have some influence over her: He had been ill used himself,

* Amongst other obstacles to the treaty, was the opposition of the Earl of *Nottingham*, a tory nobleman, who had great influence in the house of commons.

himself by *John's* lawyers, but, because of some † animosity to *Sir Roger*, was against the composition ‡. The conference between him and *Mrs. Bull* was word for word as follows.

Don Diego. Is it possible, cousin *Bull*, that you can forget the honourable maxims of the family you are come of, and break your word with three of the honestest best-meaning persons in the world, Esquire *South*, *Frog*, and *Hocus*, that have sacrificed their interests to yours? It is base, to take advantage of their simplicity and credulity, and leave them in the lurch at last.

Mrs. Bull. I am sure they have left my family in a bad condition; we have hardly money to go to market, and nobody will take our words for sixpence. A very fine spark this Esquire *South*! My husband took him in, a dirty, snotty-nos'd boy; it was the business of

hak

† The cause of his animosity, from which this conduct is supposed to proceed, was *Mr. Harley's* being chosen to succeed him as principal secretary of state, when he was removed from that office in the year 1704.

‡ He expostulated against the peace with great warmth in the house, when the queen was present *incog.*

half the servants to attend him, * the rogue
 and bawl and make such a noise : Sometimes
 he fell in the fire and burnt his face, sometimes
 broke his shins clambering over the benches,
 often piss'd a-bed, and always came in so dirty,
 as if he had been dragged through the kennel
 at a boarding-school. He lost his money
 at chuck-farthing, shuffle-cap, and all fours ;
 sold his books, pawned his linen, which we
 were always forced to redeem. Then the
 whole generation of him are so in love with
 bagpipes and puppet-shews ! I wish you knew
 what my husband has paid at the pastry-cook's
 and confectioner's for *Naples* biscuit, tarts, cu-
 stards, and sweet-meats. All this while my hus-
 band considered him as a gentleman of a good
 family that had fallen into decay, gave him
 good education, and has settled him in a good
 creditable way of living, having procured him,
 by his interest, one of the best places of the
 country : And what return, think you, does
 this fine gentleman make us ? He will hardly
 give me or my husband a good word, or a ci-
 vil expression : † Instead of *Sir* and *Madam*
 (which,

* Something relating to the manners of a
 great prince, superstition, love of opera's,
 shows, &c.

† Something relating to forms and titles.

(which, though I say it, is our due) he call us *Goody* and *Gaffer* such-a-one; says, he do us a great deal of honour to board with us; huffs and dings at such a rate, because we will not spend the little we have left, to get him the title and estate of Lord *Strutt*; and therefore, forsooth, we shall have the honour to be h woollen-drapers. Besides, Esquire *South* will be Esquire *South* still; fickle, proud, and ingrateful. If he behaves himself so when he depends on us for his daily bread, can any man say what he will do when he is got above the world?

D. Diego. And would you lose the honour of so noble and generous an undertaking? Would you rather accept this scandalous composition, and trust that old rogue, *Lewis Baboon*?

Mrs. Bull. Look you, friend *Diego*, if we law it on till *Lewis* turns honest, I am afraid our credit will run low at *Blackwell-hall*. I wish every man had his own; but I still say that Lord *Strutt's* money shines as bright, and chinks as well as Esquire *South's*. I don't know any other hold that we tradesmen have of these great folks, but their interest; buy dear and sell cheap, and I'll warrant ye, you will keep your customer. The worst is, that Lord *Strutt's* servants have got such a haunt about that old rogue's shop, that it will cost

Vis many a firkin of strong beer to bring them back again; and the longer they are in a bad road, the harder it will be to get them out of it.

D. Diego. But poor *Frog*, what has he done! On my conscience, if there be an honest, sincere man in the world, it is that *Frog*.

Mrs. Bull. I think I need not tell you how much *Frog* has been obliged to our * family from his childhood; he carries his head high now, but he had never been the man he is, without our help. Ever since the commencement of this law-suit, it has been the business of *Hocus*, in sharing our expences, to plead for *Frog*. “ Poor *Frog* (says he) is in hard
 “ circumstances, he has a numerous family,
 “ and lives from hand to mouth; his children
 “ don’t eat a bit of good victuals from one
 “ year’s end to the other, but live upon salt
 “ herring, sowre crud, and borecole; he does
 “ his utmost, poor fellow, to keep things even
 “ in the world, and has exerted himself be-
 “ yond his ability in this law-suit; but he
 “ really has not wherewithal to go on. What
 “ signifies this hundred pounds? place it up-
 “ on your side of the accompt; it is a great
 E “ deal

† On the other side, complaint was made of the unequal burden of the war,

“deal to poor *Frog*, and a trifle to you.” This has been *Hocus*'s constant language, and I am sure he has had obligations enough to us to have acted another part.

D. Diego. No doubt *Hocus* meant all this for the best, but he is a tender-hearted, charitable man; *Frog*, is indeed in hard circumstances.

Mrs. Bull. Hard circumstances! I swear this is provoking to the last degree. * All the time of the law-suit, as fast as I have mortgaged, *Frog* has purchased: From a plain tradesman, with a shop, warehouse, and a country hut, with a dirty fish-pond at the end of it, he is now grown a very rich country gentleman, with a noble landed estate, noble palaces, manors, parks, gardens, and farms, finer than any we were ever master of. Is it not strange, when my husband disbursed great sums every term, *Frog* should be purchasing some new farm or manor? So that if this law-suit lasts, he will be far the richest man in his country. What is worse than all this, he steals away my customers every day; twelve of the richest and the best have left my shop by his persuasion,

* and of the acquisitions of the *Dutch* in *Flanders*: During these debates, the house took in consideration

persuasion, and whom, to my certain knowledge, he has under bonds never to return again : Judge you if this be neighbourly dealing.

D. Diego. *Frog* is indeed pretty close in his dealings, but very honest : You are so touchy, and take things so hotly, I am sure there must be some mistake in this.

Mrs. Bull. A plaguy one indeed ! You know, and have often told me of it, how *Hocus* and those rogues kept my husband *John Bull* drunk, for five years together, with punch and strong waters ; I am sure he never went one night sober to bed, till they got him to sign the strangest deed that ever you saw in your life. The methods they took to manage him I'll tell you another time ; at present, I'll read only the writing.

ARTICLES of AGREEMENT betwixt JOHN BULL, Clothier, and NICHOLAS FROG, Linen-draper *.

I. That for maintaining the ancient good correspondence and friendship between the said

E 2

parties,

* a treaty which had been concluded by the Lord *Townshend*, at the *Hague*, between the

parties, I *Nicholas Frog* do solemnly engage and promise to keep peace in *John Bull's* family; that neither his wife, children, nor servants give him any trouble, disturbance, or molestation whatsoever, but to oblige them all to do their duty quietly in their respective stations. And whereas the said *John Bull*, from the assured confidence that he has in my friendship, has appointed me executor of his last will and testament, and guardian to his children, I do undertake for me, my heirs and assigns, to see the same duly executed and performed, and that it shall be unalterable in all its parts by *John Bull*, or any body else: For that purpose, it shall be lawful and allowable for me, to enter his house at any hour of the day or night, to break open bars, bolts, and doors, chests of drawers, and strong boxes, in order
to

queen and the states, in 1709, for securing the protestant succession, and for settling a barrier for *Holland* against *France*: And it was resolved, that several articles of this treaty were destructive to the trade and interest of *Great Britain*; that Lord *Townshend* had no authority to agree to them; and that he, and all those who advised ratifying the treaty, were enemies to their country.

to secure the peace of my friend *John Bull's* family, and to see his will duly executed.

II. In consideration of which kind neighbourly office of *Nicholas Frog*, in that he has been pleased to accept of the aforefaid trust, I, *John Bull*, having duly considered, that my friend *Nicholas Frog*, at this time, lives in a marshy soil, and unwholsome air, infested with fogs and damp, destructive of the health of himself, wife, and children; do bind and oblige me, my heirs and assigns, to purchase for the said *Nicholas Frog*, with the best and readiest of my cash, bonds, mortgages, goods, and chattels, a landed estate, with parks, gardens, palaces, rivers, fields, and outlets, consisting of as large extent as the said *Nicholas Frog* shall think fit. And whereas, the said *Nicholas Frog* is at present hemmed in too close by the grounds of *Lewis Baboon*, master of the science of defence, I, the said *John Bull*, do oblige myself, with the readiest of my cash, to purchase and inclose the said grounds, for as many fields and acres as the said *Nicholas* shall think fit; to the intent that the said *Nicholas* may have free egress and regress, without lett or molestation, suitable to the demands of himself and family.

III. Furthermore, the said *John Bull* obliges himself, to make the country neighbours of *Nicholas Frog* allot a certain part of

yearly rents, to pay for the repairs of the said landed estate, to the intent that his good friend, *Nicholas Frog*, may be eased of all charges.

IV. And whereas, the said *Nicholas Frog* did contract with the deceased Lord *Strutt*, about certain liberties, privileges, and immunities, formerly in the possession of the said *John Bull*; I, the said *John Bull*, do freely, by these presents, renounce, quit, and make over to the said *Nicholas*, the liberties, privileges, and immunities contracted for, in as full a manner, as if they never had belonged to me.

V. The said *John Bull* obliges himself, his heirs and assigns, not to sell one rag of broad or coarse cloth, to any gentleman within the neighbourhood of the said *Nicholas*, except in such quantities, and such rates, as the said *Nicholas* shall think fit.

Signed and sealed,

JOHN BULL.
NIC. FROG.

The reading of this paper put Mrs. *Bull* in such a passion, that she fell downright into a fit, and they were forced to give her a good quantity of the spirit of hartshorn before she recovered.

D. Diego.

D. Diego. Why in such a passion, cousin? considering your circumstances at that time, I don't think this such an unreasonable contract. You see *Frog*, for all this, is religiously true to his bargain; he scorns to hearken to any composition without your privacy.

Mrs. Bull. You know the * contrary. Read that letter.

[*Reads the superscription*] For *Lewis Baboon*,
master of the noble science of defence.

S I R,

I Understand that you are at this time treating with my friend *John Bull*, about restoring the Lord *Strutt's* custom, and besides allowing him certain privileges of parks and fish ponds; I wonder how you, that are a man that knows the world, can talk with that simple fellow. He has been my bubble these twenty years; and, to my certain knowledge, understands no more of his own affairs, than a child in swadling clothes. I know he has got a sort of a pragmatistical silly jade of a wife,

* In the meantime, the *Dutch* were secretly negotiating with *France*.

wife, that pretends to take him out of my hands : But you and she both will find yourselves mistaken ; I'll find those that shall manage her ; and, for him, he dares as well be hanged, as make one step in his affairs without my consent. If you will give me what you promised him, I will make all things easy, and stop the deeds of ejection against Lord *Strutt* : If you will not, take what follows : I shall have a good action against you, for pretending to rob me of my bubble. Take this warning from

Your loving friend,

NIC. FROG.

I am told, cousin *Diego*, you are one of those that have undertaken to manage me, and that you have said you will carry a green bag yourself, rather than we shall make an end of our law-suit : I'll teach them and you too to manage.

D. Diego. For God's sake, madam, why so choleric ? I say this letter is some forgery ; it never entered into the head of that honest man, *Nic. Frog*, to do any such thing.

Mrs. Bull. I can't abide you : You have been railing these twenty years at esquire *South*, *Frog*, and *Hocus*, calling them rogues and pick-pockets,

pick-pockets, and now they are turned the honestest fellows in the world. What is the meaning of all this?

D. Diego. Pray tell me how you came to employ this *Sir Roger* in your affairs, and not think of your old friend *Diego*?

Mrs. Bull. So, so, there it pinches. To tell you truth, I have employed *Sir Roger* in several weighty affairs, and have found him rusty and honest, and the poor man always scorned to take a farthing of me. I have abundance that profess great zeal, but they are damnable greedy of the pence. My husband and I are now in such circumstances, that we must be served upon cheaper terms than we have been.

D. Diego. Well, cousin, I find I can do no good with you; I am sorry that you will ruin yourself, by trusting this *Sir Roger*.

C H A P. XVI.

How the guardians of the deceast Mrs. Bull's three daughters came to John, and what advice they gave him; wherein are briefly treated, the characters of the three daughters: Also, John Bull's answer to the three guardians.*

I Told you in a former chapter, that Mrs. Bull, before she departed this life, had blessed John with three daughters. I need not here repeat their names, neither would I willingly use any scandalous reflections upon young ladies, whose reputations ought to be very tenderly handled; but the characters of these were so well known in the neighbourhood, that it is doing them no injury, to make a short description of them.

† The eldest was a termagant, imperious, prodigal, lewd, profligate wench, as ever breathed: She used to rantipole about the house, pinch the children, kick the servants, and

* The debates in parliament, were, however, still continued.

† *Polemia*, War.

did torture the cats and the dogs: She would rob her father's strong box, for money to give the young fellows that she was fond of: She had a noble air, and something great in her mien, but such a noisome infectious breath, as threw all the servants that dressed her, into consumptions; if she smelt to the freshest nose-day, it would shrivel and wither, as if it had been blighted: She used to come home in her ups, and break the china, and the looking-glasses; and was of such an irregular temper, and so entirely given up to her passion, that you might argue as well with the *North* wind, as with her ladyship: So expensive, that the income of three dukedoms was not enough to supply her extravagance. *Hocus* loved her best, believing her to be his own, got upon the body of Mrs. *Bull*.

* The second daughter, born a year after her sister, was a peevish, froward, ill-conditioned creature as ever was; ugly as the devil, lean, haggard, pale, with saucer eyes, a sharp nose, and hunch-backed; but active, sprightly, and diligent about her affairs. Her ill complexion was occasioned by her bad diet, which was coffee, morning, noon, and night: She never rested quietly a-bed; but used to disturb

* *Discordia, Faction.*

sturb the whole family with shrieking out in her dreams, and plague them next day with interpreting them; for she took them all for gospel: She would cry out murder, and disturb the whole neighbourhood; and when *John* came running down stairs to enquire what the matter was, nothing, forsooth, only her maid had stuck a pin wrong in her gown: She turned away one servant for putting too much oil in her salad, and another for putting too little salt in her water-gruel; but such as by flattery had procured her esteem, she would indulge in the greatest crimes. Her father had two coachmen; when one was in the coach-box, if the coach swung but the least to one side, she used to shriek so loud that all the street concluded she was overturned; but, though the other was eternally drunk, and had overturned the whole family she was very angry with her father for turning him away. Then she used to carry tales and stories from one to another, till she had set the whole neighbourhood together by the ears; and this was the only diversion she took for pleasure in. She never went abroad, but she brought home such a bundle of monstrous lies, as would have amazed any mortal, but such as knew her: Of a whale that had swallowed a fleet of ships; of the lions being let out of the *Tower*, to destroy the protestant religion.

religion; of the pope's being seen in a brandy shop at *Wapping*; and of a prodigious strong man, that was going to shove down the cupola of *St. Paul's*; of three millions of five pound pieces that *Esquire South* had found under an old wall; of blazing stars, flying dragons, and abundance of such stuff. All the servants in the family made high court to her, for she domineered there, and turned out and in whom she pleased; only there was an old grudge between her and *Sir Roger*, whom she mortally hated, and used to hire fellows to squirt kennel water upon him, as he passed along the streets; so that he was forced constantly to wear a surtout of oiled cloth, by which means he came home pretty clean, except where the surtout was a little scanty.

* As for the third, she was a thief, and a common mercenary prostitute, and that without any solicitation from nature, for she owned she had no enjoyment. She had no respect of persons; a prince or a porter was all one, according as they paid; yea, she would leave the finest gentleman in the world, to go to an ugly pocky fellow for sixpence more. In the practice of her profession, she had amassed vast magazines of all sorts of things; she

F had

* *Usuria*, Usury.

had above five hundred suits of fine clothes, and yet went abroad like a cinder-wench: She robbed and starved all the servants, so that nobody could live near her.

So much for *John's* three daughters, which, you will say, were rarities to be fond of: Yet nature will shew itself. Nobody could blame their relations for taking care of them; and therefore it was, that *Hocus*, with two other of the guardians, thought it their duty to take care of the interest of the three girls, and give *John* their best advice, before he compounded the law-suit.

Hocus. What makes you so shy of late, my good friend? There's nobody loves you better than I, nor has taken more pains in your affairs: As I hope to be saved, I would do any thing to serve you; I would crawl upon all-four to serve you; I have spent my health and paternal estate in your service. I have, indeed, a small pittance left, with which I might retire, and with as good a conscience as any man; but the thoughts of this disgraceful composition so touches me to the quick, that I cannot sleep. After I had brought the cause to the last stroke, that one verdict more had quite ruined old *Lewis* and *Lord Strutt*, and put you in the quiet possession of every thing, then to compound! I cannot bear it. This cause was my favourite,

rite,

rite, I had set my heart upon it; it is like an only child; I cannot endure it should miscarry: For God's sake, consider only to what a dismal condition old *Lewis* is brought. He is at an end of all his cash; his attorneys have hardly one trick left; they are at an end of all their *chicanes*; besides, he has both his law and his daily bread now upon trust. Hold out only one term longer, and I'll warrant you, before the next, we shall have him in the *Fleet*. I'll bring him to the pillory, his ears shall pay for his perjuries. For the love of God don't compound; let me be damn'd if you have a friend in the world that loves you better than I; there is nobody can say I am covetous, or that I have any interest to pursue but yours.

2d Guardian. There is nothing so plain, as that this *Lewis* has a design to ruin all his neighbouring tradesmen; and, at this time, he has such a prodigious income by his trade of all kinds, that if there is not some stop put to his exorbitant riches, he will monopolize every thing; nobody will be able to sell a yard of drapery, or mercery ware, but himself. I then hold it advisable that you continue the law-suit, and burst him at once. My concern for the three poor motherless children, obliges me to give you this advice; for

their estates, poor girls! depend upon the success of this cause.

3d Guardian. I own this writ of ejection has cost dear; but then consider it is a jewel well worth the purchasing at the price of all you have. None but Mr. *Bull's* declared enemies can say, he has any other security for his clothing-trade, but the ejection of Lord *Strutt*. The only question, then, that remains to be decided, is, Who shall stand the expences of the suit? To which the answer is as plain, Who but he that is to have the advantage of the sentence? When Esquire *South* has got possession of his title and honour, is not *John Bull* to be his clothier? Who then, but *John*, ought to put him in possession? Ask but any indifferent gentleman, who ought to bear his charges at law? and he will readily answer, his tradesmen. I do therefore affirm, and I will go to death with it, that, being his clothier, you ought to put him in quiet possession of his estate, and, with the same generous spirit you have begun it, complete the good work. If you persist in the bad measures you are now in, what must become of the three poor orphans? My heart bleeds for the poor girls.

John Bull. You are all very eloquent persons; but give me leave to tell you, you express a great deal more concern for the three girls,

girls, than for me : I think my interest ought to be considered in the first place. As for you, *Hocus*, I can't but say you have managed my law-suit with great address, and much to my honour ; and though I say it, you have been well paid for it. Why must the burden be taken off *Frog's* back, and laid upon my shoulders ? He can drive about his own parks and fields in his gilt chariot, when I have been forced to mortgage my estate : His note will go farther than my bond. Is it not matter of fact, that from the richest tradesman in all the country, I am reduced to beg and borrow from scriveners and usurers, that suck the heart, blood, and guts out of me ? and what is all this for ? Did you like *Frog's* countenance better than mine ? Was not I your old friend and relation ? Have I not presented you nobly ? Have I not clad your whole family ? Have you not had an hundred yards at a time of the finest cloth in my shop ? Why must the rest of the tradesmen be not only indemnified from charges, but forbid to go on with their own business, and what is more their concern than mine ? As to holding out this term, I appeal to your own conscience, has not that been your constant discourse these six years, *One term more, and old Lewis goes to pot ?* If thou art so fond of my cause, be generous for once, and lend me a brace of thousands.

Ah *Hocus! Hocus!* I know thee, not a fous to save me from gaol, I trow. Look ye, gentlemen, I have lived with credit in the world, and it grieves my heart, never to stir out of my doors, but to be pulled by the sleeve by some rascally dun or other: *Sir, remember my bill: There's a small concern of a thousand pounds, I hope you think on't, Sir.* And to have these usurers transact my debts at coffee-houses, and ale-houses, as if I were going to break up shop. Lord! that ever the rich, the generous *John Bull* clothier, the envy of all his neighbours, should be brought to compound his debts for five shillings in the pound; and to have his name in an advertisement for a statute of bankrupt! The thought of it makes me mad. I have read somewhere in the *Apocrypha*, That one should not consult with a woman touching her of whom she is jealous; nor with a merchant concerning exchange; nor with a buyer of selling; nor with an unmerciful man of kindness, &c. I could have added one thing more, *Nor with an attorney, about compounding a law-suit.* The ejection of Lord *Strutt* will never do. The evidence is crimp; the witnesses swear backwards and forwards, and contradict themselves; and his tenants stick by him. One tells me that I must carry on my suit, because *Lewis* is poor; another, because he is still too rich:

rich : whom shall I believe ? I am sure of one thing, that a penny in the purse is the best friend *John* can have at last ; and who can say that this will be the last suit I shall be engaged in ? Besides, if this ejection were practicable, is it reasonable, that when Esquire *South* is losing his money to sharpers and pick-pockets, going about the country with fiddlers and buffoons, and squandering his income with hawks and dogs, I should lay out the fruits of my honest industry in a law-suit for him, only upon the hopes of being his clothier ? And when the cause is over, I shall not have the benefit of my project for want of money to go to market. Look ye, gentlemen, *John Bull* is but a plain man ; but *John Bull* knows when he is ill used. I know the infirmity of our family ; we are apt to play the boon-companion, and throw away our money in our cups : But it was an unfair thing in you, gentlemen, to take advantage of my weakness, to keep a parcel of roaring bullies about me day and night, with huzza's and hunting-horns, and ringing the changes on butchers cleavers, never let me cool, and make me set my hand to papers, when I could hardly hold my pen. There will come a day of reckoning for all that proceeding. In the mean-time, gentlemen, I beg you will let me into my affairs a little,

little, and that you will not grudge me the small remainder of a very great estate.

C H A P. XVII.

Esquire South's message and letter to Mrs. Bull.

THE arguments used by *Hocus* and the rest of the guardians, had hitherto proved insufficient * : *John* and his wife could not be persuaded to bear the expence of *Esquire South's* law-suit. They thought it reasonable, that since he was to have the honour and advantage, he should bear the greatest share of the charges; and retrench what he lost to sharpers, and spent upon country-dances, and puppet-plays, to apply it to that use. This was not very grateful to the esquire; therefore, as the last experiment, he resolved to send

* But as all attempts of the party, to preclude the treaty. were ineffectual, and complaints were made of the deficiencies of the *House of Austria*, the archduke sent a message and letter by

Send Signior *Benenato* †, master of his fox-hounds, to Mrs. *Bull*, to try what good he could do with her. This Signior *Benenato* had all the qualities of a fine gentleman, that were fit to charm a lady's heart; and if any person in the world could have persuaded her, it was he. But such was her unbaken fidelity to her husband, and the constant purpose of her mind to pursue his interest, that the most refined arts of gallantry that were practised, could not seduce her heart. The necklaces, diamond crosses, and rich bracelets that were offered, she rejected with the utmost scorn and disdain. The music and serenades that were given her, sounded more ungratefully in her ears than the noise of a screech-owl; however, she received Esquire *South's* letter by the hands of Signior *Benenato*, with that respect which became his quality. The copy of the letter is as follows, in which you will observe he changes a little his usual style.

MADAM,

THE writ of ejection against *Philip Baboon*, (pretended Lord *Strutt*) is just ready to pass. There want but a few necessary forms,

† Prince *Eugene*, urging the continuance of the war, and offering to bear a proportion of the expence.

forms, and a verdict or two more, to put me in the quiet possession of my honour and estate: I question not, but that, according to your wonted generosity and goodness, you will give it the finishing stroke; an honour that I would grudge any body but yourself. In order to ease you of some part of the charges, I promise to furnish pen, ink, and paper, provided you pay for the stamps. Besides, I have ordered my stewards to pay out of the readiest and best of my rents, five pounds ten shillings a-year, till my suit is finished. I wish you health and happiness, being, with due respect,

M A D A M,

Your assured friend,

S O U T H.

What answer Mrs. *Bull* returned to this letter, you shall know in my second part, only they were at a pretty good distance in their proposals; for as Esquire *South* only offered to be at the charges of pen, ink, and paper, Mrs. *Bull* refused any more than to lend her barge *, to carry his council to *Westminster-hall*.

* This proportion was, however, thought to be so inconsiderable, that the letter produced no other effect, than the convoy of the forces by the *English* fleet to *Barcelona*.

Law is a Bottomless Pit.

O R,

THE HISTORY

O F

JOHN BULL.

T H E

SECOND PART.

M. DC. C. XIII.

THE HISTORY OF THE

REIGN OF

CHARLES THE FIRST

BY

JOHN BULL

IN TWO VOLUMES

THE SECOND PART

OF THE HISTORY

M. DC. XIII.

Printed by J. Sturges, at the

Printers Office, in St. Dunstons Church-yard, 1713.

T H E

H I S T O R Y

O F

J O H N B U L L.

P A R T S E C O N D.

The PUBLISHER'S PREFACE.

THE world is much indebted to the famous Sir *Humphry Polesworth*, for his ingenuous and impartial account of *John Bull's* law-suit; yet there is just cause of complaint against him, in that he relates it only by parcels, and won't give us the whole work: This forces me, who am only the publisher, to bespeak the assistance of his friends and acquaintance to engage him to lay aside that stingy humour, and gratify the curiosity of the public at once. He pleads in excuse, that they are only private memoirs, wrote for his

own use, in a loose style, to serve as a help to his ordinary conversation *. I represented to him the good reception the first part had met with; that though calculated only for the meridian of *Grubstreet*, it was yet taken notice of by the better sort; that the world was now sufficiently acquainted with *John Bull*, and interested itself in his concerns. He answered with a smile, that he had indeed some trifling things to impart that concerned *John Bull's* relations and domestic affairs; if these would satisfy me, he gave me free leave to make use of them, because they would serve to make the history of the law-suit more intelligible. When I had looked over the manuscript, I found likewise some farther account of the composition, which perhaps may not be unacceptable to such as have read the former part.

 CHAP.

* This excuse of Sir *Humphry* can only relate to the second part, or sequel of the history. See the preface to the first part.

C H A P. I.

The character of † John Bull's mother.

JOHN had a mother, whom he loved and honoured extremely, a discreet, grave, sober, good-conditioned, cleanly old gentlewoman as ever lived; she was none of your cross-grain'd, termagant, scolding jades, that one had as good be hanged as live in the house with, such as are always censuring the conduct, and telling scandalous stories of their neighbours, extolling their own good qualities, and undervaluing those of others. On the contrary, she was of a meek spirit; and as she was strictly virtuous herself, so she always put the best construction upon the words and actions of her neighbours, except where they were irreconcilable to the rules of honesty and decency. She was neither one of your precise *pruders*, nor one of your fantastical old *bellas*, that dress themselves like girls of fifteen; as she neither wore a ruff, forehead-cloth, nor high-crowned hat; so she had laid aside feathers, flowers, and crimplt ribbons in her head-dress, furbelo-scarfs, and hooped-petticoats.

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† The church of *England*.

coats. She scorned to patch and paint, yet she loved to keep her hands and her face clean. Though she wore no flaunting laced ruffles, she would not keep herself in a constant sweat with greasy flannel: Though her hair was not stuck with jewels, she was not ashamed of a diamond cross; she was not like some ladies, hung about with toys and trinkets, tweezer-cases, pocket-glasses, and essence-bottles; she used only a gold watch and an almanack, to mark the hours and the holy-days.

Her furniture was neat and genteel, well-fancied, with a *bon goût*. As she affected not the grandeur of a state with a canopy, she thought there was no offence in an elbow-chair; she had laid aside your carving, gilding, and japan work, as being too apt to gather dirt? but she never could be prevailed upon to part with plain wainscot and clean hangings. There are some ladies that affect to smell a stink in every thing; they are always highly perfumed, and continually burning frankincense in their rooms; she was above such affectation, yet she never would lay aside the use of brooms and scrubbing-brushes, and scrupled not to lay her linen in fresh lavender.

She was no less genteel in her behaviour, well-bred, without affectation, in the due mean between one of your affected curt'sying
pieces

pieces of formality, and your romps that have no regard to the common rules of civility. There are some ladies that affect a mighty regard for their relations; *We must not eat to-day, for my uncle Tom, or my cousin Betty died this time ten years: Let's have a ball to-night, it is my neighbour such-a-one's birthday;* she looked upon all this as grimace; yet she constantly observed her husband's birthday, her wedding-day, and some few more.

Though she was a truly good woman, and had a sincere motherly love for her son *John*, yet there wanted not those who endeavoured to create a misunderstanding between them; and they had so far prevailed with him once, that he turned her out of doors *, to his great sorrow, as he found afterwards, for his affairs went on at fixes and sevens.

She was no less judicious in the turn of her conversation, and choice of her studies, in which she far exceeded all her sex; your rakes that hate the company of all sober, grave gentlewomen, would bear hers; and she would, by her handsome manner of proceeding, sooner reclaim them, than some that were more sour and reserved; she was a zealous preacher up of chastity, and *conjugal fidelity* in wives, and

G 3

by

* In the rebellion of 1641.

by no means a friend to the new-fangled doctrine of the *indispensable duty of cuckoldom*: Though she advanced her opinions with a becoming assurance, yet she never ushered them in as some positive creatures will do, with dogmatical assertions, *This is infallible; I cannot be mistaken; none but a rogue can deny it.* It has been observed, that such people are oftner in the wrong than any body.

Though she had a thousand good qualities, she was not without her faults; amongst which one might, perhaps, reckon too great lenity to her servants, to whom she always gave good counsel, but often too gentle correction. I thought I could not say less of *John Bull's* mother, because she bears a part in the following transactions.

C H A P. II.

*The character of John Bull's * sister Peg, with the quarrels that happened between master and miss in their childhood.*

JOHN had a sister, a poor girl that had been starved at nurse; any body would have

* The nation and church of *Scotland*.

have guessed miss to have been bred up under the influence of a cruel step-dame, and *John* to be the fondling of a tender mother. *John* looked ruddy and plump, with a pair of cheeks like a trumpeter; miss looked pale and wan, as if she had the green-sickness; and no wonder, for *John* was the darling, he had all the good bits, was crammed with good pullet, chicken, pig, goose, and capon, while miss had only a little oatmeal and water, or a dry crust without butter. *John* had his golden pippins, peaches, and nectarines; poor miss a crab-apple, sloe, or a blackberry. Master lay in the best apartment, with his bed-chamber towards the south sun. Miss lodged in a garret, exposed to the north wind, which shrivelled her countenance; however, this usage, though it stunted the girl in her growth, gave her a hardy constitution; she had life and spirit in abundance, and knew when she was ill-used: Now and then she would seize upon *John's* commons, snatch a leg of a pullet, or a bit of good beef, for which they were sure to go to fifty-cuffs. Master was indeed too strong for her, but miss would not yield in the least point, but even when master had got her down, she would scratch and bite like a tyger; when he gave her a cuff on the ear, she would prick him with her knitting-needle: *John* brought a great chain one day to ty

her

her to the bed-post, for which affront, miss aimed a pen-knife at his heart *. In short, these quarrels grew up to rooted aversions, they gave one another nick-names, she called him *gundy-guts*, and he called her *lousy Peg*; though the girl was a tight clever wench as any was, and through her pale looks you might discern spirit and vivacity, which made her not, indeed, a perfect beauty, but something that was agreeable. It was barbarous in parents, not to take notice of these early quarrels, and make them live better together, such domestic feuds proving afterwards the occasion of misfortunes to them both. *Peg* had, indeed, some odd humours and comical antipathy, for which *John* would jeer her. “What think you of my sister *Peg* (says he) that faints at the sound of an organ, and yet will dance and frisk at the noise of a bag-pipe? What’s that to you, *gundy-guts*, (quoth *Peg*) every body’s to chuse their own music.” Then *Peg* had taken a fancy not to say her *Pater-noster*, which made people
 imagine

* *Henry VIII.* to unite the two kingdoms under one sovereign, offered his daughter *Mary* to *James V.* of Scotland; this offer was rejected, and followed by a war: To this event probably the author alludes.

imagine strange things of her. Of the three brothers that have made such a clutter in the world, Lord *Peter*, *Martin*, and *Jack*; * *Jack* had of late been her inclinations: Lord *Peter* she detested; nor did *Martin* stand much better in her good graces, but *Jack* had found the way to her heart. I have often admired what charms she discovered in that awkward booby, till I talked with a person that was acquainted with the intrigue, who gave me the following account of it.

C H A P. III.

† *Jack's charms, or the method by which he gained Peg's heart.*

IN the first place, *Jack* was a very young fellow, by much the youngest of the three brothers, and people, indeed, wondered how such a young upstart jackanapes should grow so pert and saucy, and take so much upon him.

Jack bragged of greater abilities than other men; he was *well-gifted*, as he pretended; I need

* Love of presbytery.

† Character of the presbyterians.

need not tell you what secret influence that has upon the ladies.

Jack had a most scandalous tongue, and persuaded *Peg*, that all mankind, besides himself, were poxed by that scarlet-faced whore * *Signiora Bubonia*. “As for his brother, “*Lord Peter*, the tokens were evident on “him, blotches, scabs, and the corona: His “brother *Martin*, though he was not quite “so bad, had some nocturnal pains, which “his friends pretended were only scorbutical; “but he was sure it proceeded from a worie “cause.” By such malicious insinuations, he had possessed the lady, that he was the only man in the world, of a sound, pure, and untainted constitution: Though there were some that stuck not to say, that *Signiora Bubonia* and *Jack* railed at one another, only the better to hide an intrigue; and, that *Jack* had been found with *Signiora* under his cloak, carrying her home in a dark stormy night.

Jack was a prodigious ogler; he would ogle you the outside of his eye inward, and the white upward.

Jack gave himself out for a man of a great estate in the fortunate islands; of which the sole property was vested in his person: By
this

* The whore of *Babylon*, or the *Pope*.

his trick, he cheated abundance of poor people of small sums, pretending to make over plantations in the said islands; but when the poor wretches came there with *Jack's* grant, they were beat, mocked, and turned out of doors.

I told you that *Peg* was whimsical, and loved any thing that was particular: In that way, *Jack* was her man, for he neither thought, spoke, dressed, nor acted like other mortals: He was for your *bold strokes*; he railed at fops, though he was himself the most affected in the world; instead of the common fashion, he would visit his mistress in a mourning-cloak, band, short cuffs, and a peaked beard. He invented a way of coming into a room backwards, which he said, shewed more humility, and less affectation: Where other people stood, he sat; where they sat, he stood; when he went to court, he used to kick away the state, and sit down by his prince cheek by jole: *Confound these states* (says he), *they are a modern invention*: When he spoke to his prince, he always turned his br——ch upon him: If he was advised to fast for his health, he would eat roast-beef; if he was allowed a more plentiful diet, then he would be sure, that day, to live upon water-gruel; he would cry at a wedding, laugh and make jests at a funeral.

He

He was no less singular in his opinions; you would have burst your sides to hear him talk of politics: * “ All government (says he) is founded upon the right distribution of punishments; decent executions keep the world in awe; for that reason, the majority of mankind ought to be hanged every year. For example, I suppose the magistrate ought to pass an irreversibile sentence upon all *blue-eyed children* from the cradle †; but that there may be some shew of justice in this proceeding, these children ought to be trained up by masters appointed for that purpose, to all sorts of villany; that they may deserve their fate, and the execution of them may serve as an object of terror to the rest of mankind.” As to the giving of *pardons*, he had this singular method, ‡ That when these wretches had the rope about their necks, it should be enquired, who believed they should be hanged, and who not? The first were to be pardoned, the last hanged out-right. Such as were once pardoned, were never to be hanged afterwards

for

* Absolute predestination.

† Reprobation.

‡ Saving faith; a belief that one shall certainly be saved.

for any crime whatsoever*. He had such skill in physiognomy, that he would pronounce peremptorily upon a man's face, *That fellow* (says he), *do what he will, cannot avoid hanging; he has a hanging look.* By the same art, he would prognosticate a principality to a scoundrel.

He was no less particular in the choice of his studies; they were generally bent towards exploded chimera's, † the *perpetuum mobile*, the circular shot, philosopher's stone, silent gun-powder, making chains for fleas, nets for flies, and instruments to unravel cobwebs, and split hairs.

Thus, I think, I have given a distinct account of the methods he practised upon *Peg*. Her brother would now and then ask her, "What a devil do'st thou see in that pragmatical coxcomb, to make thee so in love with him? he is a fit match for a taylor or a shoemaker's daughter, but not for you that are a gentlewoman."—"Fancy is free (quoth *Peg*) I'll take my own way; do you take yours. I do not care for your flaunting beaus, that gang with their breasts open, and their farks over their waistcoats,

H

" that

* Election.

† The learning of the presbyterians.

“ that accost me with set speeches out of *Sid-*
 “ *ney's Arcadia*, or the *Academy of compli-*
 “ *ments*. *Jack* is a sober, grave young
 “ man; though he has none of your studied
 “ harangues, his meaning is sincere: He has
 “ a great regard to his father's will; and he
 “ that shews himself a good son, will make
 “ a good husband; besides, I know he has
 “ the original deed of conveyance to the fortu-
 “ nate islands; the others are counterfeits.”
 There is nothing so obstinate as a young lady
 in her amours; the more you cross her, the
 worse she is.

C H A P. IV.

How the relations reconciled John and his si-
ster Peg, and what return Peg made to
John's message.*

JOHAN BULL, otherwise a good-natured
 man, was very hard-hearted to his sister
Peg, chiefly from an aversion he had con-
 ceived in his infancy. While he flourished,
 kept

* The treaty of union between *England*
 and *Scotland*.

kept a warm house, and drove a plentiful trade, poor *Peg* was forced to go hawking and peddling about the streets, selling knives, scissars, and shoe-buckles; now and then carried a basket of fish to the market; sewed, spun, and knit for a livelihood, till her finger-ends were sore; and, when she could not get bread for her family, she was forced to hire them out at journey-work to her neighbours. Yet, in these her poor circumstances, she still preserved the air and mien of a gentlewoman; a certain decent pride, that extorted respect from the haughtiest of her neighbours; when she came into any full assembly, she would not yield the *pas* to the best of them. If one asked her, Are not you related to *John Bull*?

“ Yes, (says she) he has the honour to be my brother.” So *Peg*'s affairs went, till all the relations cried out shame upon *John*, for his barbarous usage of his own flesh and blood; that it was an easy matter for him to put her in a creditable way of living, not only without hurt, but with advantage to himself, being she was an industrious person, and might be serviceable to him in his way of business. *Hang her, jade,* (quoth *John*) *I cannot endure her, as long as she keeps that rascal Jack's company.* They told him, the way to reclaim her, was to take her into his house; that, by conversation, the childish humours

of their younger days might be worn out. These arguments were enforced by a certain incident. It happened, that *John* was at that time about making his * will, and entailing his estate, the very same in which *Nic. Frog* is named executor. Now, his sister *Peg*'s name being in the entail, he could not make a thorough settlement without her consent. There was, indeed, a malicious story went about, as if *John*'s last wife had fallen in love with *Jack* as he was † eating custard on horseback; that she persuaded *John* to take his sister into the house, the better to drive on the intrigue with *Jack*, concluding he would follow his mistress *Peg*. All I can infer from this story, is, that when one has got a bad character in the world, people will report and believe any thing of one, true or false. But, to return to my story; when *Peg* received

John's

* The succession to the crown having been settled by act of parliament in *England*, upon the *House of Hanover*, and no such act having passed in *Scotland*, then a separate kingdom, it was thought a proper time to complete the union which had been often attempted, and which was recommended to the *Scots* by King *William III.*

† A presbyterian lord mayor of *London*.

John's message, she huffed and stormed like
 the devil : * “ My brother *John* (quoth she)
 “ is grown wondrous kind-hearted all of a
 “ sudden, but I meikle doubt, whether it be
 “ not mair for their own conveniency than for
 “ my good ; he draws up his writs and his
 “ deeds, forsooth, and I must set my hand to
 “ them, unsight, unseen. I like the young
 “ man he has settled upon, well enough ;
 “ but I think I ought to have a valuabie con-
 “ sideration for my consent. He wants my
 “ poor little farm, because it makes a nook
 “ in his park-wall : Ye may e’en tell him,
 “ he has mair than he makes good use of ;
 “ he gangs up and down drinking, roaring,
 “ and quarrelling, through all the country-
 “ markets, making foolish bargains in his
 “ cups, which he repents when he is sober ;
 “ like a thriftless wretch, spending the goods
 “ and gear that his forefathers won with the
 “ sweat of their brows ; light come, light
 “ go, he cares not a farthing. But why
 “ should I stand surety for his contracts ; the
 “ little I have is free, and I can call it my
 “ awn ; Hame’s hame, let it be never so
 H 3 “ hamely.

* The *Scots* expressed their fears for the
 presbyterian government, and of being bur-
 dened with the *English* national debts.

“ hamely. I ken him well enough, he could
 “ never abide me, and when he has his ends,
 “ he’ll e’en use me as he did before; I’m
 “ sure I shall be treated like a poor drudge;
 “ I shall be set to tend the bairns, darn the
 “ hose, and mend the linen. Then there’s
 “ no living with that old carline his mother;
 “ she rails at *Jack*, and *Jack’s* an honest
 “ man than any of her kin: I shall be
 “ plagued with her spells and her *pater-no-*
 “ *sters*, and silly old-world ceremonies; I munt
 “ never pair my nails on a *Friday*, nor begin
 “ a journey on *Childermas-day*; and I munt
 “ stand beeking and binging, as I gang out
 “ and into the hall. Tell him he may e’en
 “ gang his get, I’ll have nothing to do with
 “ him, I’ll stay like the poor country mouse,
 “ in my awn habitation.” So *Peg* talked;
 but, for all that, by the interposition of good
 friends, and by many a bonny thing that was
 sent, and many more that were promised *Peg*,
 the matter was concluded, and *Peg* taken
 into the house, upon certain articles: One of
 which was, that she might have the freedom
 of *Jack’s* conversation*, and might take him
 for better and for worse, if she pleased; pro-
 vided always, he did not come into the house
 at

* The act of toleration.

at unseasonable hours, and disturb the rest of the old woman, *John's* mother.

C H A P. V.

Of some quarrels that happened after Peg was taken into the family †.

IT is an old observation, that the quarrels of relations are harder to reconcile than any other; injuries from friends fret and gall more, and the memory of them is not so easily obliterated. This is cunningly represented by one of your old sages, called *Æsop*, in the story of the bird, that was grieved extremely at being wounded with an arrow feathered with his own wing; as also of the oak, that let many a heavy groan, when he was cleft with a wedge of his own timber.

There was no man in the world less subject to rancour than *John Bull*, considering how often his good nature had been abused; yet I don't know, but he was too apt to hearken to tattling people, that carry tales between him and

† Quarrels about some of the articles of union, particularly the peerage.

and his sister *Peg*, on purpose to sow jealousies, and set them together by the ears. They say that there were some hardships put upon *Peg*, which had been better let alone; but it was the business of good people to restrain the injuries on one side, and moderate the resentments on the other; a good friend acts both parts, the one without the other will not do.

* The purchase-money of *Peg's* farm was ill paid; then *Peg* loved a little good liquor, and the servants shut up the wine-cellar; but for that, *Peg* found a trick, for she made a † false key. *Peg's* servants complained, that they were debarred from all manner of business, and never suffered to touch the least thing within the house †; if they offered to come into the warehouse, then strait went the yard flap over their noddle; if they ventured into the counting-room, a fellow would throw an ink-bottle at their head; if they came into the

the

* By the 15th article of the treaty of union, it was agreed, that *Scotland* should have an equivalent for several customs and excises to which she would become liable; and this equivalent was not paid.

† Run wine.

‡ By the test-act, dissenters are excluded from places and employments.

the best apartment, to set any thing there in order, they were saluted with a broom; if they meddled with any thing in the kitchen, it was odds but the cook laid them over the pate with a ladle; one that would have got into the stables, was met by two rascals, who fell to work with him, with a brush and a curry-comb; some climbing up into the coach-box, were told, that one of their companions had been there before, that could not drive; then clap went the long whip about their ears.

On the other hand, it was complained, that Peg's servants were always asking for * drink-money; that they had more than their share of the *Christmas-box*: To say the truth, Peg's lads bukkled pretty hard for that; for when they were endeavouring to lock it up, they got in their great fists, and pulled out handfuls of half-crowns, shillings, and six-pences. Others, in the scramble, picked up guineas and broad-pieces. But there happened a worse thing than all this; it was complained that Peg's servants had great stomachs, and brought so many of their friends and acquaintance to the table, that John's family was like to be eat out of house and home. Instead of regulating this matter as it

* Endeavoured to get their share of places.

it ought to be, *Peg's* young men were thrust away from the table; then there was the devil and all to do; spoons, plates and dishes flew about the room like mad; and *Sir Roger*, who was now *major-domo*, had enough to do to quiet them. *Peg* said this was contrary to agreement, whereby she was, in all things, to be treated like a child of the family; then she called upon those that had made her such fair promises, and undertook for her brother *John's* good behaviour; but, alas! to her cost she found, that they were the first and readiest to do her the injury. *John* at last agreed to this regulation; that *Peg's* * footmen might sit with his book-keeper, journeymen, and apprentices; and *Peg's* better sort of servants might sit with his footmen, if they pleased.

Then they began to order plumb-porridge and minced-pies for *Peg's* dinner: *Peg* told them she had an aversion to that sort of food; that upon forcing † down a mess of it some years ago, it threw her into a fit, till she brought

* Articles of union, whereby they could make a *Scots* commoner, but not a lord, a peer.

† Introducing episcopacy into *Scotland*, by *Charles I.*

brought it up again. Some alledged it was nothing but humour, that the same mess should be served up again for supper, and breakfast next morning; others would have made use of a horn; but the wiser sort bid let her alone, and she might take it of her own accord.

C H A P. VI.

The conversation between John Bull and his wife.

Mrs. Bull. **T**HOUGH our affairs, honey, are in a bad condition, I have a better opinion of them, since you seemed to be convinced of the ill course you have been in, and are resolved to submit to proper remedies. But when I consider your immense debts, your foolish bargains, and the general disorder of your business, I have a curiosity to know, what fate or chance has brought you into this condition.

J. Bull. I wish you would talk of some other subject; the thoughts of it make me mad; our family must have their run.

Mrs. Bull. But such a strange thing as this never happened to any of your family before: They

They have had law-suits, but though they spent the income, they never mortgaged the stock. Sure you must have some of the *Norman* or the *Norfolk* blood in you. Prithce give me some account of these matters.

J. Bull. Who could help it? There lives not such a fellow by bread, as that old *Lewis Baboon*: He is the most cheating contentious rogue upon the face of the earth. You must know, one day, as *Nic. Frog* and I were over a bottle, making up an old quarrel, the old fellow would needs have us drink a bottle of his *Champagne*, and so one after another, till my friend *Nic.* and I, not being used to such heady stuff, got bloody drunk. *Lewis*, all the while, either by the strength of his brain, or flinching his glass, kept himself sober as a judge. * “ My worthy friends, (quoth *Lewis*)
 “ henceforth let us live neighbourly; I am as
 “ peaceable and quiet as a lamb, of my own
 “ temper; but it has been my misfortune
 “ to live among quarrelsome neighbours
 “ There is but one thing can make us fall
 “ out, and that is, the inheritance of *Lord*
 “ *Strutt's estate*; I am content, for peace
 “ sake

* A treaty for preventing the balance of power in *Europe*, by a partition of the *Spanish dominions*.

“ fake, to wave my right, and submit to any
 “ expedient to prevent a law-suit; I think
 “ an *equal division* will be the fairest way.”
 “ Well moved, old *Lewis*, (quoth *Frog*) and
 “ I hope my friend *John* here will not be re-
 “ fractory.” At the same time, he clapped
 me on the back, and flabbered me all over
 from cheek to cheek, with his great tongue.
 “ Do as you please, gentlemen, (quoth I)
 “ ’tis all one to *John Bull*.” We agreed to
 part that night, and next morning to meet at
 the corner of Lord *Strutt*’s park-wall, with
 our surveying instruments; which, according-
 ly, we did. Old *Lewis* carried a chain and
 a semicircle; *Nic.* paper, rulers, and a lead
 pencil; and I followed at some distance with
 a long pole. We began first with surveying
 the meadow-grounds, afterwards we measu-
 red the corn-fields close by close; then we pro-
 ceeded to the wood-lands, the † copper and
 tin mines. All this while, *Nic.* laid down
 every thing exactly upon paper, calculated
 the acres and roods to a great nicety. When
 we had finished the land, we were going to
 break into the house and gardens, to take an
 inventory of his plate, pictures, and other
 furniture.

I

Mrs.

 † The *West-Indies*.

Mrs. *Bull*. What said Lord *Strutt* to all this ?

J. Bull. As we had almost finished our concern, we were accosted by some of Lord *Strutt's* servants : “ Hey-day ! What’s here ?
 “ What a devil’s the meaning of all these tran-
 “ grams and gimcracks, gentlemen ? What in
 “ the name of wonder are you going about,
 “ jumping over my master’s hedges, and run-
 “ ning your lines cross his grounds ? If you
 “ are at any field-pastime, you might have
 “ asked leave, my master is a civil well-bred
 “ person as any is.”

Mrs. *Bull*. What could you answer to this ?

J. Bull. Why truly my neighbour *Frog* and I were still hot-headed ; we told him his master was an old doating puppy, that minded nothing of his own business ; that we were surveying his estate, and settling it for him, since he would not do it himself. Upon this, there happened a quarrel, but we being stronger than they, sent them away with a flea in their ear. They went home and told their master *, “ My Lord (said they), there are
 “ three odd sort of fellows going about your
 “ grounds,

* This partition of the king of *Spain's* dominions was made without his consent, or even his knowledge.

“ grounds, with the strangest machines that
 “ ever we beheld in our life : I suppose they
 “ are going to rob your orchard, fell your
 “ trees, or drive away your cattle : They told
 “ us strange things, of settling your estate :
 “ One is a lusty old fellow, in a black wig,
 “ with a black beard, without teeth : There’s
 “ another thick squat fellow, in trunk-hose :
 “ The third is a little, long-nos’d thin man.
 “ (I was then lean, being just come out of a
 “ fit of sickness) I suppose it is fit to send after
 “ them, lest they carry something away.”

Mrs. *Bull*. I fancy this put the old fellow
 in a rare tweague.

J. Bull. Weak as he was, he called for
 his long *toledo*, swore and bounced about the
 room, “ ’Sdeath ! what am I come to, to be
 “ affronted so by my tradesmen ? I know the raf-
 “ cals : My barber, clothier, and linen-draper
 “ dispose of my estate ! Bring hither my blun-
 “ derbuss ; I’ll warrant ye you shall see day-
 “ light through them. Scoundrels ! dogs !
 “ the scum of the earth ! *Frog*, that was my
 “ father’s kitchen-boy, he pretend to meddle
 “ with my estate ! with my will ! Ah poor
 “ *Strutt*, what art thou come to at last ?
 “ Thou hast lived too long in the world, to
 “ see thy age and infirmity so despised : How
 “ will the ghosts of my noble ancestors receive
 “ these tidings ? They cannot, they must not

“sleep quietly in their graves.” In short, the old gentleman was carried off in a fainting fit, and, after bleeding in both arms, hardly recovered.

Mrs. Bull. Really this was a very extraordinary way of proceeding: I long to hear the rest of it.

J. Bull. After we had come back to the tavern, and taken t’other bottle of *Champagne*, we quarrelled a little about the division of the estate. *Lewis* halled and pulled the map on one side, and *Frog* and I on the other, till we had like to have torn the parchment to pieces. At last *Lewis* pulled out a pair of great taylor’s sheers, and clipped a corner for himself, which he said was a manor that lay convenient for him, and left *Frog* and me the rest to dispose of as we pleased. We were overjoyed to think *Lewis* was contented with so little, not smelling what was at the bottom of the plot. There happened, indeed, an incident that gave us some disturbance: A cunning fellow, one of my servants, two days after, peeping through the key-hole, observed that old *Lewis* had stole away our part of the map, and saw him fiddling and turning the map from one corner to the other, trying to join the two pieces together again: He was muttering something to himself, which we did not well hear, only these words, *’Tis great pity,*
’tis

his great pity! My fervant added, that he believed this had some ill meaning. I told him he was a coxcomb, always pretending to be wifer than his companions: *Lewis* and I are good friends, he is an honest fellow, and I dare fay will ftand to his bargain. The fequel of the ftory proved this fellow's fufpicion to be too well grounded; for * *Lewis* revealed our whole feeret to the deceased Lord *Strutt*, who, in reward to his treachery and revenge to *Frog* and me, fettled his whole eftate upon the prefent *Philip Baboon*. Then we underftood what he meant by piecing the map.

Mrs. Bull. And was you furprifed at this? Had not Lord *Strutt* reason to be angry? Would you have been contented to have been fo ufed yourfelf?

J. Bull. Why truly, wife, it was not eafily reconciled to the common methods, but then it was the fafhion to do fuch things: I have read of your golden age, your filver age, &c. one might juftly call this the age of

1 3

lawyers.

* It is fufpected, that the *French* king intended to take the whole, and that he revealed the feeret to the court of *Spain*, upon which the will was made in favour of his grandfon.

lawyers. There was hardly a man of substance in all the country, but had a * *counterfeit*, that pretended to his estate. As the philosophers say, that there is a duplicate of every terrestrial animal at sea, so it was in this age of the lawyers, there was at least two of every thing; nay, on my conscience, I think there were three † *Esquire Hackums* at one time. In short, it was usual for a parcel of fellows to meet, and dispose of the whole estates in the country: *This lies convenient for me, Tom; Thou wouldst do more good with that, Dick, than the old fellow that has it.* So to law they went with the true owners; the lawyers got well by it; every body else was undone. It was a common thing for an honest man, when he came home at night, to find another fellow domineering in his family, hectoring his servants, calling for supper, and pretending to go to bed to his wife. In every house you might observe two *Sofia's* quarrelling who was master. For my own part, I am still afraid of the same treatment, and that I should find somebody behind my counter selling my broad-cloth.

Mrs.

* Several pretenders at that time.

† King of Poland.

Mrs. Bull. There are a sort of fellows they call banterers, and bamboozlers, that play such tricks; but it seems, these fellows were in earnest.

J. Bull. I begin to think that *justice* is a better rule than *conveniency*, for all some people make so slight on it.

C H A P. VII.

Of the hard shifts Mrs. Bull was put to, to preserve the manor of Bullock's Hatch; with Sir Roger's method to keep off importunate duns.*

AS John Bull and his wife were talking together, they were surpris'd with a sudden knocking at the door: *Those wicked scribes*

* After the dissolution of the parliament, the sinking ministry endeavoured to support themselves, by propagating a notion, that the public credit would suffer if the lord treasurer *Godolphin* was removed: The dread of this event produced it; the monied men began to sell their shares in the bank; the governor, deputy-governor, and two directors, applied

*scriveners and lawyers, no doubt (quoth John;) and so it was: Some asking for the money he owed, and others warning to prepare for the approaching term. What a cursed life do I lead? (quoth John) Debt is like deadly sin: For God's sake, Sir Roger, get me rid of the fellows. I'll warrant you (quoth Sir Roger;) leave them to me. And indeed it was pleasant enough to observe Sir Roger's method with these importunate duns; his sincere friendship for John Bull, made him submit to many things for his service, which he would have scorned to have done for himself. * Sometimes he would stand at the door with his long staff, to keep off the duns, 'till John got out at the back-door. When the lawyers and tradesmen brought extravagant bills, Sir Roger used to bargain before-hand for leave to cut off a quarter of a yard in any part of the bill he pleased; he wore a pair of scissars in his pocket for this purpose, and would snip it off so nicely as you cannot imagine: Like a true goldsmith he kept all your holidays; there*

to the queen to prevent the change; the alarm became general, and all the public funds gradually funk. Perhaps by *Bullock's Hatch*, the author meant the crown-lands.

* Manners of the Earl of Oxford.

There was not one wanting in his calendar ; when ready money was scarce, he would set them a-telling a thousand pounds in sixpences, groats, and threepenny pieces. It would have done your heart good to have seen him charge through an army of lawyers, attorneys, clerks, and tradesmen ; sometimes, with sword in hand, at other times, nuzzling like an eel in the mud. When a fellow stuck like a bur, that there was no shaking him off, he used to be mighty inquisitive about the health of his uncles and aunts in the country ; he could call them all by their names, for he knew every body, and could talk to them in their own way. The extremely impertinent he would send away to see some strange sight, as the dragon of *Hockley in the Hole* ; or bid him call the 30th of next *February*. † Now and then you would see him in the kitchen, weighing the beef and butter, paying ready money, that the maids might not run a tick at the market, and the butchers, by bribing of them, sell damaged and light meat. Another time he would slip into the cellar, and gauge the casks. In his leisure-minutes he was posting his books, and gathering in his debts. Such frugal

† Some regulations as to the purveyance in the queen's family.

frugal methods were necessary where money was so scarce, and duns so numerous. All this while *John* kept his credit, could shew his head both at *'Change* and *Westminster-hall*; no man protested his bill, nor refused his bond; only the sharpers and the scriveners, the lawyers, and other clerks, pelted *Sir Roger* as he went along. The squinters were at it with their kennel water, for they were mad for the loss of their bubble, and that they could not get him to mortgage the manor of *Bullock's Hatch*. *Sir Roger* shook his ears, and nuzzled along, well satisfied within himself that he was doing a charitable work, in rescuing an honest man from the claws of *harpies* and *blood-suckers*. *Mrs. Bull* did all that an affectionate wife, and a good housewife, could do; yet the boundaries of virtues are indivisible lines; it is impossible to march up close to the frontiers of frugality, without entering the territories of parsimony. Your good housewives are apt to look into the minutest things; * therefore some blamed *Mrs. Bull* for new heel-piecing of her shoes, grudging a quarter of a pound of *soap* and *sand* to scour the rooms;

* Too great savings in the house of commons.

rooms; but especially, † that she would not allow her maids and apprentices the benefit of *John Bunyan*, the *London apprentices*, or the *Seven champions*, in the black-letter.

C H A P. VIII.

A continuation of the conversation between John Bull and his wife.

Mrs. Bull. **I**T is a most sad life we lead, my dear, to be so teased, paying interest for old debts, and still contracting new ones. However, I don't blame you for vindicating your honour, and chastising old *Lewis*: To curb the insolent, protect the oppressed, recover one's own, and defend what one has, are good effects of the law. The only thing I want to know, is, how you came to make an end of your money, before you finished your suit.

John Bull. I was told by the learned in the law, that my suit stood upon three firm pillars; *More money for more law, more law for*
more

† Restraining the liberty of the press by act of parliament.

more money, and no composition. More money for more law, was plain to a demonstration; for who can go to law without money? and it was plain, that any man that has money, may have law for it. The third was as evident as the other two; for what composition could be made with a rogue, that never kept a word he said?

Mrs. Bull. I think you are most likely to get out of this labyrinth by the second door, by want of ready money to purchase this precious commodity: But you seem not only to have bought too much of it, but have paid too dear for what you bought; else, how was it possible to run so much in debt, when, at this very time, the yearly income of what is mortgaged to those usurers would discharge *Hocus's* bills, and give you your belly full of law for all your life, without running one sixpence in debt? You have been bred up to business; I suppose you can cypher; I wonder you never used your pen and ink.

John Bull. Now you urge me too far; prithee, dear wife, hold thy tongue. Suppose a young heir, heedless, raw, and unexperinced, full of spirit and vigour, with a favourite passion, in the hands of money-scriveners: Such fellows are like your wire-drawing mills, if they get hold of a man's finger, they will pull in his whole body at last, 'till they squeeze

squeeze the heart, blood and guts out of him. * When I wanted money, half a dozen of these fellows were always waiting in my anti-chamber with their securities ready drawn. I was tempted with the ready, some farm or other went to pot. I received with one hand, and paid it away with the other to lawyers, that like so many hell-hounds, were ready to devour me. Then the rogues would plead poverty, and scarcity of money, which always ended in receiving ninety for the hundred. After they had got possession of my best rents, they were able to supply me with my own money. But what was worse, when I looked into the securities, there was no clause of redemption.

Mrs. Bull No clause of redemption, say you? that's hard!

John Bull. No great matter, for I cannot pay them. They had got a worse trick than that; the same man bought and sold to himself, paid the money, and gave the acquittance; the same man was butcher and grafter, brewer and butler, cook and poulterer. There is something still worse than all this; there came twenty bills upon me at once,

K

which

* Methods of preying upon the necessities of the government.

which I had given money to discharge ; I was like to be pulled to pieces by brewer, butcher, and baker ; even my herb-woman dunned me as I went along the streets. (Thanks to my friend Sir *Roger*, else I must have gone to gaol.) When I asked the meaning of this, I was told, the money went to the lawyers ; counsel won't tick, Sir ; *Hocus* was urging ; my book-keeper sat sotting all day, playing at put and all-fours : In short, by griping usurers, devouring lawyers, and negligent servants, I am brought to this pass.

Mrs. Bull. This was hard usage ! but methinks, the least reflection might have retrieved you.

John Bull. 'Tis true ; yet consider my circumstances, my honour was engaged, and I did not know how to get out ; besides, I was for five years often drunk, always muddled ; they carried me from tavern to tavern, to ale-houses and brandy shops, and brought me acquainted with such strange dogs ! † “ There goes
 “ the prettiest fellow in the world (says one) for
 “ managing a jury ; make him yours. There's
 “ another can pick you up witnesses : Ser-
 “ jeant such-a-one has a silver tongue at the
 “ bar.” I believe, in time, I should have re-
 tained

† Hiring still more troops.

tained every single person within the inns of court. The night after a trial, I treated the lawyers, their wives and daughters, with fiddles, hautboys, drums, and trumpets. I was always hot-headed; then they placed me in the middle, the attornies and their clerks dancing about me, whooping, and hollowing, "Long live *John Bull*, the glory and support of the law!"

Mrs. Bull. Really, husband, you went through a very notable course.

John Bull. One of the things that first alarmed me was * that they shewed a spite against my poor old mother. "Lord (quoth I) what makes you so jealous of a poor, old, innocent gentlewoman, that minds only her prayers, and her practice of piety; she never meddles in any of your concerns? Foh, (say they) to see a handsome, brisk, genteel, young fellow, so much governed by a doating old woman; why don't you go and suck the bubby? Do you consider she keeps you out of a good jointure? She has the best of your estate settled upon her for a rent-charge: Hang her, old thief, turn her out of doors, seize her land, and let her go to law if she dares. Soft and fair,

K 2

" gentlemen,

* Railing against the church.

“ gentlemen, (quoth I) my mother’s my mo-
 “ ther, our family are not of an unnatural
 “ temper. Though I don’t take all her ad-
 “ vice, I won’t seize her jointure; long may
 “ she enjoy it good woman, I don’t grudge
 “ it her: She allows me now and then a
 “ brace of hundreds for my law-suit; that’s
 “ pretty fair.” About this time the old gen-
 tlewoman fell ill of an † odd sort of a dis-
 temper; it began with a coldness and numb-
 ness in her limbs, which by degrees affected
 the nerves, (I think the physicians call them)
 seized the brain, and at last ended in a le-
 thargy. It betrayed itself at first in a sort of
 indifference and carelessness in all her actions,
 coldness to her best friends, and an aversion
 to stir or go about the common offices of life.
 She that was the cleanliest creature in the
 world, never shrunk now if you set a close-
 stool under her nose. She that would some-
 times rattle off her servants pretty sharply,
 now, if she saw them drink, or heard them
 talk profanely, never took any notice of it.
 * Instead of her usual charities to deserving
 persons, she threw away her money upon roar-
 ing

† Carelessness in forms and discipline.

* Disposing of some preferments to liber-
 tine and unprincipled persons.

ing swearing bullies and beggars, that went about the streets. “What is the matter with the old gentlewoman? (said every body) she never used to do in this manner.” At † last the distemper grew more violent, and threw her downright into raving fits; in which she shrieked out so loud, that she disturbed the whole neighbourhood. In her fits she called upon one *Sir William*: “† Oh! *Sir William*, thou hast betrayed me! killed me! stabbed me! sold me to the cuckold of *Doverstreet*! See, see, *Clum* with his bloody knife! seize him, seize him, stop him! Behold the fury with her hissing snakes? Where’s my son *John*! Is he well! is he well! poor man, I pity him;” and abundance more of such strange stuff, that nobody could make any thing of. I knew little of the matter; for when I enquired about her health, the answer was, that *she was in a good moderate way*. Physicians were sent for in haste: *Sir Roger*, with great difficulty, brought *Ratcliff*; *Garth* came upon the first message. There were several others

K 3

called

† The too violent clamour about the danger of the church.

‡ *Sir William*, a cant name of *Sir Humphry’s*, for lord treasurer *Godolphin*.

called in ; but, as usual upon such occasions, they differed strangely at the consultation. At last they divided into two parties, one sided with *Garth*, the other with *Ratcliff*. * *Dr. Garth*, " This case seems to me to be plainly hysterical ; the old woman is whimsical ; it is a common thing for your old women to be so ; I'll pawn my life, blisters, with the steel diet, will recover her." Others suggested strong purging and letting of blood, because she was plethoric. Some went so far as to say, the old woman was mad, and nothing would be better than a little corporal correction. *Ratcliff*, " Gentlemen, you are mistaken in this case ; it is plainly an acute distemper, and she cannot hold out three days, unless she is supported with strong cordials." I came into the room with a good deal of concern, and asked them what they thought of my mother ? " In no manner of danger, I vow to Gad, (quoth *Garth*) the old woman is hysterical, fanciful, Sir, I vow to Gad. I tell you, Sir, (says *Ratcliff*) she cannot live three days to an end, unless there is some very effectual course taken with her ; she has a malignant fever."

Then

* *Garth*, the low-church party. *Ratcliff*, high-church party.

Then fool, puppy, and blockhead, were the best words they gave. I could hardly restrain them from throwing the ink-bottles at one another's heads. I forgot to tell you, that one party of the physicians desired I would take my sister *Peg* into the house to nurse her, but the old gentlewoman would not hear of that. At last one physician asked if the lady had ever been used to take *laudanum*? Her maid answered, not that she knew; but indeed there was a *High-german* livery-man of hers, one * *Yan Ptschirnfooker*, that gave her a sort of a quack-powder. The physician desired to see it: *Nay*, says he, *there is opium in this, I am sure.*

Mrs. *Bull*. I hope you examined a little into this matter.

John Bull. I did, indeed, and discovered a great mystery of iniquity. The witnesses made oath, That they had heard some of the † *livery-men* frequently railing at their mistress. “ They said she was a troublesome fiddle-fad-
“ dle old woman, and so ceremonious, that
“ there was no bearing of her. They were so
“ plagued with bowing and cringing, as they
“ went

* *Yan Ptschirnfooker*, a bishop at that time, a great dealer in politics and physic.

† The clergy.

“ went in and out of the room, that their
 “ backs ached. She used to scold at one for
 “ his dirty shoes, at another for his greasy
 “ hair, and not combing his head : That she
 “ was so passionate and fiery in her temper,
 “ that there was no living with her ; she
 “ wanted something to sweeten her blood :
 “ That they never had a quiet night’s rest,
 “ for getting up in the morning to early sa-
 “ craments ; they wished they could find some
 “ way or another to keep the old woman quiet
 “ in her bed.” Such discourses were often
 overheard among the *livery-men*, while the
 said *Yan Ptschirnsooker* had undertook this
 matter. A maid made affidavit, “ That
 “ she had seen the said *Yan Ptschirnsooker*,
 “ one of the *livery-men*, frequently making
 “ up of medicines, and administering them to
 “ all the neighbours ; that she saw him one
 “ morning make up the powder which her
 “ mistress took ; that she had the curiosity to
 “ ask him, whence he had the ingredients ?
 “ They come (says he) from several parts of
 “ de world ; dis I have from *Geneva*, dat
 “ from *Rome*, dis white powder from *Amster-*
 “ *dam*, and de red from *Edinburgh* ; but
 “ de chief ingredient of all comes from *Tur-*
 “ *key*.” It was likewise proved, that the
 said *Yan Ptschirnsooker* had been frequent-
 ly seen at the *Rose* with *Jack*, who was
 known

known to bear an inveterate spite to his mistress: That he brought a certain powder to his mistress, which the examinant believes to be the same, and spoke the following words: “Madam, here is de grand secret van de world, my sweetening powder; it does temperate de humour, dispel de windt, and cure de vapour, it lulleth and quieteth de animal spirits, procuring rest and pleasant dreams: It is de infallible receipt for de scurvy, all heats in de bloodt, and breaking out upon de skin: It is de true bloodt-stancher, stopping all fluxes of de bloodt: If you do take dis, you will never ail any ding; it will cure you of all diseases:” And abundance more to this purpose, which the examinant does not remember.

JOHN BULL was interrupted in his story by a porter, that brought him a letter from *Nicholas Frog*, which is as follows.

C H A P. IX.

* *A copy of Nic. Frog's letter to John Bull.*

[*John Bull reads.*]

FRIEND JOHN,

WHAT scellum is this that makes thee jealous of thy old friend *Nicholas*? Hast thou forgot, how some years ago, he took thee out of the † spunging-house? [*'Tis true, my friend Nic. did so, and I thank him; but he made me pay a swinging reckoning.*] Thou beginn'st now to repent thy bargain that thou wast so fond of; and, if thou durst, would'st forswear thy own hand and seal. Thou say'st, that thou hast purchased me too great an estate already; when, at the same time, thou know'st I have only a mortgage: 'Tis true, I have possession, and the tenants own me for master; but has not *Esquire South* the equity of redemption? [*No doubt, and will redeem it very speedily; poor Nic. has only possession, eleven points of the law.*] As for

* A letter from the S — — s G — — l.

† Alluding to the revolution.

For the * turnpikes I have set up, they are for other people, not for my friend *John*; I have ordered my servant constantly to attend, to let thy carriages through without paying any thing; only I hope thou wilt not come too heavy laden to spoil my ways. Certainly I have just cause of offence against thee, my friend, for supposing it possible that thou and I should ever quarrel: What houndsfoot is it that puts these whims in thy head? Ten-thousand last of devils haul me, if I don't love thee as I love my life. [*No question, as the devil loves holy-water!*] Does not thy own hand and seal oblige thee to purchase for me, till I say it is enough? Are not these words plain? I say it is not enough. Dost thou think thy friend *Nicholas Frog* made a child's bargain? Mark the words of thy contract, *tota pecunia*, with all thy money. [*Very well! I have purchased with my own money, my childrens, and my grandchildrens money, is not that enough? Well, tota pecunia let it be, for at present I have none at all: He would not have me purchase with other people's money sure; since tota pecunia is the bargain, I think it is plain, no more money, no more purchase.*] And, whatever the

* The Dutch prohibition of trade.

the world may say, *Nicholas Frog* is but a poor man, in comparison of the rich, the opulent *John Bull*, great clothier of the world. I have had many losses, six of my best sheep were drown'd, and the water has come into my cellar, and spoil'd a pipe of my best brandy: It would be a more friendly act in thee, to carry a brief about the country to repair the losses of thy poor friend. Is it not evident to all the world, that I am still hemm'd in by *Lewis Baboon*? Is he not just upon my borders? [*And so he will be, if I purchase a thousand acres more, unless he get somebody betwixt them.*] I tell thee, friend *John*, thou hast flatterers, that persuade thee that thou art a man of business; do not believe them: If thou would'st still leave thy affairs in my hands, thou should'st see how handsomely I would deal by thee. That ever thou should'st be dazzled with the enchanted islands, and mountains of gold, that old *Lewis* promises thee! 'Dswounds! why dost thou not lay out thy money to purchase a place at court, of honest *Israel*? I tell thee, thou must not so much as think of a composition. [*Not think of a composition, that's hard indeed; I cannot help thinking of it, if I would.*] Thou complain'st of want of money; let thy wife and daughters burn the gold lace of their petticoats; sell thy fat cattle; retrench but a
 firloin

firloin of beef, and a peck-loaf in a week,
 from thy gormandizing guts. [*Retrench my
 beef, a dog! retrench my beef! then it is plain
 the rascal has an ill design upon me, he would
 starve me.*] Mortgage thy manor of Bul-
 lock's-hatch, or pawn thy crop for ten years.
 [*A rogue, part with my country seat, my patri-
 mony, all that I have left in the world, I'll see
 him hanged first.*] Why hast thou changed
 thy attorney? Can any man manage thy cause
 better for thee? [*Very pleasant! because a
 man has a good attorney, he must never make
 an end of his law-suit.*] Ah John! John!
 I wish thou knew'st thy own mind; thou art
 as fickle as the wind. I tell thee, thou hadst
 better let this composition alone, or leave it
 to thy

Loving friend,

NIC. FROG.

L CHAP.

C H A P. X.

*Of some extraordinary * things that passed at the Salutation tavern, in the conference between Bull, Frog, Esquire South, and Lewis Baboon.*

FROG had given his word, that he would meet the above mentioned company at the *Salutation*, to talk of this agreement. Though he durst not directly break his appointment, he made many a shuffling excuse; one time he pretended to be seized with the gout in his right knee; then he got a great cold, that had struck him deaf of one ear; afterwards, two of his coach-horses fell sick, and he durst not go by water, for fear of catching an ague. *John* would take no excuse, but hurried him away: “Come, *Nic.* (says he) let’s go and hear, at least, what this old fellow has to propose! I hope there’s no hurt in that.” — “Be it so, (quoth

* The treaty of *Utrecht*: The difficulty to get them to meet. When met, the *Dutch* would not speak their sentiments, nor the *French* deliver in their proposals. The *House of Austria* talked very high.

“ (quoth *Nic.*) but if I catch any harm, woe
 “ be to you; my wife and children will curse
 “ you as long as they live.” When they
 were come to the *Salutation*, *John* concluded
 all was sure then, and that he should be trou-
 bled no more with law affairs; he thought
 every body as plain and sincere as he was.
 “ Well, neighbours, (quoth he) let’s now
 “ make an end of all matters, and live peace-
 “ ably together for the time to come; if e-
 “ very body is as well inclin’d as I, we shall
 “ quickly come to the upshot of our affair.”
 And so pointing to *Frog* to say something, to
 the great surprize of all the company, *Frog*
 was seized with the dead palsy in the tongue.
John began to ask him some plain questions,
 and whooped and hollowed in his ear. “ Let’s
 “ come to the point. *Nic!* Who would’st
 “ thou have to be Lord *Strutt*? Would’st
 “ thou have *Philip Baboon*?” *Nic.* shook
 his head, and said nothing. “ Wilt thou
 “ then have Esquire *Scotch* to be Lord
 “ *Strutt*?” *Nic.* shook his head a second
 time. “ Then who the devil wilt thou have?
 “ say something or another.” *Nic.* opened
 his mouth, and pointed to his tongue, and
 cried, “ A, a, a, a!” which was as much
 as to say, he could not speak.—[*John*
Bull.] “ Shall I serve *Philip Baboon* with
 “ broad cloth, and accept of the com-
 L 2 “ position

“ position that he offers, with the liberty of
 “ his parks and fish-ponds ?” Then *Nic.* roar-
 ed like a bull, “ O, o, o, o!”—[*John Bull.*]
 “ If thou wilt not let me have them, wilt
 “ thou take them thyself ?” Then *Nic.* grin-
 ned, cackled, and laughed, till he was like to
 kill himself, and seemed to be so pleased, that
 he fell a frisking and dancing about the
 room.—[*John Bull.*] “ Shall I leave all this
 “ matter to thy management, *Nic.* and go
 “ about my business ?” Then *Nic.* got up a
 glass, and drank to *John*, thaking him by
 the hand, till he had like to have thook his
 shoulder out of joint.—[*John Bull.*] “ I
 “ understand thee, *Nic.* but I shall make thee
 “ speak before I go.” Then *Nic.* put his
 finger in his cheek, and made it cry, *Buck* ;
 which was as much as to say, I care not a
 farthing for thee.—[*John Bull.*] “ I have
 “ done, *Nic.* if thou wilt not speak, I’ll
 “ make my own terms with old *Lewis* here.”
 Then *Nic.* lolled out his tongue, and turned
 up his bum to him ; which was as much as
 to say, kiss ———

John perceiving that *Frog* would not speak,
 turns to old *Lewis* : “ Since we cannot make
 “ this obstinate fellow speak, *Lewis*, pray con-
 “ descend a little to his humour, and set down
 “ thy meaning upon paper ; that he may an-
 “ swer it in another scrap.

“ I am

“ I am infinitely sorry (quoth *Lewis*) that
 “ it happens so unfortunately ; for playing a
 “ little at cudgels t’other day, a fellow has
 “ given me such a rap over the right arm,
 “ that I am quite lame ; I have lost the use
 “ of my forefinger and my thumb, so that I
 “ cannot hold my pen.

John Bull. “ That’s all one, let me write
 “ for you.

Lewis. “ But I have a misfortune that I
 “ cannot read any body’s hand but my own.

John Bull. “ Try what you can do with
 “ your left hand.

Lewis. “ That’s impossible ; it will make
 “ such a scrawl, that it will not be legible.”

As they were talking of this matter, in came
 * *Esquire South*, all dressed up in feathers and
 ribands, stark staring mad, brandishing his
 sword, as if he would have cut off their heads ;
 crying, “ Room, room, boys, for the grand
 “ esquire of the world ! the flower of esquires !
 “ What ! covered in my presence ? I’ll crush
 “ your souls, and crack you like lice !” With
 that he had like to have struck *John Bull’s*

L 3

hat

* The archduke was now become emperor
 of *Germany*, being unanimously elected upon
 the death of *Joseph* the first.

hat into the fire; but *John*, who was pretty strong-fisted, gave him such a squeeze as made his eyes water. He went on still in his mad pranks; “When I am lord of the universe, the sun shall prostrate and adore me! Thou, *Frog*, shalt be my bailiff; *Lewis* my taylor; and thou, *John Bull*, shalt be my fool!”

All this while *Frog* laughed in his sleeve, gave the esquire t’other noggan of brandy, and clapped him on the back, which made him ten times madder.

Poor *John* stood in amaze, talking thus to himself: “Well, *John*, thou art got into rare company! One has a dumb devil, t’other a mad devil, and the third a spirit of infirmity. An honest man has a fine time on’t among such rogues. What art thou asking of them, after all? Some mighty boon, one would think! only to sit quietly at thy own fire-side. ’Sdeath, what have I to do with such fellows? *John Bull*, after all his losses and crosses, can live better without them, than they can without him. Would to God I lived a thousand leagues off them! but the devil’s in’t, *John Bull* is in, and *John Bull* must get out as well as he can.”

As he was talking to himself, he observed

Frog

Frog and old *Lewis* edging † towards one another to whisper ; so that *John* was forced to sit with his arms a-kimbo, to keep them asunder.

Some people advised *John* to blood *Frog* under the tongue, or take away his bread and butter, which would certainly make him speak ; to give Esquire *South* hellebore ; as for *Lewis*, some were for emollient pultesses, others for opening his arm with an incision-knife.

* C H A P. XI.

The apprehending, examination, and imprisonment of Jack, for suspicion of poisoning.

THE attentive reader cannot have forgot, that the story of *Van Pitschirnsoker's* powder was interrupted by a message from

† Some attempts of secret negotiation between the *French* and *Dutch*.

* The receiving the holy sacrament, as administered by the church of *England* once at least in every year, having been made a necessary qualification for places of trust and profit, many of the dissenters came to the altar

from *Frog*. I have a natural compassion for curiosity, being much troubled with the distemper myself; therefore, to gratify that uneasy itching sensation in my reader, I have procured the following account of that matter.

Van Pitschirnsfooker came off (as rogues usually do upon such occasions) by peaching his partner; and being extremely forward to bring him to the gallows, † *Jack* was accused

merely for this purpose. A bill to prevent this practice had been three times brought into the house and rejected, under the title of *A bill to prevent occasional conformity*. But the earl of *Nottingham* having brought it in a fourth time under another name, and with the addition of such clauses as were said to enlarge the toleration, and to be a farther security to the protestant succession, the whigs, whose cause the earl then appeared to espouse, were persuaded to concur; some, because they were indeed willing that the bill should pass, and others, because they believed the earl of *Oxford* would at last procure it to be thrown out. The four following chapters contain the history of this transaction.

† All the misfortunes of the church charged upon the presbyterian party,

It was the contriver of all the roguery. And, indeed, it happened unfortunately for the poor fellow, that he was known to bear a most in-terrate spite against the old gentlewoman; and consequently, that never any ill accident happened to her, but he was suspected to be at the bottom of it. If she pricked her finger, *Jack*, to be sure, laid the pin in the way; if some noise in the street disturbed her rest, who could it be but *Jack* in some of his nocturnal rambles? If a servant run away, *Jack* had debauched him: Every idle tittle-tattle that went about, *Jack* was always suspected for the author of it: However, all was nothing to this last affair, of the temperating, moderating powder.

The hue and cry went after *Jack*, to apprehend him dead or alive, wherever he could be found. The constables looked out for him in all his usual haunts; but to no purpose. Where do ye think they found him at last? Even smoaking his pipe very quietly at his brother *Martin's*; from whence he was carried with a vast mob at his heels, before the worshipful Mr. Justice *Overdo*. Several of his neighbours made oath, * that of late, the prisoner

* The manners of the dissenters changed from their former strictness.

soner had been observed to lead a very dissolute life, renouncing even his usual hypocrisy, and pretences to sobriety: That he frequented taverns and eating-houses, and had been often guilty of drunkenness and gluttony at my lord-mayor's table: That he had been seen in the company of lewd women: That he had transferred his usual care of the engrossed copy of his father's will, to bank bills, orders for tallies and debentures †: These he now affirmed with more literal truth, to be *meat, drink, and cloth, the philosopher's stone, and the universal medicine*: That he was so far from shewing his customary reverence to the will, that he kept company with those that called his father a cheating rogue, and his will a forgery ‡: That he not only sat quietly and heard his father railed at, but often chimed in with the discourse, and hugged the authors as his bosom friends: * *That instead of asking for blows at the corners of the streets, he now bestowed them as plentifully as he begged them before.* In short that he was grown a mere rake; and had no-
 thing

† Dealing much in stock-jobbing.

‡ Tale of a tub.

‡ Herding with deists and atheists.

* Tale of a tub.

ing left in him of old *Jack*, except his spite to *John Bull's* mother.

Another witness made oath, That *Jack* had been overheard bragging of a † trick he had found out to manage the *old formal jade*, as she used to call her. “Damn this numskull of mine - (quoth he) that I could not light on it sooner. As long as I go in this ragged tatter'd coat, I am so well known, that I am hunted away from the old woman's door by every barking cur about the house; they bid me defiance. There's no doing mischief as an open enemy; I must find some way or other of getting within doors, and then I shall have better opportunities of playing my pranks, besides the benefit of good keeping.”

‡ Two witnesses swore, that several years ago, there came to their mistress's door a young fellow in a tattered coat, that went by the name of *Timothy Trim*, whom they did in their conscience believe to be the very prisoner, resembling him in shape, stature, and the features of his countenance: That the

said

† Getting into places and church preferments by occasional conformity.

‡ Betraying the interests of the church when got into preferments.

said *Timothy Trim* being taken into the family, clapped their mistress's livery over his own tattered coat : That the said *Timothy* was extremely officious about their mistress's person, endeavouring by flattery and tale-bearing, to set her against the rest of the servants : Nobody was so ready to fetch any thing that was wanted, to reach what was dropt : That he used to shove and elbow his fellow-servants to get near his mistress ; especially when money was a-paying or receiving, then he was never out of the way : That he was extremely diligent about every body's business but his own. That the said *Timothy*, while he was in the family, used to be playing roguish tricks : when his mistress's back was turned, he would loll out his tongue, make mouths, and laugh at her, walking behind her like *Harlequin*, ridiculing her motions and gestures ; but if his mistress looked about, he put on a grave, demure countenance, as if he had been in a fit of devotion : That he used often to trip up stairs so smoothly that you could not hear him tread, and put all things out of order : That he would pinch the children and servants when he met them in the dark, so hard, that he left the print of his fore-finger and his thumb in black and blue, and then sink into a corner, as if nobody had done it : Out of the same malicious design, he used to lay chairs

and joint-stools in their way, that they might break their noses by falling over them: The more young and unexperienced he used to teach to talk saucily, and call names: During his stay in the family, there was much plate missing; being caught with a couple of silver spoons in his pocket, with their handles wrench'd off; he said, he was only going to carry them to the goldsmith's to be mended: That the said *Timothy* was hated by all the honest servants, for his ill-conditioned, splenetic tricks, but especially for his slanderous tongue; traducing them to their mistress, as drunkards, thieves, and whoremasters: That the said *Timothy*, by lying stories, used to set all the family together by the ears, taking delight to make them fight and quarrel; * particularly, one day sitting at table, he spoke words to this effect: "I am of opinion (quoth he) that little short fellows, such as we are, have better hearts, and could beat the tall fellows; I wish it came to a fair trial, I believe these long fellows, as fightly as they are, should find their jackets well thwack'd."

M

A parcel

* The original of the distinction in the names of *low-churchmen* and *high-churchmen*.

A parcel of tall fellows, who thought themselves affronted by the discourse, took up the quarrel, and to it they went, the tall men and the low men, which continues still a faction in the family, to the great disorder of our mistress's affairs: The said *Timothy* carried this frolic so far, that he proposed to his mistress, that she should entertain no servant that was above four foot seven inches high; and for that purpose had prepared a gage, by which they were to be measured: The good old gentlewoman was not so simple as to go into his project; she began to smell a rat. "This
 " *Trim* (quoth she) is an odd sort of a fellow,
 " methinks he makes a strange figure with that
 " ragged, tatter'd coat, appearing under his
 " livery; can't he go spruce and clean, like
 " the rest of the servants? the fellow has a
 " roguish leer with him, which I don't like
 " by any means; besides, he has such a twang
 " in his discourse, and an ungraceful way of
 " speaking through the nose, that one can
 " hardly understand him; I wish the fellow
 " be not tainted with some bad disease." The witnesses farther made oath, That the said *Timothy* lay out a-nights, and went abroad often at unseasonable hours; and it was credibly reported, he did business in another family; that he pretended to have a squeamish stomach, and could not eat at table with the
 rest

rest of the servants, though this was but a pretence to provide some nice bit for himself; that he refused to dine upon salt fish, only to have an opportunity to eat a calf's head (his favourite dish) in private; that for all his tender stomach, when he was got by himself, he could devour capons, turkies, and sirloins of beef, like a cormorant.

Two other witnesses gave the following evidence: That in his officious attendance upon his mistress, he had tried to slip a powder into her drink, and that he was once caught endeavouring to stifle her with a pillow as she was asleep: That he and *Ptschirnsooker* were often in close conference, and that they used to drink together at the *Rose*, where it seems he was well enough known by his true name of *Jack*.

The prisoner had little to say in his defence; he endeavoured to prove himself *alibi*; so that the trial turned upon this single question, Whether the said *Timothy Trim* and *Jack* were the same person? which was proved by such plain tokens, and particularly by a mole under the left pap, that there was no withstanding the evidence; therefore the worshipful Mr. Justice committed him, in order to his trial.

C H A P. XII.

How Jack's friends came to visit him in prison, and what advice they gave him.

JACK hitherto had passed in the world for a poor, simple, well-meaning, half-witted, crack-brained fellow. People were strangely surpris'd to find him in such a roguery; that he should disguise himself under a false name, hire himself out for a servant to an old gentlewoman, only for an opportunity to poison her. They said, that it was more generous to profess open enmity, than under a profound dissimulation, to be guilty of such a scandalous breach of trust, and of the sacred rights of hospitality. In short, the action was universally condemn'd by his best friends; they told him in plain terms, that this was come as a judgment upon him for his loose life, his gluttony, drunkenness, and avarice, for laying aside his father's *will* in an old mouldy trunk, and turning stock-jobber, news-monger, and busy-body, meddling with other people's affairs, shaking off his old serious friends, and keeping company with buffoons and pick-pockets, his father's sworn enemies: That he had best throw himself upon the mercy of the court; repent, and change his manners. To say

lay truth, *Jack* heard these discourses with some compunction; however, he resolved to try what his new acquaintance would do for him: They sent * *Habakkuk Slyboots*, who delivered him the following message, as the peremptory commands of his trusty companions.

Habakkuk. Dear *Jack*, I am sorry for thy misfortune: Matters have not been carried on with due secrecy; however, we must make the best of a bad bargain: Thou art in the utmost jeopardy, that is certain; hang, draw and quarter, are the gentlest things they talk of. However, thy faithful friends, ever watchful for thy security, bid me tell thee, that they have one infallible expedient left to save thy life: Thou must know, we have got into some understanding with the enemy, by the means of *Don Diego*; he assures us there is no mercy for thee, and that there is only one way left to escape; it is indeed somewhat out of the common road; however, be assured it is the result of most mature deliberation.

M 3

Jack.

* *Habakkuk Slyboots*, a certain great man who persuaded the dissenters to consent to the bill against *occasional conformity*, as being for their interest.

Jack. Prithee tell me quickly, for my heart is funk down into the very bottom of my belly.

Hab. It is the unanimous opinion of your friends, that you * *make as if you hanged yourself*; they will give it out that you are quite dead, and convey your body out of prison in a bier; and *John Bull* being busied with his law-suit, will not enquire further into the matter.

Jack. How d'ye mean, make as if I hanged myself?

Hab. Nay, you must really hang yourself up, in a true genuine rope, that there may appear no trick in it, and leave the rest to your friends.

Jack. Truly this is a matter of some concern; and my friends, I hope, will not take it ill, if I enquire a little into the means by which they intend to deliver me: A rope and a noose are no jesting matters!

Hab. Why so mistrustful? Hast thou ever found us false to thee? I tell thee, there is one ready to cut thee down.

Jack. May I presume to ask who it is that is entrusted with so important an office?

Hab. Is

* Consent to the bill against *occasional conformity*.

Hab. Is there no end of thy *how's* and *why's*? *That's a secret.*

Jack. A secret, perhaps, that I may be safely trusted with, for I am not like to tell it again. I tell you plainly, it is no strange thing for a man, before he hangs himself up, to enquire who is to cut him down.

Hab. Thou suspicious creature! if thou must needs know it, I tell thee it is * *Sir Roger*: He has been in tears ever since thy misfortune. *Don Diego* and we have laid it so, that he is to be in the next room, and before the rope is well about thy neck, rest satisfied, he will break in and cut thee down: Fear not, old boy; we'll do it, I'll warrant thee.

Jack. So I must hang myself up, upon hopes that *Sir Roger* will cut me down; and all this upon the credit of *Don Diego*: A fine stratagem indeed to save my life, that depends upon hanging, *Don Diego* and *Sir Roger*!

Hab. I tell thee there is a *mystery* in all this, my friend, a piece of profound *policy*; if thou knew'st what good this will do to the *common cause*, thy heart would leap for joy: I
am

* It was given out, that the earl of *Oxford* would oppose the occasional bill, and so lose his credit with the tories; and the dissenters did believe he would not suffer it to pass.

am sure thou would'st not delay the experiment one moment.

Jack. This is to the tune of *All for the better*. What's your cause to me, when I am hanged?

Hab. Refractory mortal! If thou wilt not trust thy friends, take what follows; know assuredly, before next full-moon, that thou wilt be hung up in chains, or thy quarters perching upon the most conspicuous places of the kingdom. Nay, I do not believe they will be contented with hanging; they talk of empaling, or breaking on the wheel; and thou chusest that, before a gentle suspending of thyself for one minute. Hanging is not so painful a thing as thou imaginest. I have spoke with several that have undergone it, they all agree it is no manner of uneasiness: Be sure thou take good notice of the symptoms, the relation will be curious. It is but a kick or two with thy heels, and a wry mouth or so: *Sir Roger* will be with thee in the twinkling of an eye.

Jack. But what if *Sir Roger* should not come? will my friends be there to succour me?

Hab. Doubt it not; I will provide every thing against to-morrow morning, do thou keep thy own secret, say nothing: I tell thee, it is absolutely necessary for the common good,

ood, that thou should'st go through this operation.

C H A P. XIII.

How Jack banged himself up by the persuasion of his friends, who broke their words, and left his neck in the noose.

JACK was a professed enemy to *implicit faith*, and yet I dare say it was never more strongly exerted, nor more basely abused, than upon this occasion. He was now with his old friends in the state of a poor disbanded officer after a peace, or rather a wounded soldier after a battle; like an old favourite of a cunning minister after the job is over; or a decayed beauty to a cloyed lover in quest of new game; or like an hundred such things that one sees every day. There were new intrigues, new views, new projects on foot; * *Jack's* life was the purchase of *Diago's* friendship,

* The earl of *Nottingham* made the concurrence of the whigs to bring in and carry this bill one of the conditions of his engaging in their cause.

ship, much good may it do him. The interest of *Hocus* and Sir *William Crawley*, which was now more at heart, made this operation upon poor *Jack* absolutely necessary. You may easily guess that his rest that night was but small, and much disturbed; however, the remaining part of his time he did not employ (as his custom was formerly) in prayer, meditation, or singing a double verse of a psalm, but amused himself with disposing of his bank-stock. Many a doubt, many a qualm, overspread his clouded imagination: "Must I
 " then (quoth he) hang up my own personal,
 " natural, individual self, with these two
 " hands! *Durus sermo!* What if I should
 " be cut down, as my friends tell me? There
 " is something infamous in the very attempt;
 " the world will conclude I had a guilty con-
 " science. Is it possible that good man, Sir
 " *Roger*, can have so much pity upon an un-
 " fortunate scoundrel, that has persecuted him
 " so many years? No, it cannot be; I do
 " not love favours that pass through *Don*
 " *Diego's* hands. On the other side, my blood
 " chills about my heart, at the thought of
 " these rogues, with their bloody hands grab-
 " bing in my guts, and pulling out my very
 " entrails: Hang it, for once I'll trust my
 " friends." So *Jack* resolved; but he had
 done more wisely to have put himself upon
 the

the trial of his country, and made his defence
 form; many things happen between the
 lip and the lip; witnesses might have been
 bribed, juries managed, or prosecution stop-
 ped. But so it was, *Jack* for this time had a
 sufficient stock of implicit faith, which led him
 to his ruin, as the sequel of the story shews.

And now the fatal day was come, in which
 he was to try this hanging experiment. His
 friends did not fail him at the appointed hour,
 to see it put in practice. *Habakkuk* brought
 him a smooth, strong, tough rope, made of
 many a ply of wholesome *Scandinavian* hemp,
 compactly twisted together, with a noose that
 slipped as glib as a bird-catcher's gin. *Jack*
 shrunk, and grew pale at first sight of it; he
 handled it, he measured it, stretched it, fixed
 it against the iron bar of the window to try
 its strength, but no familiarity could recon-
 cile him to it. He found fault with the length,
 the thickness, and the twist, nay, the very col-
 our did not please him. "Will nothing less
 than hanging serve? (quoth *Jack*) won't my
 enemies take bail for my good behaviour?
 Will they accept of a fine, or be satisfied
 with the pillory and imprisonment, a good
 round whipping, or burning in the cheek?"

Hab. Nothing but your blood will appease
 their rage; make haste, else we shall be dis-
 covered. There's nothing like surprising the
 rogues:

rogues : How they will be disappointed, when they hear that thou hast prevented their revenge, and hanged thine own self !

Jack. That's true : but what if I should do it in effigies ? Is there never an old pope or pretender to hang up in my stead ? we are not so unlike, but it may pass.

Hab. That can never be put upon Sir Roger.

Jack. Are you sure he is in the next room ? Have you provided a very sharp knife, in case of the worst ?

Hab. Dost take me for a common liar ? be satisfied, no damage can happen to your person ; your friends will take care of that.

Jack. Mayn't I quilt my rope ? It galls my neck strangely : Besides, I don't like this running knot, it holds too tight, I may be stifled all of a sudden.

Hab. Thou hast so many *if's* and *and's*—Prithee dispatch ; it might have been over before this time.

Jack. But now I think on't, I would fain settle some affairs, for fear of the worst : Have a little patience.

Hab. There's no having patience, thou art such a faintling, silly creature.

Jack. O thou most detestable, abominable *passive obedience* ! did I ever imagine I should become thy votary, in so pregnant an instance !

stance! How will my brother *Martin* laugh at this story, to see himself out-done in his own calling! He has taken the doctrine, and left me the practice.

No sooner had he uttered these words, but like a man of true courage, he tied the fatal cord to the beam, fitted the noose, and mounted upon the bottom of a tub, the inside of which he had often graced in his prosperous days. This footstool *Habakkuk* kicked away, and left poor *Jack* swinging, like the pendulum of *Paul's* clock. The fatal noose performed its office, and with the most strict ligature squeezed the blood into his face, till it assumed a purple dye. While the poor man heav'd from the very bottom of his belly for breath, *Habakkuk* walked with great deliberation into both the upper and lower room, to acquaint his friends, who received the news with great temper, and with jeers and scoffs instead of pity. " *Jack* has hanged himself! (quoth they) let us go and see how the poor rogue swings." Then they called Sir *Roger*. " Sir *Roger*, (quoth *Habakkuk*) *Jack* has hanged himself, make haste and cut him down." Sir *Roger* turned first one ear, and then t'other, not understanding what he said.

Hab. I tell you *Jack* has hanged himself up.
 Sir *Roger*. Who's hanged?

N

Hab.

Hab. Jack.

Sir Roger. I thought this had not been hanging day.

Hab. But the poor fellow has hanged himself.

Sir Roger. Then let him hang. I don't wonder at it, the fellow has been mad these twenty years. With this he slunk away.

Then *Jack's* friends began to hunch and push one another. *Why don't you go and cut the poor fellow down? Why don't you? And why don't you? Not I, (quoth one;)* *Not I, (quoth another;)* *Not I, (quoth a third;)* *he may hang 'till doomsday before I relieve him.* Nay, it is credibly reported that they were so far from succouring their poor friend in this his dismal circumstance, that *Ptschirnsooker* and several of his companions went in and pulled him by the legs, and thumped him on the breast. Then they began to rail at him for the very thing which they had advised and justified before, *viz.* his getting into the old gentlewoman's family, and putting on her livery. The keeper, who performed the last office, coming up, found *Jack* swinging, with no life in him; he took down the body gently and laid it on a bulk, and brought out the rope to the company. "This, gentlemen, is the rope that hang'd *Jack*; what must be done with it?" Upon which they ordered it to be laid
among

among the curiosities * of *Gresham-College*, and it is called *Jack's rape* to this very day. However, *Jack*, after all, had some small tokens of life in him, but lies at this time past hope of a total recovery, with his head hanging on one shoulder, without speech or motion. The coroner's inquest supposing him to be dead, brought him in *non compos*.

C H A P. XIV.

The conference between Don Diego and John Bull.

DURING the time of the foregoing transactions, *Don Diego* was entertaining *John Bull*.

D. Diego. I hope, Sir, this day's proceeding will convince you of the sincerity of your old friend *Diego*, and the treachery of *Sir Roger*.

J. Bull. What's the matter now?

D. Diego. You have been endeavouring, for several years, to have justice done upon

N 2

that

* Since removed with the royal society into *Crane-Court* in *Fleetstreet*.

that rogue *Jack*, but what through the remissness of constables, justices, and packed juries, he has always found the means to escape.

J. Bull. What then?

D. Diego. Consider then, who is your best friend, he that would have brought him to condign punishment, or he that has saved him. By my persuasion *Jack* had hanged himself, if *Sir Roger* had not cut him down.

J. Bull. Who told you that *Sir Roger* has done so?

D. Diego. You seem to receive me coldly; methinks my services deserve a better return.

J. Bull. Since you value yourself upon hanging this poor scoundrel, I tell you, when I have any more hanging-work, I'll send for thee: I have some better employment for *Sir Roger*: In the mean time, I desire the poor fellow may be looked after. When he first came out of the north country into my family, under the pretended name of *Timothy Trim*, the fellow seemed to mind his loom and his spinning-wheel, 'till somebody turned his head; then he grew so pragmatical, that he took upon him the government of my whole family: I could never order any thing, within or without doors, but he must be always giving his counsel, forsooth: Nevertheless,

less, tell him, I will forgive what is past; and if he would mind his business for the future, and not meddle out of his own sphere, he will find, that *John Bull* is not of a cruel disposition.

D. Diego. Yet all your skilful physicians say, that nothing can recover your mother, but a piece of *Jack's* liver boiled in her soup.

J. Bull. Those are quacks: My mother abhors such cannibals food: She is in perfect health at present: I would have given many a good pound to have had her so well sometime ago. * There are indeed two or three old troublesome nurses, that, because they believe I am tender-hearted, will never let me have a quiet night's rest with knocking me up: "Oh, Sir, your mother is taken extremely ill! she is fallen into a fainting fit! she has a great emptiness, wants sustenance!" This is only to recommend themselves for their great care: *John Bull*, as simple as he is, understands a little of a pulse.

* New clamours about the danger of the church.

C H A P. XV.

The sequel of the meeting at the * *Salutation,*

WHERE I think I left *John Bull*, sitting between *Nic. Frog* and *Lewis Baboon*, with his arms a-kimbo, in great concern to keep *Lewis* and *Nic.* afunder. As watchful as he was, *Nic.* found the means now and then to steal a whisper, and by a cleanly conveyance under the table, to slip a short note into *Lewis's* hand; which *Lewis* as slyly put into *John's* pocket, with a pinch or a jog, to warn him what he was about. *John* had the curiosity to retire into a corner, to peruse these † *billet-doux* of *Nic's*; wherein he found that *Nic.* had used great freedoms, both with his interest and reputation. One contained these words: “ Dear *Lewis*, thou
 “ see'st clearly that this blockhead can never
 “ bring his matters to bear: Let thee and
 “ me talk to-night by ourselves at the *Rose*,
 “ and I'll give thee satisfaction.” Another was thus expressed: “ Friend *Lewis*, has thy
 “ sense

* At the congress of *Utrecht*,

† Some offers of the *Dutch* at that time, in order to get the negotiation into their hands.

“ sense quite forsaken thee, to make *Bull*
 “ such offers ? Hold fast, part with nothing,
 “ and I will give thee a better bargain, I’ll
 “ warrant thee.”

In some of his billets he told *Lewis*, “ That
 “ *John Bull* was under his guardianship ;
 “ that the best part of his servants were at
 “ his command ; that he could have *John*
 “ gagged and bound whenever he pleased by
 “ the people of his own family.” In all these
 epistles, blockhead, dunce, ass, coxcomb, were
 the best epithets he gave poor *John*. In others
 he threatened, * “ That he, Esquire *South*,
 “ and the rest of the tradesmen, would lay
 “ *Lewis* down upon his back and beat out his
 “ teeth, if he did not retire immediately,
 “ and break up the meeting.”

I fancy I need not tell my reader, that *John*
 often changed colour as he read, and that his
 fingers itched to give *Nic.* a good slap on the
 chops ; but he wisely moderated his choleric
 temper. “ I saved this fellow (quoth he)
 “ from the gallows, when he ran away from
 “ his last master †, because I thought he was
 “ harshly

* Threatening that the *Allies* would carry
 on the war, without the help of the *English*.

† The King of *Spain*, whose yoke the

“ harshly treated; but the rogue was no
 “ sooner safe under my protection, than he
 “ began to lye, pilfer and steal like the de-
 “ vil †. When I first set him up in a warm
 “ house, he had hardly put up his sign, when
 “ he began to debauch my best customers
 “ from me. † Then it was his constant prac-
 “ tice to rob my fish-ponds, not only to feed
 “ his family, but to trade with the fish-mon-
 “ gers: I conniv’d at the fellow, till he be-
 “ gan to tell me, that they were his as much
 “ as mine. In my manor of † *Eastbeap*,
 “ because it lay at some distance from my
 “ constant inspection, he broke down my fen-
 “ ces, robb’d my orchards, and beat my ser-
 “ vants. When I used to reprimand him for
 “ his tricks, he would talk saucily, lye, and
 “ brazen it out, as if he had done nothing
 “ amiss. Will nothing cure thee of thy
 “ pranks, *Nic*? (quoth I) I shall be forced,
 “ sometime or other, to chastise thee. The
 “ rogue got up his kane and threatened me,
 “ and

Dutch threw off with the assistance of the
English.

††† Complaints against the *Dutch*, for en-
 croachment in trade, fishery, *East-Indies*,
 &c. The war with the *Dutch*, on these ac-
 counts.

and was well thwack'd for his pains. But I think his behaviour; at this time, worst of all; after I have almost drowned myself to keep his head above water, he would leave me sticking in the mud, trusting to his goodness to help me out. After I have beggar'd myself with his troublesome lawsuit, with a pox to him, he takes it in mighty dudgeon, because I have brought him here to end matters amicably, and because I won't let him make me over, by deed and indenture, as his lawful cully; which, to my certain knowledge, he has attempted several times. But, after all, canst thou gather grapes from thorns? *Nic.* does not pretend to be a gentleman; he is a tradesman, a self-seeking wretch: But how camest thou to bear all this, *John*? The reason is plain; thou conferrest the benefits, and he receives them; the first produces love, and the last ingratitude. Ah! *Nic. Nic.* thou art a damn'd dog, that's certain; thou know'st too well that I will take care of thee; else thou would'st not use me thus. I won't give thee up, it is true; but as true as it is, thou shalt not sell me, according to thy laudable custom." While *John* was deep in this soliloquy, *Nic.* broke out into the following protestation.

GENTLE-

GENTLEMEN,

“ I believe every body here present will allow me to be a very just and disinterested person. My friend *John Bull* here is very angry with me, forsooth, because I will not agree to his foolish bargains. Now, I declare to all mankind, I should be ready to sacrifice my own concerns to his quiet; but the care of his interest, and that of the honest * *tradesmen* that are embark'd with us, keeps me from entering into this composition. What shall become of those poor creatures? The thoughts of their impending ruin disturbs my night's rest; therefore, I desire they may speak for themselves. If they are willing to give up this affair, I shan't make two words of it.”

John Bull begged him to lay aside that immoderate concern for him; and, withal, put him in mind, that the interest of those *tradesmen* had not sat quite so heavy upon him some years ago, on a like occasion. *Nic.* answered little to that, but immediately pulled out a boatswain's whistle. Upon the first whiff, the *tradesmen* came jumping into the room, and began to surround *Lewis*, like so many yelping

* The *Allies*.

ing curs about a great boar ; or, to use a mo-
 after simile, like duns at a great Lord's le-
 ce, the morning he goes into the country.
 One pulled him by his sleeve, another by the
 skirt, a third hollowed in his ear : They be-
 gan to ask him for all that had been taken
 from their forefathers, by stealth, fraud, force,
 or lawful purchase : Some asked for manors,
 others for acres, that lay convenient for them ;
 that he would pull down his fences, level his
 ditches : All agreed in one common demand,
 that he should be purged, sweated, vomited,
 and starved, till he came to a sizeable bulk,
 like that of his neighbours : One modestly
 asked him leave to call him brother : *Nic.
 Frog* demanded two things, to be his porter
 and his fishmonger, to keep the keys of his
 gates, and furnish the kitchen. *John's* sister
Peg, only desired that he would let his ser-
 vants sing psalms a-sundays. Some descended
 even to the asking of old clothes, shoes, and
 boots, broken bottles, tobacco pipes, and ends
 of candles.

Monfieur *Bull*, (quoth *Lewis*) you seem to
 be a man of some breeding : For God's sake,
 use your interest with these messieurs, that they
 would speak but one at once ; for if one had
 a hundred pair of hands, and as many tongues,
 he cannot satisfy them all at this rate. *John*
 begged they might proceed with some me-
 thod ;

thod; then they stopped all of a sudden, and would not say a word. If this be your play, (quoth *John*) that we may not be like a quaker's dumb meeting, let us begin some diversion; what d'ye think of rouly-pouly, or a country dance? what if we should have a match at foot-ball? I am sure we shall never end matters at this rate.

C H A P. XVI.

How John Bull and Nic. Frog settled their accompts.

J. Bull. **D**URING this general cessation of talk, what if you and I, *Nic.* should enquire how money-matters stand between us?

Nic. Frog. With all my heart, I love exact dealing; and let *Hocus* audite; he knows how the money was disbursed.

J. Bull. I am not much for that at present; we will settle it better between ourselves: Fair and square, *Nic.* keeps friends together. There have been laid out, in this law-suit, at one time, 36,000 pounds, and 40,000 crowns: In some cases I, in others you, bear the greatest proportion.

Nic.

Nic. Right: I pay three fifths of the greatest number, and you pay two thirds of the lesser number: I think this is fair and square, as you call it.

John. Well, go on.

Nic. Two thirds of 36,000 pounds, are 24,000 pounds for your share, and there remains 12,000 for mine. Again, of the 40,000 crowns, I pay 24,000, which is three fifths, and you pay only 16,000, which is two fifths; 24,000 crowns make 6000 pounds; and 16,000 crowns make 4000 pounds; 12,000 and 6,000 make 18,000; 24,000 and 4000 make 28,000. So there are 18,000 pounds to my share of the expences, and 28,000 to yours.

After *Nic.* had bambouzed *John* a while about the 18,000 and the 28,000, *John* called for counters; but what with flight of hand, and taking from his own score, and adding to *John's*, *Nic.* brought the balance always on his own side.

J. Bull. Nay, good friend *Nic.* though I am not quite so nimble in the fingers, I understand cyphering as well as you. I will produce you my accompts one by one, fairly writ out of my own books: And here I begin with the first. You must excuse me if I do not pronounce the law terms right.

[*John reads.*]

For the *expences ordinary* of the suits, fees to judges, puny judges, lawyers innumerable of all sorts.

Of *extraordinaries*, as follows *per accompt*:

To Esquire South's accompt for <i>post terminum</i>	-	-	-	-	-
To ditto for <i>non est factum</i>	-	-	-	-	-
To ditto for <i>noli prosequi's, discontinuance, and retraxit</i>	-	-	-	-	-
For writs of error	-	-	-	-	-
Suits of <i>conditions unperformed</i>	-	-	-	-	-
To Hocus for <i>dedimus potestatem</i>	-	-	-	-	-
To ditto for a <i>capias ad computandum</i>	-	-	-	-	-
To Frog's new tenants <i>per accompt</i> to Hocus, for <i>audita querela's</i>	-	-	-	-	-
On the said accompt for writs of <i>ejectment and distringas</i>	-	-	-	-	-
To Esquire South's quota for a return of a <i>non est invent. and nulla habet bona</i>	-	-	-	-	-
To ——— for a pardon <i>in forma pauperis</i>	-	-	-	-	-
To Jack for a <i>melius inquirendum</i> upon a <i>felo de se</i>	-	-	-	-	-
To coach-hire	-	-	-	-	-
For treats to juries and witnesses	-	-	-	-	-

John having read over his articles, with the respective sums, brought in *Frog* debtor to him upon the balance

- 3382 12 00

Then

Then *Nic. Frog* pulled his bill out of his pocket, and began to read :

Nicholas Frog's accompt.

Remains to be deducted out of the former accompt :

Paid by *Nic. Frog* for his share of the ordinary expences of the suit

To *Hocus* for entries of a *rege inconsulto*

To *John Bull's* nephew for a *venire facias*, the money not yet all laid out

The coach-hire for my wife and family, and the carriage of my goods during the time of this law-suit

For the extraordinary expences of feeding my family during this law-suit

To Major *Ab.*

To Major *Will.*

And summing all up, found due upon the balance by *John Bull* to *Nic. Frog* 09 04 06

John Bull. As for your *venire facias*, I have paid you for one already ; in the other, I believe you will be nonsuited. I'll take care of my nephew myself. Your *coach-hire* and family charges are most unreasonable deductions ; at that rate, I can bring in any man in the world my debtor. But who the devil

are those two *majors* that consume all my money? I find they always run away with the balance in all accompts.

Nic. Frog. Two very honest gentlemen, I assure you, that have done me some service. To tell you plainly, Major *Ab.* denotes thy greater *ability*, and Major *Will.* thy greater *willingness* to carry on this law-suit. It was but reasonable thou should'st pay both for thy *power* and thy *positiveness*.

J. Bull. I believe I shall have those two honest *majors* discount on my side in a little time.

Nic. Frog. Why all this higgling with thy friend about such a paltry sum? Does this become the generosity of the noble and rich *John Bull*? I wonder thou art not ashamed. Oh *Hocus! Hocus!* where art thou? It used to go another-guise manner in thy time. When a poor man has almost undone himself for thy sake, thou art for fleecing him, and fleecing him; is that thy conscience, *John*?

J. Bull. Very pleasant, indeed! It is well known thou retainest thy lawyers by the year, so a fresh law-suit adds but little to thy expences; * they are thy customers; I hardly
ever

* The money spent in *Holland* and *Flanders*.

ever sell them a farthing's worth of any thing : Nay, thou hast set up an eating-house, where the whole tribe of them spend all they can rap or run. If it were well reckoned, I believe thou gettest more of my money, than thou spendest of thy own ; however, if thou wilt needs plead poverty, own, at least, that thy accompts are false.

Nic. Frog. No, marry wont I, I refer myself to these honest gentlemen, let them judge between us. Let *Esquire South* speak his mind, whether my accompts are not right, and whether we ought not to go on with our law-suit.

J. Bull. Consult the butchers about keeping of *Lent*. Dost think that *John Bull* will be tried by * *Piepowders* ? I tell you, once for all, *John Bull* knows where his shoe pinches :

O 3

None

* Court of *Piepowders* (*curia pedis pulverizati*) is a court of record incident to every fair ; whereof the steward is judge, and the trial is by merchants and traders in the fair. It is so called, because it is most usual in the summer, and because of the expedition in hearing causes ; for the matter is to be done, complained of, heard and determined the same day, that is, before the dust goes off the feet of the plaintiffs and defendants.

None of your esquires shall give him the law, as long as he wears this trusty weapon by his side, or has an inch of broad cloth in his shop.

Nic Frog. Why there it is, you will be both judge and party; I am sorry thou discoverest so much of thy head-strong humour before these strange gentlemen: I have often told thee it would prove thy ruin some time or other: Let it never be said, that the famous *John Bull* has departed in despite of court.

J. Bull. And will it not reflect as much on thy character, *Nic.* to turn barretter in thy old days; a stirrer up of quarrels amongst thy neighbours? I tell thee, *Nic.* some time or other thou wilt repent this.

But *John* saw clearly he should have nothing but wrangling, and that he should have as little success in settling his accompts, as ending the composition. Since they will needs overload my shoulders (quoth *John*) I shall throw down the burden with a squash amongst them, take it up who dares: A man has a fine time of it amongst a combination of sharpers, that vouch for one another's honesty. *John*, look to thyself; old *Lewis* makes reasonable offers; when thou hast spent the small pittance that is left, thou wilt make a glorious figure, when thou art brought to live upon *Nic. Frog*, and Esquire *South's* generosity
and

and gratitude : If they use thee thus when they want thee, what will they do when thou wantest them? I say again, *John*, look to thyself.

JOHN wisely stifled his resentments, and told the company, that in a little time he should give them law, or something better.

All. * Law! law! Sir, by all means, What is twenty-two poor years towards the finishing a law-suit? For the love of God, more law, Sir!

J. Bull. Prepare your demands; how many years more of law do you want, that I may order my affairs accordingly? In the meanwhile farewell.

C H A P. XVII.

† *How John Bull found all his family in an uproar at home.*

NIC. FROG, who thought of nothing but carrying *John* to the market, and these

* Clamours for continuing the war.

† Clamours about the danger of the succession.

there disposing of him as his own proper goods, was mad to find that *John* thought himself now of age to look after his own affairs. He resolved to traverse this new project, and to make him uneasy in his own *family*. He had corrupted or deluded most of his servants into the most extravagant conceits in the world; that their master was run mad, and wore a dagger in one pocket, and poison in the other; that he had sold his wife and children to *Lewis*, disinherited his heir, and was going to settle his estate upon a *parish-boy*; that if they did not look after their master, he would do some very mischievous thing. When *John* came home, he found a more surprising scene than any he had yet met with, and that you will say was somewhat extraordinary.

He called his cook-maid *Betty*, to bespeak his dinner: *Betty* told him, "That she begged his pardon, she could not dress dinner till she knew what he intended to do with his will." "Why, *Betty*, (quoth *John*) thou art not run mad, art thou? My will at present is to have dinner." "That may be (quoth *Betty*), but my conscience won't allow me to dress it, till I know whether you intend to do righteous things by your heir." "I am sorry for that, *Betty* (quoth *John*); I must find somebody else then." — Then he called *John* the barber. "Before I
" begin

begin (quoth *John*), I hope your honour won't be offended, if I ask you, Whether you intend to alter your will? If you won't give me a positive answer, your beard may grow down to your middle for me." " 'Tgad so it shall (quoth *Bull*), for I will never trust my throat in such a mad fellow's hands." Where's *Dick* the butler? " Look ye (quoth *Dick*), I am very willing to serve you in my calling, d'ye see; but there are strange reports, and plain dealing is best, d'ye see; I must be satisfied if you intend to leave all to your nephew, and if *Nic. Frog* is still your executor, d'ye see; if you will not satisfy me as to these points, you may drink with the ducks." " And so I will (quoth *John*), rather than keep a butler that loves my heir better than myself." *Hob* the shoemaker, and *Prieket* the taylor, told him, " They would most willingly serve him in their several stations, if he would promise them never to talk with *Lewis Baboon*, and let *Nicholas Frog*, linen-draper, manage his concerns; that they could neither make shoes nor clothes to any that were not in good correspondence with their worthy friend *Nicholas*."

J. Bull. Call *Andrew* my journey-man. How goes affairs, *Andrew*? I hope the devil has not taken possession of thy body too.

Andrew.

Andrew. No, Sir; I only desire to know what you would do if you were dead?

J. Bull. Just as other dead folks do, *Andrew.*—This is amazing! *Aside.*

Andrew. I mean, if your nephew shall inherit your estate?

J. Bull. That depends upon himself. I shall do nothing to hinder him.

Andrew. But will you make it sure?

J. Bull. Thou meanest, that I should put him in possession, for I can make it no surer without that; he has all the law can give him.

Andrew. Indeed possession, as you say, would make it much surer; they say, it is eleven points of the law.

JOHN began now to think that they were all enchanted; he enquired about the age of the moon; if *Nie.* had not given them some intoxicating *potion*, or if old mother *Jenisa* was still alive? “No, o’ my faith (quoth *Har-* “*ry*), I believe there is no *potion* in the case, “but a little *aurum potable*. You will have “more of this by and by.” He had scarce spoke the word, when another friend of *John’s* ascolded him after the following manner:

“Since those worthy persons, who are as “much concerned for your safety as I am, “have employed me as their orator, I desire “to know whether you will have it by way “of

of *sylogism, enthymem, dilemma, or sorites?*

JOHN now began to be diverted with their extravagance.

J. Bull. Let's have a *sorites* by all means; though they are all new to me.

Friend. It is evident to all who are versed in history, that there were two *sisters* that played the whore two thousand years ago: Therefore it plainly follows, that it is not lawful for *John Bull* to have any manner of intercourse with *Lewis Baboon*: If it is not lawful for *John Bull* to have any manner of intercourse (correspondence, if you will, that is much the same thing) then, *à fortiori*, it is much more unlawful for the said *John* to make over his wife and children to the said *Lewis*: If his wife and children are not to be made over, he is not to wear a dagger and ratsbane in his *pockets*: If he wears a dagger and ratsbane, it must be to do mischief to himself, or somebody else: If he intends to do mischief, he ought to be under guardians, and there is none so fit as myself, and some other worthy persons, who have a commission for that purpose from *Nic. Frog*, the executor of his will and testament.

J. Bull. And this is your *sorites*, you say? — With that he snatched a good tough oaken cudgel, and began to brandish it; then
happy

happy was the man that was first at the door crowding to get out, they tumbled down stairs; and it is credibly reported some of them dropped very valuable things in the hurry, which were picked up by others of the family.

That any of these rogues (quoth *John*) should imagine I am not as much concerned as they about having my affairs in a settled condition, or that I would wrong my heir for I know not what! Well, *Nic.* I really cannot but applaud thy diligence; I must own this is really a pretty sort of a trick, but it shan't do thy business for all that.

C H A P. XVIII.

* *How Lewis Baboon came to visit John Bull, and what passed between them.*

I think it is but ingenuous to acquaint the reader, that this chapter was not wrote by Sir *Humphrey* himself, but by another very able *pen* of the university of *Grub-Street*.

JOHN

* *Private negotiations about Dunkirk.*

JOHN had (by some good instructions given him by Sir *Roger*) got the better of his choleric temper, and wrought himself up to a great steadiness of mind, to pursue his own interest through all impediments that were thrown in the way: He began to leave off some of his old acquaintance, his roaring and bullying about the streets; he put on a serious air, knit his brows, and, for the time, had made a very considerable progress in politics, considering that he had been kept a stranger to his own affairs. However, he could not help discovering some remains of his nature, when he happened to meet with a foot-ball, or a match at cricket; for which Sir *Roger* was sure to take him to task. *John* was walking about his room, with folded arms, and a most thoughtful countenance: His servant brought him word that one *Lewis Baboon* below wanted to speak with him. *John* had got an impression, that *Lewis* was so deadly cunning a man, that he was afraid to venture himself alone with him: At last he took heart of grace; "Let him come up (quoth he), it is but sticking to my point, and he can never over-reach me."

Lewis Baboon. Monsieur *Bull*, I will frankly acknowledge, that my behaviour to my neighbours has been somewhat uncivil, and I believe you will readily grant me, that I have

met with usage accordingly. I was fond of back-sword and cudgel-play from my youth, and I now bear in my body many a black and blue gash and scar, God knows. I had as good a warehouse, and as fair possessions, as any of my neighbours, though I say it; but a contentious temper, flattering servants, and unfortunate stars, have brought me into circumstances that are not unknown to you. These my misfortunes are heightened by domestic calamities. That I need not relate. I am a poor batter'd old fellow, and I would willingly end my days in peace: But, alas! I see but small hopes of that, for every new circumstance affords an argument to my enemies to pursue their revenge; formerly I was to be banged because I was too strong, and now, because I am too weak to resist; I am to be brought down when too rich, and oppressed when too poor. *Nic. Frog* has used me like a *scoundrel*; you are a gentleman, and I freely put myself in your hands, to dispose of me as you think fit.

J. Bull. Look you, Master *Baboon*, as to your usage of your neighbours, you had best not dwell too much upon that chapter; let it suffice at present, that you have been met with: You have been rolling a great stone up-hill all your life, and at last it has come tumbling down, till it is like to crush you to pieces:
Plain-

Plain-dealing is best. If you have any particular mark, Mr. *Baboon*, whereby one may know when you fib, and when you speak truth, you had best tell it me, that one may proceed accordingly; but since at present I know of none such, it is better that you should trust me, than that I shall trust you.

L. Baboon. I know of no particular mark of veracity amongst us tradesmen, but interest; and it is manifestly mine not to deceive you at this time; you may safely trust me, I can assure you.

J. Bull. The trust I give is in short this, I must have something in hand, before I make the bargain, and the rest before it is concluded.

L. Baboon. To shew you I deal fairly, name your something.

J. Bull. I need not tell thee, old boy; thou can't guess.

L. Baboon. * *Ecclestown-castle*, I'll warrant you, because it has been formerly in your family! Say no more, you shall have it.

J. Bull. I shall have it to m'own self?

L. Baboon. To thy n'own self.

J. Bull. Every wall, gate, room, and inch of *Ecclestown-castle*, you say?

L. Baboon. Just so.

J. Bull. Every single stone of *Ecclesdown-castle*, to m'own self, speedily!

L. Baboon. When you please; what needs more words?

J. Bull. But tell me, old boy, hast thou laid aside all thy *equivocals* and *mentals* in this case?

L. Baboon. There's nothing like matter of fact; seeing is believing.

J. Bull. Now thou talk'st to the purpose; let us shake hands, old boy. Let me ask thee one question more; What hast thou to do to meddle with the affairs of my family? to dispose of my estate, old boy?

L. Baboon. Just as much as you have to do with the affairs of *Lord Strutt*.

J. Bull. Ay, but my trade, my very being was concerned in that.

L. Baboon. And my interest was concerned in the other: But let us both drop our pretences; for I believe it is a moot point, whether I am more likely to make a *Master Bull*, or you a *Lord Strutt*.

J. Bull. Agreed, old boy; but then I must have security that I shall carry my broad cloth to market, old boy.

L. Baboon. That you shall: *Ecclesdown-castle! Ecclesdown!* remember that: Why would'st

would'st thou not take it when it was offered thee some years ago?

J. Bull. I would not take it, because they told me thou would'st not give it me.

L. Baboon. How could Monsieur *Bull* be so grossly abused by downright nonsense? they that advised you to refuse, must have believed I intended to give, else why would they not make the experiment? But I can tell you more of that matter than perhaps you know at present.

J. Bull. But what say'st thou as to the esquire, *Nic. Frog*, and the rest of the tradesmen? I must take care of them.

L. Baboon. Thou hast but small obligations to *Nic.* to my certain knowledge: He has not used me like a gentleman.

J. Bull. *Nic.* indeed is not very nice in your punctilio's of ceremony; he is clownish, as a man may say: Belching and calling of names have been allowed him, time out of mind, by prescription: But, however, we are engaged in one common cause, and I must look after him.

L. Baboon. All matters that relate to him, and the rest of the plaintiffs in this law-suit, I will refer to your justice.

C H A P. XIX.

Nic. Frog's letter to John Bull; wherein he endeavours to vindicate all his conduct with relation to John Bull and the law-suit.

NIC. perceived now that his cully had e-
 loped, that *John* intended henceforth to
 deal without a broker; but he was resolved to
 leave no stone unturned to recover his bubble:
 Amongst other artifices, he wrote a most obli-
 ging letter, which he sent him printed in a
 fair character.

* “DEAR FRIEND,

“WHEN I consider the late ill usage I
 “ have met with from you, I was re-
 “ flecting what it was that could provoke you
 “ to it; but, upon a narrow inspection into
 “ my conduct, I can find nothing to reproach
 “ myself with, but too partial a concern for
 “ your interest. You no sooner set this com-
 “ position a-foot, but I was ready to comply,
 “ and prevented your very wishes; and the
 “ affair might have been ended before now,
 “ had it not been for the greater concerns of
 “ Esquire

* Substance of the states letter.

“ Esquire *South*, and the other poor creatures
“ embarked in the same common cause, whose
“ safety touches me to the quick. You
“ seemed a little jealous that I had dealt un-
“ fairly with you in money-matters, ’till it
“ appeared by your own accompts, that there
“ was something due to me upon the balance.
“ Having nothing to answer to so plain a de-
“ monstration, you began to complain as if I
“ had been familiar with your reputation ;
“ when it is well known, not only I, but the
“ meanest servants in my family, talk of you
“ with the utmost respect. I have always, as
“ far as in me lies, exhorted your servants and
“ tenants to be dutiful ; not that I any way
“ meddle in your domestic affairs, which were
“ very unbecoming for me to do. If some of
“ your servants express their great concern
“ for you in a manner that is not so very po-
“ lite, you ought to impute it to their extra-
“ ordinary zeal, which deserves a reward, ra-
“ ther than a reproof. You cannot reproach
“ me for want of success at the *Salutation*,
“ since I am not master of the passions and
“ interests of other folks. I have beggared
“ myself with this law-suit, undertaken mere-
“ ly in complaisance to you ; and if you would
“ have had but a little patience, I had still
“ greater things in reserve, that I intended to
“ have done for you. I hope, what I have
“ said

“ said will prevail with you to lay aside your
 “ unreasonable jealousies, and that we may
 “ have no more meetings at the *Salutation*,
 “ spending our time and money to no pur-
 “ pose. My concern for your welfare and
 “ prosperity, almost makes me mad. You
 “ may be assured I will continue to be

“ Your affectionate

“ Friend and servant,

NIC. FROG.”

John received this with a good deal of
sang froid; *transat* (quoth *John*) *cum cate-*
ris erroribus: He was now at his ease; he saw
 he could now make a very good bargain for
 himself, and a very safe one for other folks.
 “ My shirt (quoth he) is near me, but my
 “ skin is nearer: Whilst I take care of the
 “ welfare of other folks, no body can blame
 “ me, to apply a little balsam to my own
 “ sores. ’Tis a pretty thing, after all, for a
 “ man to do his own business; a man has
 “ such a tender concern for himself, there’s
 “ nothing like it. This is something better,
 “ I trow, than for *John Bull* to be standing
 “ in the market, like a great drayhorse, with
 “ *Frog’s* paws upon his head. *What will you*
 “ give

give me for this beast? *Serviteur Nic. Frog,*
 you may kiss my backside if you please.
 Though *John Bull* has not read your *Ari-*
stotle's, Plato's and *Machiavel's*, he can
 see as far into a mill-stone as another." With that *John* began to chuckle and laugh, till he was like to have burst his sides.

C H A P. XX.

* *The discourse that pass'd between Nic. Frog and Esquire South, which John Bull overheard.*

JOHN thought every minute a year till he got into *Ecclesdown-castle*; he repairs to the *Salutation*, with a design to break the matter gently to his partners; before he entered, he overheard *Nic.* and the esquire in a very pleasant conference.

Esq. South. Oh the ingratitude and injustice of mankind! that *John Bull*, whom I have honoured with my friendship and protection

* Negotiations between the emperor and the *Dutch* for continuing the war, and getting the property of *Flanders*.

tection so long, should finch at last, and pretend that he can disburse no more money for me! that the family of the *Souths*, by his sneaking temper, should be kept out of their own!

Nic. Frog. An't like your worship, I am in amaze at it; I think the rogue should be compelled to his duty.

Esq. South. That he should prefer his scandalous pelf, the dust and dregs of the earth, to the prosperity and grandeur of my family!

Nic. Frog. Nay, he is mistaken there too; for he would quickly lick himself whole again by his vails. 'Tis strange he should prefer *Philip Baboon's* custom to *Esquire South's*.

Esq. South. As you say, that my clothier, that is to get so much by the purchase, should refuse to put me in possession; did you ever know any man's tradesman serve him so before?

Nic. Frog. No, indeed, an't please your worship, it is a very unusual proceeding; and I would not have been guilty of it for the world. If your honour had not a great stock of moderation and patience, you would not bear it so well as you do.

Esq. South. It is most intolerable, that's certain, *Nic.* and I will be revenged.

Nic.

Nic. Frog. Methinks it is strange, that *Philip Baboon's* tenants do not all take your honour's part, considering how good and gentle a master you are.

Esq. South. True, *Nic.* but few are sensible of merit in this world: It is a great comfort, to have so faithful a friend as thyself in so critical a juncture.

Nic. Frog. If all the world should forsake you, be assured *Nic Frog* never will; let us stick to our point, and we'll manage *Bull*, I'll warrant ye.

Esq. South. Let me kiss thee, dear *Nic.* I have found one honest man among a thousand at last.

Nic. Frog. If it were possible, your honour has it in your power to wed me still closer to your interest.

Esq. South. Tell me quickly, dear *Nic.*

Nic. Frog. You know I am your tenant; the difference between my lease and an inheritance is such a trifle, as I am sure you will not grudge your poor friend; that will be an encouragement to go on; besides it will make *Bull* as mad as the devil: you and I shall be able to manage him then to some purpose.

Esq. South. Say no more; it shall be done, *Nic.* to thy heart's content.

John all this while was listening to this comical dialogue, and laughed heartily in his sleeve,

sleeve, at the pride and simplicity of the equire, and the sly roguery of his friend *Nic*. Then of a sudden bolting into the room, he began to tell them, that he believed he had brought *Lewis* to reasonable terms, if they would please to hear them.

Then they all bawled out aloud, *No composition! long live Esquire South and the law*. As *John* was going to proceed, some roared, some stamped with their feet, others stop their ears with their fingers.

Nay, gentlemen, (quoth *John*) if you will but stop proceeding for a while, you shall judge yourselves whether * *Lewis's* proposals are reasonable.

All. Very fine indeed! stop proceeding and so lose a term!

J. Bull. Not so neither, we have something by way of advance, he will put us in possession of his manor and castle of *Ecclestone* down.

Nic. Frog. What dost thou talk of *us*, thou meanest *thyself*.

J. Bull. When *Frog* took possession of any thing, it was always said to be for *us*, and why may not *John Bull* be *us*, as well as

* Proposals for cessation of arms, and delivery of *Dunkirk*.

as *Nic. Frog* was *us*? I hope *John Bull* is no more confined to singularity than *Nic. Frog*; or, take it so, the constant doctrine that thou hast preached up for many years, was, that thou and I are one; and why must we be supposed two in this case, that were always one before? 'Tis impossible that thou and I can fall out, *Nic.* we must trust one another; I have trusted thee with a great many things, prithee trust me with this one trifle.

Nic. Frog. That principle is true in the main, but there is some *speciality* in this case, that makes it highly inconvenient for *us both*.

J. Bull. Those are your jealousies, that the common enemies sow between us; how often hast thou warned me of those rogues, *Nic.* that would make us mistrustful of one another!

Nic. Frog. This *Ecclestown-castle* is only a bone of contention.

J. Bull. It depends upon you to make it so, for my part I am as peaceable as a lamb.

Nic. Frog. But do you consider the unwholesomeness of the air and soil, the expences of reparations and servants? I would scorn to accept of such a quagmire.

J. Bull. You are a great man, *Nic.* but in my circumstances, I must be e'en content to take it as it is.

Q

Nic.

Nic. Frog. And you are really so silly, as to believe the old cheating rogue will give it you?

J. Bull. I believe nothing but matter of fact, I stand and fall by that, I am resolved to put him to it.

Nic. Frog. And so relinquish the hope-fullest cause in the world, a claim that will certainly in the end make thy fortune for ever.

J. Bull. Wilt thou purchase it, *Nic*? thou shalt have a lumping pennyworth; nay, rather than we should differ, I'll give thee something to take it off my hands.

Nic. Frog. If thou would'st but moderate that hasty, impatient temper of thine, thou should'st quickly see a better thing than all that. What should'st thou think to find old *Lewis* turned out of his paternal estates, and the mansion-house of * *Claypool*? Would not that do thy heart good, to see thy old friend *Nic. Frog.* Lord of *Clay-pool*? then thou and thy wife and children should walk in my gardens, buy toys, drink lemonade, and now and then we should have a country dance.

J. Bull. I love to be plain, I'd as lieve see myself in *Ecclestown-castle*, as thee in *Clay-pool*.

* *Clay-pool, Paris, Lutetia.*

pool. I tell you again, *Lewis* gives this as a pledge of his sincerity; if you won't stop proceeding to hear him, I will.

C H A P. XXI.

† *The rest of Nick's fetches to keep John out of Ecclestown-castle.*

WHEN *Nic.* could not dissuade *John* by argument, he try'd to move his pity; he pretended to be sick and like to die, that he should leave his wife and children in a starving condition, if *John* did abandon him; that he was hardly able to crawl about the room, far less capable to look after such a troublesome business as this law-suit; and therefore begged that his good friend would not leave him. When he saw that *John* was still inexorable, he pulled out a case-knife, with which he used to snicker-snee, and threatened to cut his own throat. Thrice he aimed the knife to his wind-pipe with a most determined threatening air. "What signi-

Q 2

" lies

† Attempts to hinder the cessation, and taking possession of *Dunkirk*.

“ lies life (quoth he) in this languishing con-
 “ dition? It will be some pleasure that my
 “ friends will revenge my death upon this
 “ barbarous man, that has been the cause of
 “ it.” All this while *John* looked sedate and
 calm, neither offering in the least to snatch the
 knife, nor stop his blow, trusting to the ten-
 derness *Nic.* had for his own person: When
 he perceived that *John* was immovable in his
 purpose, he applyed himself to *Lewis*.

“ Art thou (quoth he) turned bubble in
 “ thy old age, from being a sharper in thy
 “ youth? What occasion hast thou to give
 “ up *Ecclestown-castle* to *John Bull*? his
 “ friendship is not worth a rush; give it me,
 “ and I’ll make it worth thy while. If thou
 “ dislikest that proposition, keep it thyself;
 “ I’d rather thou should’st have it, than he.
 “ If thou hearkenest not to my advice, take
 “ what follows; Esquire *South* and I will go
 “ on with our law-suit in spite of *John Bull*’s
 “ teeth.”

L. Baboon. Monsieur *Bull* has used me
 like a gentleman, and I am resolved to make
 good my promise, and trust him for the con-
 sequences.

Nic. Frog. Then I tell thee thou art an old
 doating fool.— With that, *Nic.* bounced
 up with a spring equal to that of one of your
 nimblest tumblers or rope-dancers, and fell
 foul

foul upon *John Bull*, to snatch the * cudgel he had in his hand, that he might thwack *Lewis* with it : *John* held it fast, so that there was no wrenching it from him. At last 'Squire *South* buckled too, to assist his friend *Nic* : *John* hauled on one side, and they two on the other ; sometimes they were like to pull *John* over ; then it went all of a sudden again on *John's* side ; so they went see-sawing up and down, from one end of the room to the other. Down tumbled the tables, bottles, glasses, and tobacco-pipes : The wine and the tobacco were all spilt about the room, and the little fellows were almost trod under foot, till more of the tradesmen joining with *Nic*. and the 'squire, *John* was hardly able to pull against them all, yet would he never quit hold of his trusty cudgel, which, by the contrary force of two so great powers, † broke short in his hands. *Nic*. seized the longer end, and with it began to bastinado old *Lewis*, who had slunk into a corner, waiting the event of this squabble. *Nic*. came up to him with an insolent menacing air, so that the old fellow was forced to skuttle out of the room, and retire behind a dung-cart. He called to

Q 3

Nic.

* The army.

† The separation of the army.

Nic. “Thou insolent jackanapes! Time was,
 “when thou durst not have used me so; thou
 “now takest me uprovided, but, old and in-
 “firm as I am, I shall find a weapon by and
 “by to chastise thy impudence.”

When *John Bull* had recovered his breath, he began to parly with *Nic.* “Friend *Nic.*
 “I am glad to find thee so strong after thy
 “great complaints: Really thy motions, *Nic.*
 “are pretty vigorous for a consumptive man.
 “As for thy worldly affairs, *Nic.* if it can
 “do thee any service, I freely make over to
 “thee this *profitable law-suit*, and I desire all
 “these gentlemen to bear witness to this my
 “act and deed. Yours be all the gain, as
 “mine has been the charges; I have brought
 “it to bear finely: However, all I have laid
 “out upon it goes for nothing, thou shalt have
 “it with all its appurtenances; I ask nothing
 “but leave to go home.”

Nic. Frog. The council are fee'd, and all things prepared for a trial, thou shalt be forced to stand the issue: It shall be pleaded in thy name as well as mine: Go home if thou can'st; the gates are shut, * the turnpikes locked, and the roads barricadoed.

J. Bull.

* Difficulty of the march of part of the army to *Dunkirk*.

J. Bull. Even these very ways, *Nic.* that thou toldest me, were as open to me as thyself: If I can't pass with my own equipage, what can I expect for my goods and wag-gons? I am deny'd passage through those very grounds that I have purchased with my own money; however, I am glad I have made the experiment, it may serve me in some stead.

JOHN BULL was so overjoyed that he was going to take possession of *Ecclestown*, that nothing could vex him. "*Nic.* (quoth he) I am just a-going to leave thee, cast a kind look upon me at parting."

NIC. looked sour and grim, and would not open his mouth.

J. Bull. "I wish thee all the success that thy heart can desire, and that these honest gentlemen of the long robe may have their belly-full of law."

NIC. could stand it no longer, but flung out of the room with disdain, and beckoned the lawyers to follow him.

J. Bull. "B'uy, b'uy *Nic.* not one poor smile at parting! won't you shake your day-day, *Nic.* b'uy *Nic!*" With that *John* marched out of the common road cross the country, to take possession of *Ecclestown*.

C H A P. XXII.

Of the great joy that John expressed when he got possession of Eccleisdown.

WHEN John had got into his castle, he seemed like *Ulysses* upon his plank after he had been well foused in salt-water; who (as *Homer* says) was as glad as a judge going to sit down to dinner, after hearing a long cause upon the bench. I dare say *John Bull's* joy was equal to that of either of the two; he skipped from room to room; ran up stairs and down stairs, from the kitchen to the garrets, and from the garrets to the kitchen; he peeped into every cranny; sometimes he admired the beauty of the architecture, and the vast solidity of the mason's work; at other times he commended the symmetry and proportion of the rooms. He walked about the gardens; he bathed himself in the canal, swimming, diving, and beating the liquid element, like a milk-white swan. The hall resounded with the sprightly violin, and the martial hautboy. The family tript it about and capered, like *hailstones bounding from a marble floor*. Wine, ale, and *October*, flew about

about as plentifully as kennel-water: Then a frolic took *John* in the head, to call up some of *Nic. Frog's pensioners* that had been so mutinous in his family.

J. Bull. Are you glad to see your master in *Ecclesdown-castle*?

All. Yes, indeed, Sir.

J. Bull. Extremely glad?

All. Extremely glad, Sir.

J. Bull. Swear to me that you are so.

Then they began to damn and sink their souls to the lowest pit of hell, if any person in the world rejoiced more than they did.

J. Bull. Now hang me if I don't believe you are a parcel of perjured rascals; however, take this bumper of *October* to your master's health.

Then *John* got upon the battlements, and looking over, he called to *Nic. Frog*:

“ How d'ye do, *Nic*? D'ye see where I
 “ am, *Nic*? I hope the cause goes on swim-
 “ mingly, *Nic*? When dost thou intend to
 “ go to *Claypool*, *Nic*? Wilt thou buy there
 “ some high heads of the newest cut for my
 “ daughters? How comest thou to go with
 “ thy arm tied up? Has old *Lewis* given thee a
 “ rap over thy fingers-ends? Thy weapon was
 “ a good one when I wielded it, but the butt-
 “ end remains in my hands. I am so busy in
 “ packing

" packing up my goods, that I have no time
 " to talk with thee any longer. It would do
 " thy heart good to see what waggon-loads I
 " am preparing for market. If thou wantest
 " any good office of mine, for all that has
 " happened, I will use thee well *Nic.* B'uy
 " *Nic.*"

POST-

POSTSCRIPT.

IT has been disputed amongst the *literati* of *Grubstreet*, whether Sir *Humphrey* proceeded any farther into the history of *John Bull*. By diligent enquiry we have found the titles of some chapters, which appear to be a continuation of it; and are as follow.

Chap. I. *How John was made angry with the articles of agreement. How he kicked the parchment through the house, up stairs and down stairs, and put himself in a great heat thereby.*

Chap. II. *How in his passion he was going to cut off Sir Roger's head with a cleaver. Of the strange manner of Sir Roger's escaping the blow, by laying his head upon the dresser.*

Chap. III. *How some of John's servants attempted to scale his house with rope-ladders; and how many unfortunately dangled in the same.*

Chap. IV. *Of the methods by which John endeavoured to preserve the peace amongst his*

his neighbours : How he kept a pair of still-yards to weigh them ; and by diet, purging, vomiting, and bleeding, tried to bring them to equal bulk and strength.

Chap. V. *Of false accounts of the weights given in by some of the journeymen ; and of the New-market tricks, that were practised at the still-yards.*

Chap. VI. *How John's new journeymen brought him other-guise accounts of the still-yards.*

Chap. VII. *How Sir * Swain Northy was, by bleeding, purging, and a steel-diet, brought into a consumption ; and how John was forced afterwards to give him the gold cordial.*

Chap. VIII. *How † Peter Bear was overfed, and afterwards refused to submit to the course of physic.*

Chap. IX. *How John pampered Esquire South with tit-bits, till he grew wanton ; how he got drunk with Calabrian wine, and longed for Sicilian beef, and how John carried him thither in his barge.*

Chap. X. *How the esquire, from a soul-feeder, grew dainty : How he longed for mango's, spices, and Indian birds-nests, &c.*

* King of Sweden.

† Czar of Muscovy.

&c. and could not sleep but in a Chintz bed.

Chap. XI. *The esquire turned tradesman; how he set up a * China-shop over against Nic. Frog.*

Chap. XII. *How he procured Spanish flies to blister his neighbours, and as a provocative to himself. As likewise, how he ravished Nic. Frog's favourite daughter.*

Chap. XIII. *How Nic. Frog bearing the girl squeak, went to call John Bull as a constable: Calling of a constable no preventive of a rape.*

Chap. XIV. *How John rose out of his bed in a cold morning, to prevent a duel between Esquire South and Lord Strutt; how, to his great surprise, he found the combatants drinking Geneva in a brandy-shop, with Nic's favourite daughter between them. How they both fell upon John, so that he was forced to fight his way out.*

Chap. XV. *How John came with his constable's staff to rescue Nic's daughter, and break the esquire's china-ware.*

Chap. XVI. *Commentary upon the Spanish proverb, Time and I against any two; or, advice to dogmatical politicians, exemplified*

R

in

* The Ostend company.

in some new affairs between John Bull and Lewis Baboon.

Chap. XVII. *A discourse of the delightful game of quadrille. How Lewis Baboon attempted to play a game solo in clubs, and was beasted: How John called Lewis for his king, and was afraid that his own partner should have too many tricks: And how the success and skill of quadrille depends upon calling a right king.*

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F I N I S.

ALPHABETICAL KEY.

B Umbo,	P — d — t D — — — fs.
Boy George,	T — — — nf — d.
Bullhall,	St. J — — — s' s.
Bullies,	The guards.
Cow-herds,	Privateers.
Cracket-Island,	M — — — ca.
Gamekeepers,	{ The army, and some- times generals of the army.
Gilbert,	Sir G — — — t E — — — t.
Hubble-Bubble,	D — of N — — — — stle.
Jack,	Pr — byt — y.
John Bull,	E — — — — d.
— — — — mother,	C — — — h of E — — — — d.
— — — — wife,	The p — — — — — t.
Jowler,	E — of Ch — — — — m.
James,	Mr. Ofw — d.
Lawyer,	K — J — — — s VI.
Lands of Bullhall and Thistledown,	{ E — — — d and S — — — — d.
Lewis Baboon,	K — of Fr — — — — .
	Lord

The K E Y.

Lord Strutt,	K— of Sp—.
Laird of Likepelf,	E— of H—n.
MARGARET,	S—d.
Mr. Maclurchar,	{ The young Chevalier and sometimes the Highland militia.
Major-domo,	President.
Nicholas Frog,	The D—h.
Nurse,	Lord H—dw—k.
Peg's garret,	The H—l—ds.
Rousterdivel,	The H—v—ns.
Sir Thomas,	K— G—.
Squire Geoffrey,	The Chevalier.
Squire South,	The Emperor.
Sculler,	Monf. Thuroc.
Small-Trash,	H— W—r.
Suckfist,	Col. W—tf—n.
Thomists and Geof- frites,	{ Wh—s & J—bites.
West Common,	The I—d—s.
Weavers,	The army, or militia.
Watermen,	The navy, or failors.

THE
H I S T O R Y

O F

THE PROCEEDINGS

In the CASE of

M A R G A R E T,

Commonly called P E G,

Only lawful Sister to JOHN BULL, Esq;

W I T H

A C O M P L E T E K E Y.

L O N D O N :

Printed for M. COWPER, *Pater-noster Row.*

M, DCC, LXXVI.

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T H E
H I S T O R Y
O F
THE PROCEEDINGS
I N T H E
CASE of MARGARET,
Commonly called P E G.

THERE being no history with which every learned reader is better acquainted in general, than that of John Bull, and his sister Peg, we shall spend very little time in preambles or introductions to the present story. John and his sister lived many a day, as every body knows, in the two adjoining houses which were left them by their father; and it matters not now to say, how much better John was lodged than his sister,
and

and how many more improvements he had made on his farm. We never heard of any difference arising between them on this score farther than some jeers and taunts between the blackguards or scullions of either house who generally got themselves bloody noses upon the occasion. As for Peg herself, she was so far from complaining of her portion, that nothing could offend her more, than to be told out of doors, that she was not the richest heiress in the world.

It is not easy to say, whether it was *Peg's* own temper, the badness of her subject, or the perpetual vexations she met with in her youth, that hindered her from minding her domestic affairs, so much as she should have done: but the truth is, that matters were often at sixes and sevens in her family; and her brother and she, to be sure, never could agree about any thing. All the world knows how long their affairs remained in confusion, merely because they would not employ the same attorney, and what an aversion they had to trust their affairs in common to any single person. Peg would say, “ I’ll have nothing
 “ to do with John’s lawyers; whoever I em-
 “ ploy must mind nobody’s affairs but mine.
 “ I have as good a right to be served as he;
 “ and if he pays more than I do, let it be
 “ for services done to himself, not for cheat-
 “ ing

“ing me.” John again would swagger and swear, and said, that whoever Peg employed, must be a dirty lousy fellow; and would come to no terms, unless she would take a steward of his chusing.

It happened, however, at last, as every careful peruser of history knoweth, that every man of the law, within the reach almost of John’s knowledge, from the master down to the merest clerk-boy, died, or left the country, or disappeared some how or other, and John was obliged for once to put his papers in the hands of his sister’s lawyer, a very book-learned man, as many people affirm even unto this day. But be this as it will, Peg had the vanity to boast, that though her lawyer now lived in John’s own house, yet it was she who gave that clod-pated, pock-puddened numskull the lawyer at last; and that this same man of the law, if he had any gratitude to the house where he was born and bred, would not let her be wronged, or forget her boys, when the stock came to be divided. She trusted too that they would remember themselves, and if John or the attorney pretended to cheat them, she talked no less than of beating out both their brains. John was really at bottom a good-natured fellow, and knowing himself to be an overmatch for Peg, did not mind her peevish

humours a rush; but he would not have liked her attorney for all that, if he had not expected to manage him, by keeping him in his own house, and by putting clerks about him, who never had any connexion with Margaret, or her hungry loons, from whom, the truth is, he expected no good.

This affair being settled between the brother and sister, as well as could be expected with so little cordiality on either side, their common concerns began to be a little better managed, and people got some rest in their beds; for they did not harbour vagrants, as they used to do, to hamstring one another's cattle, to tear up the young planting, and knock out one another's brains. They differed, it is true, now and then about this thing, and t'other thing, and about attornies and agents, but it always happened that they employed the same person, even whilst John wished Peg at the bottom of the sea; and Peg sometimes let devilish knocks at him, and the attorney too, when she was jealous of either.

John, however, was so far lucky, that his sister concurred with him very readily in most things of consequence, such as turning of Squire Geoffry, and the like; insomuch, that he himself was not readier to part with this squire, as every body knows, although he

claimed

claimed kindred to Peg as the foster-mother of his family; and to make all sure, she put her hand as freely to the perpetual contract with Sir Thomas. This was a gentleman in the neighbourhood, of an ancient family, and a pretty fortune of his own: but he was willing to take charge of the brother and sister's affairs, provided he had some security that he should not be turned out the next moment, which was accordingly granted in the form of a contract, by virtue of which he continues to manage their business in a very orderly regular manner.

This, however, did not hinder some persons in both families, who had a hankering after Squire Geoffry, from being mad enough once and again, to think of restoring him to his office, in spite of John's and Margaret's teeth. They came sometimes from the garret, and from the cellar, roaring about this matter; and when they got drunk, they imagined nothing was easier to be done. The truth is, that if Peg had not been firm to the contract, John would often have been forebeshet.

Although the intention of this proem is far from being to give a full account of the affairs of these two families, preceding the present transaction, much less to censure or run down other grave historians,

who have published to the learned world any part of their history; yet we cannot altogether pass in silence some few mistakes in the otherwise elaborate work of the celebrated Sir Humphry Poleworth, bred in the learned university of Grubstreet. An historian, in our opinion, should be as mindful of truth in whatever he may occasionally mention, as he is in the main series of his story. For want of attending to this truth, the learned Sir Humphry has unguardedly misrepresented the nature of John's and Peg's agreement, together with the causes which induced John to solicit that accommodation. Many learned writers of that time say, that the question was not then about John's heir, but about the old story the choice of a steward, and the perpetual contract we have mentioned. But be this as it will, there was no disagreement between John and his sister on either of these points, as Sir Humphry Poleworth himself doth acknowledge. On the contrary, if John roared against Squire Geoffry, Peg tore her cap and her apron in perfect rage, and was like cat and dog with the same squire and his gang, all the time they were in the management of John's business.

The truth of the matter was, that about the time of the great change we have mentioned, many people in both families said, although

though we agree now, we may quarrel hereafter, and it will be a plaguy thing to come into the hands of different lawyers and attornies again, who never fail to set people by the ears for their own advantage. John and Margaret have lived so much better, since they came to employ the same lawyer, that it is a pity they should ever be in danger of parting their affairs. The lands of Bull-hall and Thistledown were never intended for two farms, the same hedge and ditch surround them, and whilst they continue in one, they may be kept with half the looking after; for nobody can be half so troublesome to either family, as they have formerly been to one another. For these, and many more reasons, an agreement was thought upon; and though it went somewhat against John's stomach, yet he coaxed and flattered sister Peg till he obtained her consent, not to come to live in his house, as the learned Sir Humphry Poleworth has erroneously related, but merely to shut up her own compting-room, dismiss her overseers, and send her clerks to John's house, to manage their affairs together with his accountant, under the inspection of the great lawyer, as he was then called, in both families.

This agreement, however, did not please every body. The servants who attended Peg's

compting-room, were angry at the loss of their vails. The upper servants, as everybody knows, mismanaged their part of the business somehow or other, and many people said, that the house looked melancholy when the windows of the compting-room just looking to the south were shut up. In short, you could hear a buzz in every corner of the house that the whole family was undone for ever. Jack himself grew very sulky, and for the turn of a straw would have played the devil. But what will not a little time do? Peg's people got gradually into better humour; Jack's zeal for the contract made with Sir Thomas, soon reconciled him to whatever was connected with it, and Peg's affairs went on so tolerably, that every body was pacified, except the few who would be pleased with nothing, unless Squire Geoffry was restored.

About the time that Sir Thomas came to the office, there was a great turmoil in John's kitchen and back-yard, and in Peg's garret where indeed she harboured a parcel of curious fellows, who did not mind the business of the family much, but would run you up and down stairs like lightning, sometimes get into the kitchen, the hen-roost, or back-yard, and snap up any thing their fingers could lay hold of. Their mistress seldom got any rest from them, except a day's work now and then

in harvest, or the use of their children to keep the crows from the barley. But the true secret of her liking to them was, that they were excellent fellows at a brawl, and you had as good put your head in the fire, as meddle with their mistress when they were by. But Peg could never get them to agree among themselves till very lately, nor always behave very respectfully to herself; insomuch, that both John and she were often tempted to condemn that garret. But things must have their course, the garret gentry have sometimes done excellent service, and there is nobody John himself likes better to see about him, when Lewis Baboon or Lord Strutt come about cudgel-playing, which is a very common case, as the learned Sir Humphry has very well observed.

C H A P. I.

How John quarrelled with Lewis Baboon about dividing the West-common; and how instead of going to law, they came to blows.

WE account it a great oversight in the learned Sir Humphry Polesworth, that he has taken little or no notice of John Bull's land-

land-estate, his orchards, kitchen-grounds and corn-fields, of which he has always possessed an excellent share; but considered him as a simple clothier and mechanic, merely because he sent goods of this, and many other kinds to market. John got ready money, it is true, by the sale of his goods; but the great support of his family, and what made him be treated like a gentleman in the neighbourhood, was the excellent manor of Bull-hall, where John and his posterity may find capon and bacon, and beef and mutton, without being obliged to any body, and without cringing to Lord Strutt, Squire South, or Lewis Baboon, for their custom. It is true that the devil possessed John sometimes to that degree, that you could not hear a word from him but about his cloth, and his iron-work, and his pottery, and you would see him up to the eyes in clay, or steeped, till he grew all the colours of the rainbow, in dyer's stuff, or smoaked and roasted like a smith, or fallow, and greasy like a weaver, and no gentleman could keep company with him, or any of his family, such low habits they had got behind the counter, or in the work-shop. "Mind your customers, lads," says John; "Good words go far; be civil to every body, whether they buy or no;" and then he would rap out a string of proverbs, such as, "A penny

" penny

penny saved is a penny got ; fast bind, fast find," and so forth ; in short, if it had not been for some good blood which John had all in his veins, he must have grown a mere meddling, sneaking, designing, mercenary rogue, as ever was.

There was, as we say, blood, or something else, that kept up John's spirit, so that he went abroad now and then, in as gentlemanlike a way as could be wished, although Lewis Baboon used to sit sneering at him sometimes as he passed ; but John minded him not a rush.

Now it happened, that John and Lewis had about the same time taken in part of the west-common, and though their fields were not contiguous, they could not agree about their marches. Many meetings they had to settle them, but all to no purpose, for none of them knew well what he would be at. The common saying was, that Lewis wanted to get all the land in the country, and you needed only to tell John so much, in order to put him in a downright foam of rage and fury. However this be, Lewis tormented his own people enough, with making them stick in posts and stakes in different parts of the common ; and when John asked him what he meant, he said, They were only rubbing-posts for his cows to scratch themselves, in case they

they strayed so far. But other people told John, that Lewis would some day or other claim every bit of that ground as his own, in virtue of those stakes, if he was not checked in time. Accordingly, John sent him some angry message about them, and Lewis in return begged leave to present his compliments to John, and assured him, that the thing of the world he wished most, was to live in good terms with his honoured friend and neighbour John Bull. Meantime, some of John's cowherds met with a fellow or two belonging to Lewis, and after a great deal of bad language, painful to repeat, they came to blows, and made a great noise, which brought John and Lewis too, to see what was the matter. John indeed, happened to be in his barge that afternoon, on the lake to the west of his house, which he affected to call his own fish-pond, and Lewis too being on his way to the common, their barges unhappily met, when John without any more ado, took up an oar, and aimed a blow at Lewis Baboon's brains, You damned, insidious, fair-tongued villain, this is all your doing, with your stakes, and your posts, and your covetousness for land, which nobody will possess under you, you damned oppressive, squeezing rascal. My dear John (says Lewis), what is the matter? The matter, you scoundrel! With that John aimed another

another blow; but their barges ran foul of the other, and he fastened on Lewis Barton's wig, tore his bag, and threw it in the water: In short, before you could count six, there was not a hat nor a wig to be seen in the whole boats-crew, of either side. History says, that Lewis had like to have been drown'd outright, and was glad to get home with his head broken in many places, and cursing John Bull, for the most rash, choleric, blunder-headed fellow, that ever was known in the world.

CHAP. II.

What sort of fellows John and Lewis were in use to employ to keep their orchards, and their poultry.

HISTORY tells many lies, if this was the first time that John and Lewis came to blows; and Sir Humphry Poleworth may think to conceal it if he will, but many a time has Lewis, in his youth, lost his hat and his wig in scuffles with John, and as often has John come home with a broken pate, though very few people durst tell it to his wife or his mother. In short, these two had been troublesome

blesome rogues to one another time out of mind ; and at the time of which we are now speaking, there was no such thing as law or justice in the whole country. If you could keep your own, it was well ; if not, it did not signify complaining ; two or three stout fellows at your back, a brace of pistols, or a blunderbus, was a better title to an estate, than the best conveyance in the world. Whilst you thought yourself sure of your lands, two or three fellows in the neighbourhood would be disputing who should have it ; and of Lord Strutt, Lewis Baboon, Squire South, Nicholas Frog, John Bull himself, and all the gang of them, there was not one to mend another ; they did not mind blowing out one another's brains one farthing ; they had got honourable names for thieving, robbing, and house-breaking, such as policy, conquest, and invasion ; and if you lived in their neighbourhood, they were sure to leave you nothing, unless you could handle a cutlass, or fire a blunderbus, and kept friends with some one or other of them, who protected you for his own sake, or that he might take all you had at a more convenient time. God help the poor milk-sop that trailed to the goodness of his cause.

This made every body look about him ; and John among the rest, for many a day, had as stout a family of young fellows as any in all
the

the neighbourhood, and would not take an affront or an injury from any man. His boys were for the most part sober, peaceable fellows within doors; but if there was any noise heard over-night among the poultry in the orchard, or the workshop, it needed only the bark of a dog, to bring a score of them into the court, and from every corner of John's house you could hear nothing but striving who should be out first. Every body had his cutlass, or his carabine at his bed's-head, and it is hard to say which they were most jealous of, their father's honour, or the preservation of his estate. It was the pride of John's heart in those days, to see his boys hardy and resolute, and he hated a sneaking, puny, pewling fellow, like the devil.

In this humour John lived for many a day; but many changes happen which nobody looks for; people persuaded him by degrees, that if he had money enough there was nothing else worth minding. From this hopeful maxim, he even neglected sending his children to school, locked up their cudgels and cricket-batts, and would not let one of them touch a gun, for fear they should hurt themselves. He had got by heart all the stories that ever his nurse had told him, about the accidents which happen at rough play, or in handling firelocks, and would repeat them sometimes,

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till

till his wife and his mother were quite ashamed of him.

It would require the pen of a great historian to tell how this great change was brought about. Some people said, that John was old, and began to doat; others said, that it was all owing to an old nurse who lived about the house; but alas! they do not tell us how John came to be directed by old women, or what was the reason that some of John's neighbours were grown worse than even he was at this time. Lewis Baboon was grown, from a spruce forward gallant, a mere priest-ridden, whore-ridden, flimsy periwig-making old fool. Lord Strutt could never be got out of his bed before eleven o'clock in the morning, and Nicholas Frog would rather have taken ready money for a farthing-candle, than see his best friend return from the grave. One stout man could have chased a hundred of them into the sea, and yet these damned fellows contrived to be very troublesome for all that, by means of a device of which the devil himself was certainly the author. In their younger days they were all ready enough at a blow, yet as they, and every body about them, had some other business besides fighting, they could not well quarrel when they were otherways engaged; but they came at last to keep people on purpose to fight; and as nobody cared what became

became of these fellows, they would send them out, for the turn of a straw, to play the devil in all the neighbourhood; and the rest of the people at home trusting to them, became mere milk-sops and old women.

An historian of great credit affirms, that this practice was grafted on that of keeping a game-keeper; and for this reason it is, that although there be many more of them in every house than are necessary to keep the game, they are nevertheless known under the title of game-keepers even unto this day. In former times (continues he), every father of a family and his children, were sportsmen more or less. It mattered not who started the game, they could all shoot without distinction; and it mattered as little what part of the house a thief attempted to break in upon, the first man he met thought himself obliged to defend the premises. But when they grew lazy, spiritless, and purse-proud, they must needs keep their game-keepers like lords, and each according to his estate, got as many as he could well maintain, and those he employed, not only to knock down a hare, or a partridge, now and then, for the master's table, but to them he entrusted the whole defence of his estate inclosed and common, barn-yards, orchards, and kitchen-grounds, and it was thought presumption in any body else to do any thing be-

sides running away when any body attempted to disturb the house. Lewis Baboon would have kept you forty or fifty at a time, and this when nobody was meddling with him, as he said, to guard his poultry, and attend him to church.

These fellows did nothing from morning to night, but first turn upon one heel, and then upon another, put a gun sometimes to their hip, sometimes to their nose, sometimes to their shoulder; and, in short, played so many antic tricks with a musket, that few or none of them could remember or distinguish its real use. But they bilked their landlords, cursed, swore, and bullied wherever they went, and in many houses where such fellows were kept, nobody durst say his life was his own for them.

It may be hard enough to tell how any master of a family came to keep such people about him; but the most amazing thing of all is, how John Bull, so kind a father, and so good a master, should ever think of entertaining so many of them, and trust more to their affection, than to that of his own children.

It is true, that John's heart has always misgiven him in this project; he generally keeps a dozen or so, but nobody could ever prevail on him, or Mrs. Bull, to tell how long they

they were to keep them; and every Saturday night when he pays off his workmen, he always says, Gentlemen, whereas it goes against my conscience, to keep some damned rascals perpetually about my house, you are to remain only for next week, and no longer; but still he keeps them on in this manner from one week to another, for which he has many salvo's. In the first place, says John, I don't take any body but my own tenants sons, or now and then an idle fellow from my own farm, and I have always some of my own boys who keep them company; so that they always behave very respectfully to me, and have often taken my part, when such fellows as Nicholas Frog keeps would have cut my throat. Secondly, says John, I only keep them as long as Squire Geoffrey and his abettors are like to be troublesome, which I hope will not be long. But many of John's enemies said, that there was a better reason than all these put together, *viz.* that he was afraid to fire a gun himself, and was frightened out of his senses when he had not some of his bul- lies by him.

Whether this was the cause, or the effect of his keeping those fellows, it must be owned that John Bull, who used to be a bold hearty fellow, always master in his own house, and afraid of nothing, began to sneak about

the doors, and would start at his own shadow; and when there was any noise in the orchard, or poultry-yard, he would scour up to the garret, and leave the game-keepers and the thieves to do what they pleased with his effects, shutting his eyes, and stopping his ears, that he might not see or hear any shooting of guns, of which in truth he was become marvellously afraid. Lewis Baboon had no more ado, but to give out that he was going to pay a civil visit to John, in order to put the whole house in a panic: And this word *panic* was grown so familiar with John, that he had it always ready as an excuse for running away upon the slightest occasion.

C H A P. III.

How John got a terrible fright in his own house of Bull-ball.

IT was not always without cause, that John Bull disliked the visits of Lewis Baboon; he knew what fine sport that rogue might have made for himself in such a house; and that besides cuckoldom, many other misfortunes might have befallen the landlord. But history, with all her gravity, will scarcely
make

ake posterity believe, how much John was afraid of his own sister Margaret's garret-dodgers. Once upon a time, two or three of them being seduced by some outlandish person, who stiled himself young Mr. Geoffrey, got down stairs, ran into Margaret's dining-room and drawing room, overset the china, drank the cream, and having found one of John's game-keepers teaching the maids to fuddle apples in the back-kitchen, gave him a slap in the chops, and poured the scalding water on him. From thence they proceeded as they thought proper; and though Margaret threw her poker at them as they passed, with an air of great bitterness and vexation, yet John took it in his head that it was all her doing, and sent her word to keep them at home, otherwise he would set fire to her house: But just as he was talking in this strain, and abusing his poor sister as a treacherous vixen, who might have kept better order in her house if she pleased, he was silenced at once with a knock on the pate; and without staying to see what was the matter, ran up to the leads, called out to his game-keepers, who were gone nobody knows where, then to Nicholas Frog, Rousterdivel, and all the damned names you can think of, to come to the assistance of John Bull, whose throat was just going to be cut in his own house.

Mean-time,

Mean-time, Mr. Maclurchar, for this was the ringleader in all this mischief, continued to do what he pleased. Whenever he met any of John's fellows, he asked, What trade are you? And if they were weavers, he made them furnish what cloth he wanted; threatening to rip up their guts. In like manner, if they were brewers, tanners, cooks, scullions, or maltsters, each in his way had something good for Mr. Maclurchar, and the fellow had learned not to be afraid, although there were three hundred of them together.

This fray, however, did not last long; Mr. Maclurchar was tired, and went away home to his garret, and John, who had been more afraid than hurt, came down stairs, and when he saw that the foe was actually gone, called out to set fire to Peg's house, to burn her, and all her vermin; for, says he, we shall never get any peace for them. Mean-time, the game-keeper took heart at last, went up to the garret, and gave Mr. Maclurchar a stunning blow in the guts, just as he was stripping to go to bed, and dragged him down to the court, where John was in a little prevailed on to come and see the object of his terror, with his hands tied behind his back. Then, indeed, he began to be ashamed of his own behaviour, and abused all his people for letting him be so much afraid; he scolded the very
scullions

millions for letting the bacon be carried off to poultry a fellow as Mr. Macluchar. In short, he and every body else threw the blame on his neighbour; but all agreed in cursing and sinking sister Peg, to the deepest pit of all.

It was hard to say what the poor woman had done to deserve all this treatment; but some people set to work with her merely because it was the fashion, and others found their account in it, some in one way, some in another. As for the game-keeper *, it was not very difficult to see his motive; he had never beat any body before in all his life, and wanted now to magnify his feats as much as he could, and accordingly said, that few people knew the amount of what he had done; that if he had not fought with sister Margaret's people one and all, he was no true man; that he totally subdued them, and knew of nobody to compare himself to, but the ancient conquerors. That if any body said, that the whole of Margaret's people was not against him, he was a scoundrel, and a rascal, and not to be trusted.

After this, who and who were to be trusted became the great question in John's house. There

* The late D—— of C——berl——d.

There was no pretending to any thing without being able to talk about trusting; and some people would scarcely let John Bull trust himself. As for poor Peg, he was the finest fellow that spoke the most ill of her. Even some of her own children, who took care of nobody but themselves all the time that Mr. Maclurchar was stirring, came abroad now to confess with regret, that their mother was a sad vixin; that she had given Mr. Maclurchar a dram of cherry-brandy, before he set out upon that damned, unnatural, diabolical, hell-fire scamper; that for their parts it was true, they had the misfortune to be born in her house, some people said of her own proper person, but few people know who their real parents are: This, however, they knew, that they had left her very young, and never liked her company. When one had made such a speech as this, another endeavoured still to improve upon it; and if one gave his mother two, three, or more abusive epithets, the next did not fail to give five or six. At last one great dolt of a fellow, called Bumbo, made a shift to get a round dozen of them on his fingers ends, with which he never failed to entertain John Bull as often as he met him.

The sequel of all this spite to their mother, was a great deal of kindness to John Bull. Leave matters to us, said they, we shall take
care

That so worthy a man shall not be im-
posed upon; you should always have some of
about your own person, and give us some
tent employment, that no body may sus-
pect the design of our being here; we shall
take care to place people in that unnatural
sister's house, so that not a whisper shall be
breathed among her gossips, but you shall hear
of it; and these speeches they commonly con-
cluded, with a *beware of counterfeits*. John
on all this looked like a perfect oaf: He
thought Mr. Maclurchar's knife was at his
throat every moment; and these favourable dis-
positions they took care to improve. One time,
he was told that a cousin of Mr. Maclurchar's
should come in secretly at Peg's garret window; at
another time, that Mr. Maclurchar himself had
bought a pair of new shoes; at another time,
that his sister Margaret had laughed at him,
when she heard that he went up to the leads;
and all this, besides being asked regularly e-
very morning, what would become of him, if
he had not some trusty friends to stand be-
tween him and that unnatural sister. In short,
John was put from his sleep and his appetite;
he stared and stammered in his speech; you
could not hear a word of common sense from
him; and to have spoken a word of common
sense, would have disgraced you with him for
ever.

History

History says, however, that John did not continue very long in this humour; and, indeed, it must be owned, that it was for one good thing to be of a changeable temper. It would have been the devil, indeed, to have continued for ever in the had of spies and informers, perpetually talking the miseries of human life; and the truth that there was nothing in the world more repugnant to his ordinary temper; so that though he could not all at once return to perfect cordiality with his sister, yet he listened to people who advised him to take gentle methods with her. He accordingly let even Mr. Maclurchar himself off with little more than an obligation to put on his breeches every morning before he came down stairs among the ladies, and sent a civil message to his sister, to ask her how she did, and to propose taking a lease of her garret, and said that he would pay her any rent she chose to put upon it. Many odd projects, indeed, were present in his head at this time; such as, to turn the garret into a stable and coach-house; to make his sister Peg lodge her coals in it, brew her ale, and wash her linen; in short, to make Mr. Maclurchar himself, besides putting on his breeches, carry up earth, and plant cabbages and turnips upon the leads. It is true, that nothing of all this has been done, but it is no
John

John's fault, he was at some expence about it, and meant all for the best.

C H A P. IV.

How John's affairs had like to have gone to the Devil.

WE know how difficult a thing it is to write history. Whenever the reader meets with any thing that exceeds his own pitch, he presently attacks the credit of the historian; and we shall now be asked how came John Bull, who was such a coward in his own house, to be so very rash, as we have said, in that scuffle with Lewis Baboon? The fact is, that John never was slow at getting into a quarrel; he was choleric beyond measure; and as for mischief out of doors, there was nobody readier. He had a parcel of watermen who feared neither man nor devil, and when he was in his barge, either on the east or the west lake, it was but a word and a blow with him; he never was afraid to meet with Lewis Baboon there, nor any where else, except at home. When you proposed to John, to go over to Lewis's own house, and break his bones for him, he thought nothing

more easy; but alas! if Lewis talked of coming to him, matters went no better than we have said.

You will easily believe, that after that scuffle in the barge, Lewis Baboon must be in a very great passion. Accordingly, he cursed and swore like twenty dragoens, that he would speedily see John in his own house, and show him in the face of Mrs. Bull herself, what sort of a man he had affronted: this was sooner said than done. But in the mean-time, nobody could tell what was become of John, and all his watermen; whilst Lewis Baboon went vapouring about every where, and did what he pleased. He drove John's cattle out of Cracket-Island, and took possession of it; although John used to think that nobody could ever dispute islands with him, so ready was he with his barge to relieve them: but the truth upon this occasion was, that John had got into one of these panics we have mentioned, had applied to Nicholas Frog to no purpose, and actually brought over Rousterdivel, to protect him, But the whole neighbourhood laughed at him, when they saw that Lewis Baboon had no more to do than to talk of going over to John, in order to do what he pleased every where else; and John got into one of the greatest passions that ever he was in in his life. All the historians of that time, ring with the
amazing

amazing noise which he made about that same Cracket-Island. He swaggered and stared, and roared and swore, that John Bull of Bull-hall was abused and cheated by his clerks, his watermen, his overseers, and every soul about him. When he saw Rousterdivel, he called to his people to turn out that fellow; asked, what the devil had brought him to his house? would not give him a bit of victuals, and threatened to go to law with him about a handkerchief: and in short, obliged the poor fellow to go away, very much puzzled to make out what sort of a man this same Mr. Bull must be.

Upon this occasion, John made such a noise, that he wakened Mrs. Bull, and brought her down yawning to the parlour, and rubbing her eyes, after one of those drowsy fits to which she had been lately subject. He had already, to her no small mortification, chased away two or three of her favourite servants, who used to put her to bed every night, and among the rest his own nurse, who was grown of late a great person in all Mrs. Bull's junketings and private parties; and indeed, for some time, pretended to manage John himself as she thought proper. To do this nurse justice, there were few people had a better hand at a sack-poffet; and though she had no aversion to a glass of liquor in a fair way, yet

she never tasted what came through her hands in the way of making caudle, whey, or panada for the children: We never heard any thing amiss of her, save that she would take the childrens halfpence from them to keep, and therewith make up little sums, which she lent to the servant-maids at interest, when they wanted to buy ribands, or other trinkets. But the love of money may be forgiven in old age, as also that meddling disposition which servants usually acquire when they have been long about a house. The truth is, that nothing could be more ridiculous than to hear this old woman put in her word upon all occasions. There was nothing in which she did not think herself a perfect oracle; she talked to John not only about his markets and his bargains, and all his dealings with his neighbours, about the choice of schools and masters for his children, game-keepers, huntsmen, whippers-in; but, in short, about his drunken quarrels, boxing-matches, cudgel-play, and quarter-staff. She would govern every part of his house for him, and no servant durst go with a message from his master, without first asking her, if she had any commands?

Hubble-bubble, and this nurse, had gone hand in hand for many a day; but alas! the loss of Cracket-Island fell heavy upon them both

at

at last. Bawd, whore and rogue were the best names they could get from John upon that occasion, and Hubble-bubble got out of his way as fast as he could scour; but the nurse broke a candle-cup which she had in her hand, and bid him go find another to make slops for himself and his children.

John was greatly helped into this fine humour by one Jowler, for whom he had a great regard at this time. Most historians agree, that the name of Jowler was only a nick-name, which this fellow had got from the boys at school, on account of some odd conceit of a resemblance between him and a hound of that name in John's pack. They say, moreover, that most of the boys had the name of some dog or other given them, and that they used to make one of themselves the hare, and so hunt him with a mighty noise, in imitation of John's pack. As to the dog Jowler, his resemblance to the person we are now speaking of has procured him a place in the records of history. There we are told, that this dog had a very loud tongue, and that if he could not lead the whole pack, he never failed, at least, to carry off five or six couple, sometimes on a right, sometimes on a wrong scent; that he thereby so often spoilt the sport, that the huntsman was downright crazy with rage, and often threatened to turn

Jowler out of the kennel, and sometimes actually tied him up at home; but then he made such a noise, that Mrs. Bull could get no sleep for him in a morning; and the huntsman was as often obliged to leave Mango's tomb and plaister in the kennel, whilst Jowler was suffered to lead the pack. Then John had excellent sport, and the huntsman no great cause to complain; for Jowler was tractable enough, and a crack of the whip would make him leave the pursuit of the stag, for that of a pole-cat or a rabbit, and this not absolutely for want of nose, but for fear of being turned down among the babblers again.

Although we account it below the dignity of history, to adopt or retail nick-names, yet we think ourselves obliged in this case, to retain a name which has come down to us on the great tide of writers, which waft and carry the transactions of that age. To return, therefore, from this digression; Jowler no sooner observed the humour which John was in, than he chimed in directly; he told him that his family had never been so much disgraced before; that the scandalous loss of Cracket-Island was more owing to his overseer, than to the watermen who was sent to look after it; that it was ignominious for John Bull, with a house full of fine young fellows, to need the protection of so ferry a fellow as Rousterdive!; that if he
did

did not look about him, he would soon become the jest of all the neighbourhood, and lose all the ground which he had upon the common, or any where else. To approve of a man's advice in one thing, and trust him with every thing, were inseparable with John; accordingly he put all his affairs directly into Jowler's hands, and for the first fortnight, neither Sir Thomas, nor any body else, durst controul him in any thing.

C H A P. V.

How John consulted with his friends about the method of retrieving his affairs.

JOHN was a great person for collecting his friends together to have their advice, but for the most part he did just what he pleased for all that; and he had always some point or other in his head, in which it was in vain to contradict him. This was the case now about the malversations of his servants; and though there were many people disposed to soften him, not a mortal durst put in a word. In the height of his passion, he abused every thing that had been done, right or wrong, for many years before. They had neglected his
his

his new farm upon the common, and sent his horses, his ploughs and carts, to labour Sir Thomas's land in the east country; they had run him in debt over head and ears, pawned his plate, and mortgaged his estate; they had made his wife, who used to be a notable woman, a mere sot, with ale, brandy, and fops. The nurse had even spoilt his own stomach with nasty mawkish warm drinks, and over-heating his ale. With all this in his head, when ever he went to any of the neighbouring towns, he instantly repaired to the coffee-house, and poured all forth to the first person he met. All the world admired the vigour of his spirit, and the honesty of his intentions, even when he carried matters too far; and we all know, that if the father of such a family does not make a noise sometimes, affairs will be managed but so so.

About this time of which we are now speaking, John had a circle about him wherever he went, and talked of his affairs from morning to night. He testified a particular aversion to the employing of Rounddivel any more, swore that he himself never would cross the lake upon any body's errands, and that if any body came over to meddle with him, he would show them that he could defend himself. In all which, Jowler encouraged him strongly, and repeated every word John could say,

y, in a much higher tone than himself; and at the point of getting fixed in the management of the business, seemed to have nothing more at heart, than to break off all idle connections, to keep John at home, and put gun in his own hands, to avoid the disgrace running to other people for protection on every trifling alarm. Whatever might be done afterwards, Jowler knew this was no time to baulk John in any of his fancies; and accordingly, he assisted in all his consultations, and nobody so loud as he.

One day, when John's tongue was running on, God knows where, he was asked by some of his friends what he intended to do? Do you intend, said they, to ask Lewis Baboon's pardon for striking him in the manner you did, or do you persist in the design of giving him gentlemanly satisfaction? I tell you what, says John, if Lewis Baboon had a thousand Craclet-Islands of mine, and that he would give me them all for asking his pardon, I would not do it. He is a vile, over-reaching, undermining, treacherous rogue, and there never will be any peace in the neighbourhood, as long as that fair-tongued rascal is out of his grave. Let him come out in his barge again, and I shall meet him; but I know the rascal, he has perpetually some bad design in his head, and when he is found out, he will
bow

bow and serape, and make compliments; but he does not lay it aside for all that, he only waits for a time to put it in execution, not in a fair gentlemanly way, but behind your back or when you are asleep, or indisposed: But I will dress his jacket for him, if I find him put his nose upon the lake again.

But only suppose then, said they, that he should slip over in the night, as he has often threatened, with a parcel of his game-keepers, and take possession of your parlour and bed-chamber, which are worth more than Cracket Island to him, do you think, he will give you time to send for Rousterdivel, as you used to do?

All the fires of Sodom and Gomorrah set me, says John, if ever I send for Rousterdivel with his great tobacco-pipe, his four crowns and his damned lingo, that nobody can understand. Odds-blood, a'nt I as good a man as Rousterdivel, or Lewis Baboon? Though I have not so many game-keepers yet I have as good clean-made fellows about my farm as he; and if my own children will let me be insulted, it is time that John Bull was gone the way of all flesh.

But what can your children do for you, said they, when your wife, and your nurse and your steward, will not let one of them touch a gun or a cutlass, and think there

safety but in the dark cellar, or the coal-hole, when there is any disturbance in the yard?

Well, says John, I shall tell them another tale; my boys shall learn to defend me as they used to do. I have seen the time, when the stoutest of them all durst not meddle with me, and that time shall return again, if I can get arms enough to furnish my hall, as I always had it, till now.

CHAP. VI.

How the nurse dreamed that John Bull had banished all the weavers.

WE may believe, that after so busy a day, as we have been describing, the nurse was not likely to get a very good night's rest; starting, tumbling and tossing she had in abundance, but very little sound sleep. She could not shut an eye, but presently she dreamed of some mischief or other. One time she thought the pan boiled over in the fire; at another time, that the cat's paw was in the custard; and finally, about three o'clock in the morning, she dreamed that John Bull had banished all the weavers from his house;

house; she saw the beams, the tradles, the shuttles, the pirns, all tumbled in a heap into a great black boat; she saw all the weavers posting to embark. When she would have seized a piece of broad-cloth, behold, it was a great iron cannon! When she put out her hand to save a pirn, lo, it perked up her face in the make of a pistol! Terror and amazement awaked her; she forgot her resolution never to talk any more to John Bull about his affairs, and thought herself now called upon by heaven, to interpose in behalf of him and his children.

Accordingly, she lost no time in the morning, but went straight to the parlour, where she found John as busy as ever, talking about the orders he was to give in his house: And having told him her dream, earnestly beseeched him to tell her, whether he had any such intention, with relation to the weavers; for she thought, that a person who had ceased to be guided by her, would stick at nothing.

The woman is crazy, says John, I am only thinking how I may best secure the peace and welfare of my family, and how to keep off rogues; and you ask me, if I am to banish my weavers? I'll defend my weavers to the last drop of my blood; they shall fare no worse than I do; late or early, if they are molested, I shall be with them, and I know

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hat they will stand by me against all the world.

What better protection can you desire for yourself or them, says the nurse, than your own game-keeper, or Rousterdivel? It would do one good, to see how that fine tall fellow will stop and turn, and do what he is bid.

A plague take the woman, says John, with her Rousterdivel; do you think that I am a coward, a scoundrel, a beast, a blockhead, a milk-sop, that I must always run for protection to other people? I tell you again, that I am able to defend myself, and that I have people enow about my house to stand by me.

And how do you propose that they should stand by you? says the nurse: When Lewis sends over his game-keepers, with their guns and their sabres, who will stand by you then?

Odso, says John, cannot my people have guns and sabres as well as they?

Alas! then, says the nurse, my dream is read. You will not have a weaver in your house in three days, if you go on at that rate; who do you think will sit quietly on a loom, with guns and pistols pointing at them in every corner, and that boy George putting crackers in the candles, and firing his pistols at sparrows, and shooting the neighbours cats when they come about the hedges? See who

can settle to work for you, if they are in perpetual danger of having their eyes blown out with squibs, serpents and rockets? Do you think a tradesman can do any good, if he is scared at that rate?

Scared! says John, you don't think that a weaver will be scared when he turns game-keeper, and I have none better on my grounds. If any of my people are afraid of a gun, so much the more shame to them and to me; it is the very thing I want to correct, by using them a little to what may be necessary for their own defence and mine.

Worse and worse, says the nurse; if you use them to guns, you'll never get them to work a jot; and banishing the trade is worse than banishing the men.

A tenfold madness has seized your pericranium, says John: Do you think that nobody can make broad-cloth but cowards? or that a fellow won't work, because he knows he can defend the fruits of his labour? You have no objection to the taking as many of my tradesmen as you can get, to make game-keepers of them; and because they work none, you imagine, that every fellow who takes a firelock in his hand, to defend himself and me, is to be idle too. Don't the game-keepers themselves work when they are allowed, and are paid for it? have not I known them give
money

money to their overseers, for leave to work at their own trades? and many a good penny has been got in that way. As my people are useful to me, and to themselves, I intend that they shall work in safety, and that nobody shall insult an honest tradesman of mine, whilst they and I have breath in our bodies. Do what you will, you shall never get me disgraced as you have done, with your idle jaw, and nonsensical trash.

Bless me, says the nurse, what a wild project you have got in your head! You'll tell me you want to defend your house and your estate; but to what purpose keep your estate, if you cannot find time, so much as to eat a bit of warm victuals? hurried late and early, banged, souped and drenched in all weathers, and this for fear that Lewis Baboon should turn you out of your possessions? and what matter who has your possessions, if you cannot sit down to enjoy them? *Et propter vitam vivendi perdere causas.*

Hey-day, says John, your humble servant, Latin! I remember you of old. But goody, says he, I knew you lived among the boys; but don't think to palm upon me as a commendation of eating, and drinking, and cowardice, what the old boy, for whom I have so often been whipped, damn him! has said

against a fellow who would forfeit his honour to preserve his life.

Well then, says the nurse, see how you can keep your bargain with Sir Thomas. What will he say, when he sees your house swarming with pistols and carabines, and cutlasses? you know, that he does not chuse to trust any body in this house with gun-powder, except the game-keeper.

Blood-and-wounds, says John, you are more mindful of Sir Thomas, than you are of me! I have heard nothing from you these twenty years, but Sir Thomas does not like this, and Sir Thomas does not like that. I was advised to take Sir Thomas into the management of my affairs, because 'Squire Geoffrey endeavoured to get a game-keeper of his own, and do what he pleased about my house. And now you tell me, that Sir Thomas and the game-keeper are the only people to be trusted. Those gentlemen, it seems, will trust nobody else, and who the devil will trust them? I never knew any of those suspicious people, that was much to be trusted himself. Ill doers are ill dreaders, as my sister Peg says. Odso, if Sir Thomas does not think himself safe in my parlour, with me and my children, he must know of something worse than I thought of. Who was it that brought him about the house? Have not I done all that lay

ay in my power for him? and now you 'and
 e won't let me defend myself, because he
 won't trust me. I love Sir Thomas; I mean,
 that he shall have the disposal of all the arms
 about my house, and he shall find that I am
 his friend, when Hubble-bubble and you are in
 your graves, and all the nonsense you are per-
 petually putting in his head and mine, is not
 worth a curse.

C H A P. VII.

*What happened after this conversation with
 the nurse.*

WHO was listening to all this discourse,
 but the very boy George himself, whom
 the nurse was so much afraid of? This young-
 ster, instead of loitering about the kitchen, or
 the nursery, flattering the cook-maid, or the
 nurse, for sops and tit-bits between meals,
 was perpetually rambling about in quest of
 some diversion without doors. He had pro-
 cured a pistol and a gun, and powder and
 shot, all which he hid in the hay-stack, or in
 crannies of the barn wall. You will think,
 that he minded nothing but climbing walls,
 and scrambling over hedges; but no sooner

did he see two or more people, serious about any thing, than he forgot all his play, came to listen, as he did to this conversation between John and his nurse, and gave such attention, that there were few articles relating to the family, of which he had not an excellent notion; and could see the folly and ridicule of people who thought themselves overwise, as well as another: he was a perfect plague to the nurse, who hated a joke, and was often put downright mad with his dry wibes and arch sayings. He no sooner heard John talk in the peremptory manner above related, than he ran away to Mrs. Bull as fast as his legs could carry him, and told her all that her husband had said, and a great deal more of his own, without mincing the matter in the least; by which he convinced her, that John was not then in a humour to be crossed; and that whether she liked the project or no, it was best to put a good face upon the matter.

Every body knows, that John had devolved great part of his business upon Mrs. Bull; no tradesman's bill could be paid without her authority, nor any receipts granted to any of John's tenants. In short, neither John himself, nor Sir Thomas, durst go to a fair or a market, till they knew whether she would stand to their bargains. This had often been very

very troublesome to Sir Thomas; and till he found out the way of managing her by means of Hubble-bubble, and the like persons, he was obliged to proceed with great caution, and for the most part to stay at home, when he would fain have been a-gadding.

John had been so oft married, that it may be said with safety, that no man in the world ever had more experience in matrimony. He had tasted at times both the sweet and the bitter; but it was a maxim of his, that any wife was better than none; and accordingly, no sooner one wife died, than he instantly married another; he never liked a woman the worse for having a spice of the vixen; it pleased him to hear the clack of a woman's tongue; and the truth is, that in a family like his, it was no good sign when the mistress was not heard of both late and early. His present wife had got herself a tolerable name in the neighbourhood, as a quiet, discreet, good sort of a woman; and John, accordingly, sometimes almost forgot that she was in the family. She never let him have any of those disputes with Sir Thomas about settling the accompts, with which John had used to be delighted; but commonly passed them in the lump, saying, that every article was just what she would have thought herself, for the good of the family. With all this good understanding

standing with Sir Thomas, it was suspected that she had not all the respect for her husband that she should have had; and the more that she never scrupled to talk over all the arts which she had practised in the courtship, and to tell, how many a pot and penny it had cost her, to get a good word with his servants, thereby to secure John to herself, when he might have had his choice of all the country; and then she would talk of her pin-money, and little perquisites, out of which, she was perpetually endeavouring to make up some little stock for herself. The nurse and Hubble-bubble humoured her in all this way of talking, and said, to be sure, nobody would marry such an old fellow as John Bull, except with a view to get something by him. By this, and such like discourse, they had got a great deal to say with her, and could have easily persuaded her at this time to put off the project of giving out the guns, if they durst have ventured to cross John in a thing he was so much bent upon. The boy George assured Mrs. Bull, that John must have, at least, fifty or sixty at a time, and all that the nurse could venture upon, was, to make her abate one half; with which solacing herself in the mean time, she let an order be signed for the rest.

It is hard to say, what made Hubble-bubble and the nurse so averse to this scheme. As
for

r Hubble-bubble, it is probable, as most historians agree, that he did not know very well himself. But the nurse, who was no fool, and most people thought, must have some other reasons besides her dream. However this be, we shall relate facts as they occur in the course of our history.

C H A P. VIII.

Concerning sister Peg.

WHEN the accounts were brought to sister Peg of all those fine doings in John's house; how Jowler was entrusted with every thing, and was driving it away like Jew; and how John had brought all his arms from the cellar, and was determined to fight with Lewis Baboon himself; and how John's hall was stuck round, as it used to be, with guns, pikes, bayonets and cutlasses, mixed, as report was, with stags branches, foxskins, and politairs taken from Lewis in his youth; Peg expected a message every minute to desire she should garnish her hall in the same manner, and get ready the few young men she had left at her house to oppose Lewis, in case he should attempt to break in that way. But
many

many a day passed without any tidings; and what was most surprising of all was, that with all this lady's wonted spleen and acrimony when she was vexed, there was scarcely a discontented word heard from her on the occasion. One morning, indeed, at breakfast she said, that she could not blame her brother but that she could not well understand, what Mrs. Bull meant by putting such a slight upon her, or how it came to pass, that her own clerks, whom she sent to the office, and who had nothing else to do but to mind her affairs never let her hear a word of the matter.

This was almost all that she said, for a great while, and that with so little appearance of concern, that few historians have taken any notice of it. People who thought of former times, expected bad humour enough from her on this occasion; but the fact was, that this lady was greatly changed in her manners and deportment. From being jealous, captious, and ready to quarrel about a straw, she was grown in a very little time, a quite easy-tempered, good-conditioned body, as could be wished; and this made some people think that the girl might have been always easy enough to live with, if people had not played tricks on purpose to vex her, which indeed was so often the case, that you would have thought her in a perpetual passion; and she

was,

as, by the habit of continual fretting, so much on the catch, that she thought herself affronted often, when no such thing was meant. In those days her servants had better lose their ears, than slight her in the manner they now did; and they commonly stood as much in awe of her as the servants in John's, or any other house could do of their master and mistress. But it was a changed world now. Her older boys and upper servants passed most of their time out of the house, and sent any orders they pleased, about the kitchen, the cellar, or the farm; and those who stayed at home, and did the work of the family, forgot the way to complain.

Whilst John's house perpetually rung with the marrow-bones and cleavers, or cat-calls and groans, either in honour or contempt of the upper servants, according to their behaviour, insomuch, that Mrs Bull's own woman durst not give herself any saucy airs; in Peg's house all was hush, the good and the bad were used almost alike; and as to the business of the office, it was out of sight out of mind with Peg; she sent her clerks to wait upon Mrs. Bull, and although she was at no pains to send people that would not require looking after, yet she never inquired any more about the matter. Accordingly, they not only neglected her concerns, but often got bits of the best, for abusing

using her to the nurse and the game-keeper and others of Mrs. Bull's gossips; and few or none of them thought of any thing, but how to get a share to themselves of what was going about Mr. Bull's house. She had even the mortification to see some of the worst of them come home, from John's counting-room with directions to keep the keys of her cellar and pantry, and deal out the victuals to her children; in doing which, they had a wonderful jargon, which nobody could understand but which had a strange effect in benumbing and stupifying all their hearers. They talked perpetually of the *people above*, the *great folks*, or the *people in power*: and now and then would whisper Peg herself, that if she kept her temper, the *people above* might possibly make her a present of a hood, or a tip-pet, or a new petticoat, at a proper time; and though she did not know, who the devil these people above were, she was perpetually gulled with this sort of talk. Those who pretend to understand these matters, say, that the people above were such as had the naming of John Bull's servants, and that they contrived new offices, and a variety of perquisites and vails, on purpose to allure people, who were willing to sell their souls to hell, and cheat their own father and mother.

C H A P. IX.

How Lewis Baboon was belaboured and drubbed; and how Jowler behaved.

WHAT we have already set forth, was the real state of sister Margaret's affairs, when her brother took that sturdy resolution for himself, but left her out. His, indeed, was the best part of the family, and it was well that matters were carried so far. John was likely some time or other to go all lengths for his sister, as well as for himself; and it was the fashion at this time to say, that the great Jowler would never stop, till every good work was accomplished; but historians do not mention any great things that he did in the matter. It appears, indeed, that this fellow did set himself in earnest to touzle Lewis Baboon, and to beset the lake and the common, that Lewis could no where appear, without getting a knock on the pate with an oar, or a punch in the guts with a hand-hoe, and sometimes had musket-bullets whistling about his ears so thick, that he ran as if all the devils in hell were let loose at his heels.

In short, Jowler went on helter-skelter; and as long as John and his wife were in the humour of paying his bills, he hired all the

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poachers,

poachers, game-keepers, and wheepers-in in the country, and did not care a farthing for a fellow, unless he could fend him off the country, to do some mischief or other. For this reason he made John get as many game-keepers as possible, but never a word of arming his own children. He made up matters again with Rousterdevil, gave him all he asked, and encouraged him to play the devil in the house of Squire South, John's old friend. He sent more people to look after Sir Thomas's farm, than ever were there before in this world. He brought John in bills of expence laid out in the East country, so extravagant, and consisting of so many articles, that you would have thought all the taylors and apothecaries in the country, had been concerned in making them up. But Jowler minded nothing of all this; as long as John was in the humour, he went on, and bullied and roared, and spent his money, as if the master's salvation depended on the noise which his man Jowler should make in the neighbourhood; and there was nothing to stop him, for peoples tongues were tied up, some by one thing, some by another; and well did he know how to hold one tongue, that used to be the loudest of all on the like occasions.

There was, however, seldom a day but John had the news of some mischance befalling his
foe

Joe Lewis, and then he had the marrow-bones and cleavers at his door, and his house rung with dancing of hornpipes, jigs, and country bumpkins. It was in vain to tell him that these things would not avail his family a six-pence after all was over, and that he had forgot the fine resolutions he had taken, about the defence of his own house at home, the clearing up of his old arms, and sending his children to the fencing-school.

Jowler kept him perpetually drunk, in order to get his money to spend; there was seldom a night, but he made him drink twelve bumpers, and dance three hornpipes; so that John frequently exposed himself to the neighbourhood, and in his cups talked no less than of taking the half of Lewis Baboon's estate to himself.

In all this hurry-scurry, the nurse and Hubble-bubble were laughing in their sleeves; they saw their own game played to better purpose, than ever they durst venture to play it. Sir Thomas and they got the fingering of more money than ever they had seen before in their lives, and they might lay it out where they pleased, so they let Jowler have the honour of the treat: whilst in the mean time they saw no necessity of taking the arms out of the cellar, and they hoped, that John would soon forget all that he ever said upon the subject.

And so, perhaps, he would, till Lewis Baboon chose to put him in mind of it again, if it had not been for the boy George, and one or two more. But George never rested till he got his gun again, which the game-keeper had taken from him some time before; and there was no hindering of him, from getting some choice fellows together on holidays to shoot, as he had an order for it under Mrs. Bull's own hand.

The nurse then thought that she would give them their bellyful; she said, that Lewis Baboon was coming, and advised Sir Thomas to call them out of their beds, at all hours of the night, to send them over hedge and ditch, from post to pillar, and never give them any rest, in hopes that they would tire of their project; she thought that when they found there was no money to be got by the bargain, they would beg to be off. And here historians observe, that this good woman had forgotten, how much young people like fun better than money. But still she made something of a bad bargain; she advised Sir Thomas never to let these people come home, because Lewis Baboon was coming; and to send away all the game-keepers to his own farm, because Lewis Baboon was not coming. In short, we can find no clear account of Lewis Baboon's real intention, in any historian of that age,
much

much less collect any opinion about it from the conduct of John Bull's advisers at this time.

CHAP. X.

How sister Peg began to look about her; and how she wrote a letter to her brother John.

MANY were the freaks which John had taken in his head at different times: he once thought of turning lawyer, as every body knows; but he now despised that and every other profession, and would be nothing less than a duke or a lord. He thought that he only wanted a suitable estate to maintain his dignity, and encouraged every scheme that was laid before him for acquiring it. He had accordingly, twenty proposals brought him every day in writing by Jowler, all entitled, "Speedy and easy methods of acquiring a great land estate, humbly addressed to John Bull, Esq.;" Islands were to be seized here and there by main force; the whole common was to be inclosed, without enquiring who had a right there; plantations were to be cut down and sent to market; farms were to be let to tenants that John could confide in, and every

door was to be chalked with John Bull's name in great letters.

Why should not I, says he, have a great estate as well as another? Every body knows that Lewis did not come honestly by all he has; yet the rogue is never the worse esteemed in the neighbourhood.

Whilst John's head was busied with these hopeful projects, the news came that Lewis Baboon was coming in earnest. John looked like a person just awake from his first sleep, and made some motions towards the back-door before he recollected that he had some gun ready in the hall, and that he and his people must be affronted for ever, if they did not pluck up their spirits. He saw a good many of his people ready to stand by him, and the blood returned to his face; the game-keepers were all brought into the yard; and the nurse herself was then glad to see as many of John's people in arms as possible; the watermen were sent out in the barge to meet Lewis Baboon; and John, in short, passed the night as easily as could be expected of a man in his situation.

It is an old saying, Every man for himself, and God for us all. John in his hurry, barricading his doors, and posting his people, forgot his sister Margaret altogether. There was, indeed, a game-keeper lodged in her house, but this poor fellow could scarcely pretend to

secure

secure one door, and Lewis had twenty methods of coming into her house, where there was neither lock nor latch, nor a single pistol to resist any body, that should attempt to force his way; and the worst on't was, that Lewis had sent a sculler, with some of his game-keepers boys, to take advantage of this situation. What could a poor woman do? the maids and the children screamed in every corner of the house, and Jowler sent a gun to Mr. Maclurchar, as if Peg's garret was the only place exposed, and left her pantry and her cellar, to take care of themselves.

Many people in the house were of opinion, that she should write immediately to her brother John, to represent her case, and put him in mind, that when she trusted her affairs to the management of his clerks, it was in hopes that her concerns would be equally looked after with his own. Jack, who by this time had sown his wild oats, and was grown an orderly conversable fellow as you would desire to see, was clear for writing this letter. From the little I have seen of this troublesome neighbourhood, says he, I am convinced that no family is safe from ill neighbours and theevish servants, without the master and his children can take care of themselves. *As arrows are in the hands of a mighty man, says the Psalmist, so are children of the youth. Happy the man*

man that bath his quiver full of them : they shall not be ashamed, but speak with the enemies in the gate. That is the true defence, says Jack, and let us have it. A game-keeper may be out of the way, but the child of the house is always by his father's side. In short, as he was no trifler, so he was seldom idle, when there was any thing of consequence to be done, and never minded whether his opinion was asked or no. He spoke loudly on this occasion, and as he kept a regular correspondence with Sir Thomas, never failed to tell him his mind. Peg herself, who, as we have said, was rather gentle and inoffensive in her ordinary deportment, gave some signs of discontent and vexation ; you could see a little fierceness return to her eye, and the affection and confidence with which she had always of late regarded her brother, perhaps, at this time, helped to augment her displeasure. It is a grievous thing to be neglected by people to whom we make advances of kindness and respect : this, however, did not extort from her any injurious terms to her brother. If there was a cloud, it was readier to break upon his enemies head than on his. The truth is, that instead of having that waspish cross disposition, which she had often discovered in her youth, she now needed some encouragement and spiriting up, to be able to defend her own.

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This did not hinder many people from thinking her greatly improved; she had, indeed, more bloom in her complexion, or was rather less pale than formerly, and was what you may call a tight comely woman to converse with, rather than one of your delicate beauties. But be her person what it would, it was necessary to defend her house and her children; and people told her, that if she would write to her brother, he would not hesitate a moment about putting it in her power to do so. Peg was not near so ready in taking resolutions as she used to be, when left entirely to shift for herself; and even so small a matter as writing a letter, she put off from day to day; at last, she got up one morning very early, and with the assistance of some of her children and relations, drew up a scroll of the following letter, which was afterwards copied out fair, and sent by a careful person to her brother.

A copy of Margaret's letter to her brother John.

My dear Brother,

IT was with great pleasure that I heard lately from people who frequent your house, that you had taken a resolution not

“ to

“ to depend any longer upon Nicholas Fro
“ or Rousterdevil for your defence ; that you
“ had collected your spirit very opportunely
“ and have since found yourself fortified, by
“ what is the real strength of every family
“ the affection and vigour of your own chil
“ dren. My heart warmed to the prospect of
“ finding myself in the same situation, and
“ could have almost wished for an opportuni
“ ty to see your children and mine fairly uni
“ ted, against some common oppressor, a case
“ in which I hope they will always be invin
“ cible. But whatever my situation may be
“ I do not repine at your prosperity. Our in
“ terests, indeed, are inseparable ; and I can
“ not be persuaded, when matters go well
“ with you, that they can, at the long-run
“ go ill with me or my family. This made
“ me bear patiently with your people’s neg
“ lect of me, when they ordered your fami
“ ly into a posture of defence ; and indeed
“ unless it had come of yourself at that time
“ I was unwilling to have any matter started
“ which might have embarrassed you in what
“ you was about, by furnishing, as I was
“ told it might do, the people who were dis
“ posed to cross you, with arguments against
“ your scheme. Those gentlemen, it seems,
“ have a language ready prepared with re
“ spect to me, but I enter into no contention
“ with

with them. It seems that words have their weight after their meaning has ceased to be believed. It is in this way only, that I can understand, why a suspicion thrown upon me in words should be regarded, whilst your servants, in my own sight, carry arms to Mr. Maclurchar, the only person almost whom you or I have reason to distrust. I do not condemn that proceeding of yours; it is an instance of your openness and good-nature, and I believe has met with a fellow, who has the heart to stand by his friends, and who, if properly directed, will fight for you and me, rather than for any body else.

“ But whatever my reasons were, for delaying to put you and Mrs. Bull in mind of me, I cannot, in justice to my own family, delay it any longer. Your prosperity I shall always consider my own; but there are certain distinctions, which, if borne in silence by me, must, even in your own opinion, render me unworthy of the relation I bear to you. You used to call me proud: I wish I may not have erred on the other extreme. When you cease to be proud, I shall not esteem my brother the more. But whatever weaknesses I may have, how could you for a moment think of reducing me to the necessity of asking as a favour,
“ what

“ what is the birth-right of all mankind, I
 “ berty to defend myself? I was possessed
 “ this liberty, before I entrusted my affairs
 “ to the management of your servants; and
 “ if you and I both afterwards ceased to use
 “ it, that part of our history, perhaps, had
 “ better be past in silence. It never occurred
 “ to me, that you might perhaps resume
 “ yourself, without offering it to me.

“ If a partial distribution of arms in your
 “ own family alarmed you, as it must do every
 “ very man of common reason, what must
 “ think? the only person to whom the means
 “ of self-defence are denied, whilst I am sur-
 “ rounded on every hand, by those who carry
 “ a badge of superiority, more certain
 “ than scepters or empty pageantry. If my
 “ neighbours are at variance, whoever is upon
 “ permolt, it seems, I must be at under,
 “ poor tame drudge, unable to keep my own
 “ or assist my friends.

“ I should tire you, if I was to say every
 “ thing that occurs to me on this alarming
 “ subject, and upon an occasion which would
 “ justify greater degrees of impatience, than
 “ I have hitherto expressed. When I think
 “ that the very enemy against whom your
 “ people have taken such care to secure them-
 “ selves, is now hovering about my doors
 “ where he is sure neither to find lock nor

“ bar

bar, nor a single musket to oppose his entry, I may well lose my patience, and wish, at least, to hear the cause of this difference explained.

“ I shall direct my own people with you, how to act upon this occasion ; and I must beg the favour, that you will assist in procuring me directions how to proceed in warding off the blow, with which I am now threatened ; or let me know where I am to find bread for my children, if what I have within my doors is the property of every fool, who may be disposed to take it.

I am,

with the sincerest esteem

and affection, yours, &c.

MARGARET.”

This letter had a tone of impatience, perhaps, because it was the sudden burst of a sentiment, which Margaret had been at some pains to stifle. She meant, as historians affirm, only to speak of the present alarm ; yet she broke into the subject at once, and then was almost ashamed to own, that she or her children were afraid of Lewis Baboon's scur-

vy waterman, though, to say the truth, she could then have made no defence.

CHAP. XI.

How this letter was received by John.

MARGARET certainly did her brother wrong, if she supposed that he had ever refused her the privilege of defending herself, or that he was in any degree averse to give his consent to whatever might be necessary for that purpose. The fact was, that he had forgot her altogether, and never once thought of the question, whether she should be put upon the same footing with himself in this particular.

When John Bull acted from his own temper, and without reflection, he never discovered any remains of distrust or antipathy to his sister: But when any matter came to be seriously considered, and friends, as John expressed himself, were consulted, then he had, indeed, some unfavourable maxims relating to her, which he had retained from his youth, without having ever examined them since; and any ill-disposed person, putting him in mind of a bit of custard or cheese-cake, which she had

had snatched from him in the nursery, could have revived all his antient prejudices; and then, indeed, from his manner of talking, you would imagine, that his pockets were in perpetual danger. And, speaking of his sister and her family, you would imagine, that he had got a nest of gypsies, whom he could not dislodge from his barn, that their fingers were perfect fish-hooks, or harpies claws, perpetually sticking in his back. There were people now who found it of use, to put him in this mood, and they were sure never to neglect it, when any of Peg's people, whom they did not like, came about the house to sell trinkets, or asking for service. Then they would ask John, whether he meant to bring the itch into his family, or go to bed in perpetual fear of having his throat cut? But if any body came, who was in the use of flattering, lying, or pimping for themselves, then a lousy fellow who had been kicked out of Peg's house, was the most valuable person in the world, and John could not do too much for him.

You may believe, that if Hubble-bubble, or the nurse, had been warned of a person's coming with a letter from Peg on this occasion, they would not have failed to have called, Stop Thief; but by good luck the letter was delivered into their master's own hands, and they durst not for their lives say a word more

on the subject at that time. John had got some bumpers that afternoon; his watermen had met with Lewis Baboon's people, and he was gone abroad with Jowler, to see some boats that had been taken from Lewis, and wrecks that had been driven on shore. When he had read Peg's letter: Ah! says he, poor sister here is mightily afraid indeed. Here is a sport of work now, Jowler. She is not so much afraid either, but she wants that her young men should be armed as well as mine. Signify to her, says Jowler, that the greatness and importance of the affairs, in which you are now engaged, must throw all domestic details into a season of more leisure. Ay, ay, says John, tell her we are drinking Lewis Baboon's dirge here, the fellow's joints are stiff by this time; tell her to open a new tap for her boys, let them be merry, that's all. She shall not see Lewis Baboon this twelvemonth, I warrant her. However, as to the affair of getting guns in her house, if my wife and she can agree about it, I have no objections.

C H A P.

C H A P. XII.

How Mrs. Bull's attendants were prepared on this subject.

MARGARET could scarcely expect any other answer from her brother; he might, indeed, have talked to his wife, and it would have become him to have done so very loudly; but the settling matters of that kind, was left entirely to her and Sir Thomas. This circumstance Peg knew, and accordingly wrote to Mrs. Bull, Sir Thomas, and all her own clerks in the office, to each in the style which was proper for her to make use of; and as all the originals are in our hands, not to interrupt the course of our narration, we intend to defer the publication of them, with that of many other original papers, to the conclusion of this great work.

Notwithstanding that Peg had taken all this trouble, many people were of opinion that the affair would never be heard of in the compting-room, so much were they used to see Peg's affairs over-looked; but they were mistaken. Gilbert told Mrs. Bull, the first or second time he saw her, what a suit he was to present from her sister; and two or three of

Peg's boys were determined that it should not go without a hearing. Mean-time, the nurse and Hubble-bubble were not idle. The scheme which they thought to have frustrated was taking place very fast. The boy George and his companions were laughing at them as usual, and the young men who had been sent out to watch Lewis Baboon's motions, pass their time merrily in the fields, playing at cricket, pitch-bar, and foot-ball, from morning to night, eat their victuals with a good appetite, and slept as sound in a barn, as ever they had done in the best bed in John's house: All which, the nurse would not have believed, if you had sworn it to her on all the four evangelists. In short, there was no appearance of their tiring; and they would have held out through mere spite, if they had been tired, when they found that there was any intention to vex them.

All this was fore enough upon the nurse, without being obliged to see her predictions equally falsified, by having the same thing tried in sister Peg's house. This she could by no means think of with any patience, and she determined to do all she could with Mrs. Bull to prevent it. For this purpose, Hubble-bubble and she took their opportunity to talk to many of Mrs. Bull's attendants. They put them in mind of all the perquisites, presents, and

and vails, which had been so kindly thrown
their way; observed of what consequence
the present affair was to them, and that if
they suffered their friends to be baffled, and
discredited, they must not expect to be served
so in time coming. You may soon get other
people in our places, said they, who will be
willing to court you for the sake of your mi-
stresses; but can you go as familiarly to a new-
comer, to ask for a bit of victuals, or a glass
of liquor between meals? By this, and such
like talk, they contrived to secure the people
who had Mrs. Bull's ear. And though they
were sure of herself at last, yet matters would
go much more smoothly, if they could get a-
ny of sister Peg's own clerks to give up the
affair, as if she was not very much bent upon
it herself.

Historians agree, that they tampered with
many people for this purpose; but it is well
known, that not a soul of them would listen
to proposals of that kind, till they came to
Bumbo, whom they would have tried sooner,
if they had not thought themselves sure of
him, and at the same time known what de-
gree of credit he was likely to bring them.
They had sometimes let him loose upon Mrs.
Bull before, to very little purpose; although
for discourse he was always ready, and had
stuff in his head, which might be turned into
jocular

jocular sayings, serious sentences, pathetic declamations, angry ebullitions, or plaintive ditties, with equal propriety. He made the same thing pass in all these shapes, but the hearers did not know either when to laugh or cry, unless he gave them a signal, by a slap in the chops, a remarkable roar, or a doleful whine, by means of which it was dangerous to sit near him; and whether you was near him or no, the changes of his voice produced an odd sort of mounting and dipping, like the heaving of waves, and had the same effect in raising a violent inclination to vomit. They say, that he had often turned Mrs Bull's stomach, and that she always took cordials when she expected a visit from him. This being the case, he was to be employed with caution; but he had still one quality, from which they expected some good, and that was, his precise and accurate method of dividing mankind into Thomists and Geoffrites; in the last of which classes, he commonly put his mother Peg.

A Geoffrite originally meant any person who was for restoring 'Squire Geoffrey to the management of John Bull's business, and a Thomist the opposite. What this gentleman meant by these appellations, nobody could find out, for he sometimes bestowed them indifferently on Sir Thomas's best friends; and

what

That is more surprising still, on people who never thought of Sir Thomas nor 'Squire Geoffrey in all their lives, as well as some others, who never thought of any thing at all, but how to fill their own bellies and their pockets. He, himself, it was said, was a Thomist of this kind; but whilst he did nothing himself, but swallow the warm pottage he had got from John Bull's nurse, he wanted to persuade you, that other people's heads were constantly taken up about the divine right of Attornies to treat their clients as they pleased. A Geoffrite was his favourite topic to speak upon; but whether it was to show his sagacity in finding out what escaped other people, or merely because he had never seen any body paid for finding out Thomists; it is certain, that for one Thomist, he would point out a dozen of Geoffrites, and you would be surpris'd, how the devil Sir Thomas got into the management of John Bull's, or sister Peg's business at all, as Bumbo certainly was not in the way to help him to it.

With all these considerations, pro and con, the nurse was extremely desirous to see him; and as fortune would have it, he was no less anxious to see her. He wanted at this very time a special reward for all his services, no less than to be appointed major-domo in Peg's own house: This was a sort of a man house-keeper,

keeper, and was commonly a grave elderly person who kept the keys of Peg's pantry, and entertained, as he thought proper, any of the tenants who had affairs about the house. The last major-domo was lately dead; and as John Bull's nurse took the charge of all pantries and nurseries far and near, and would let no body meddle with them, but who was of her own chusing; it was not doubted at this time, that her favourite Bumbo would be the man. But, in order to secure it the more, he furnished himself with a list of some dozen of Geofrites, picked up nobody knows how, and containing some of those who were likely to oppose himself, in getting the major-domo-ship in Peg's family. With this provision, he went down stairs, and fo' across the court to John Bull's house.

C H A P. XIII.

How Bumbo discoursed with John Bull's nurse, and found her not so great a fool as he thought her.

BUMBO, without staying to speak with any body, went straight to the nurse's closet, where he found her very melancholy, lamenting

menting her connection with such a fool as bubble-bubble, and not much comforted with the thought of having nobody now to trust to but Bumbo. However, as the saying is, a crowning man will catch at a straw; whenever he appeared, she got up and embraced him. Which he understanding to be as much as to say, My dear major-domo, I am glad to see you, was going to thank her, when she broke out into a perfect rage against sister Peg and her family.

What, says she, is the meaning of this impertinent saucy letter, you have sent from your house to Mr. Bull? have I not enough to do with his own humours and his freaks, without your refreshing his memory, and pretending to copy after him like the ass in Æsop? Get you up, indeed! we should bring our matters to a fine pass, if we minded all your letters and remonstrances.

I hope your ladyship, says Bumbo, does not imagine that I had any hand in writing that letter, or would put any thing in Peg's head, which I knew to be so disagreeable to your ladyship; indeed, I could not shew myself any where, without the hazard of being absolutely worried by the people who were for writing that insolent letter.

What shall we do then? says the nurse; if that vixen is so much bent upon this whim,
Mrs.

Mrs. Bull cannot possibly refuse her husband's own sister, what the world will call so poor a favour; it would look like mere jealousy and spleen, and might breed heart-burnings between the two families.

Here Mr. Bumbo, perceiving the good woman's extreme distress, thought how he best might comfort her, and thereby turn the discourse to the affair of his own major-domo-ship. My dear madam, says he, don't be uneasy; this letter was written by a parcel of Geoffrites, of whom I have a list in my pocket; the few Thomists that are in that house, would sooner be hanged than do any thing so disagreeable to your ladyship.

Yours are right Thomists, says the nurse; ours here are more troublesome about those matters, than any body; but assure me, says she, that this letter is a forgery, and I shall love you as long as I breathe.

A mere forgery, upon my salvation, says Bumbo.

Well said, says she; what comfort you give me! Let us away to Mrs. Bull, and have those forgers tried to the utmost.

Before your ladyship goes, says Bumbo, I have a little affair to mention: Your ladyship knows, that the major-domo is dead, may not I presume to hope, that your ladyship will
do

do me a good office with Sir Thomas on this occasion ?

Affure yourself that you shall be major-domo, says the nurse ; but you must not go, till Mrs. Bull has heard your evidence about the forgery.

Upon my honour and reputation, says Bumbo, there is no occasion ; the forgery will appear quite plain, every word of it forged, as I declare to you ; but that unnatural woman was persuaded to desire me to second her application, and your ladyship knows, that even a major-domo leads but a dog's life, if the mistress and every body be against him. There is Small-Traith, the Laird of Lick-pelf's brother, will give his oath about the forgery ; and that is the same thing as if I did it myself, for every body knows that we always swear the same things.

I don't understand your scruples now, says the nurse ; would any woman desire you to second a forged application ? Besides, nobody ever heard of Small-Traith ; and we cannot be answerable for trusting his evidence. Stay, stay, my dear major-domo, and give us your own proper evidence in this important point of forgery.

I pray, says Bumbo, that your ladyship would consider my straits ; I dare not say a word about Geffrites ; every body will roar,

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and

and say, they knew what was a-coming; nor dare I speak my mind about Peg. I beg that your ladyship would not expose me like a bawd on the pillory, to be pelted, battered, and splashed with rotten eggs, chewed apples, and street dirt, for the faithful counsel which I give in your private ear. I will do twice as much for you in another way.

Well, well, says the nurse, I see the matter is hard, Gilbert and James will carry all before them. I shall neither meddle nor make; Sir Thomas will be imposed upon about the major-domo-ship. There are many people looking for the place, and let me tell you, it is an office of great consequence. You are young, Mr. Bumbo; and they say, you are hot when my back is turned, and you do not understand much of the larder or the pantry, and you huff the poor tenants when they come about the kitchen, and that Margaret herself has not that confidence in you which the mistress of a family should have in a person, who has such a trust about her house. In short, I have had many disputes on your account, and now I am an old woman, and don't meddle much. There is little appearance of my being able to obtain this favour for you; but you may talk to Sir Thomas about it yourself. I am, indeed, very much out of order; old age has many infirmities;

a very

a very severe cough I have, and am troubled with wind ; indeed, I have not eat an ounce of victuals for these three days.

It is impossible to describe what passed in Bumbo's countenance during this harangue. It changed from suspense to embarrassment, from embarrassment to confusion, from confusion to absolute despair ; and there it settled, when the nurse concluded her speech and was just a-going. Well, says he, with a faltering voice, I have got many enemies on your account and Sir Thomas's ; here they are, pulling the list out of his pocket, sworn Geofrites, as I hope to be saved.

That will not do, Mr. Bumbo, says the nurse ; we do not care a rush for your Geofrites or your Thomists either. They do well enough in their time, but when one is about serious business, I hate trifling. If John Bull and his sister take the defence of their houses upon themselves, we may all go packing. What influence can any body have in a family, where he has little or nothing to give away ? I have been all my life contriving things for Sir Thomas and myself, to take to ourselves, or to give away, and now you would have us part with one of the best things we have. I have found, Mr. Bumbo, that a person's influence in any family, depends on the number of good things he has to give ;

you must have caps, ribbons and petticoats for the maids, sugar-plumbs for the children, and lunccons for the clerks, and be able to help a footman now and then out of livery, otherwise they will not give an old song for you; and Sir Thomas has found plenty about John's house, otherwise Mrs. Bull and he would not be so good friends as they are. People must have their vails and their perquisites. Many a time has Sir Thomas obliged his friends with a game-keeper's place or so; and consider with yourself, that if John continues to do any part of that business himself, what numbers, not only of game-keepers, foresters, and whippers-in, but even weavers, taylors, smiths, accomptants, bakers, tanners, and shoemakers, will forget the way to Sir Thomas's closet, and never think more of Hubble-bubble, or your humble servant. And then the management of Rousterdivel's affairs, when he was brought over, was an excellent thing; trust me, many a pretty fortune has been got by Rousterdivel. But it is all over Mr. Bumbo, all over; and now a person who comes to ask for a major-domo-ship, thinks he may do what he pleases.

Much honoured madam, says Bumbo, I hope you do not consider the scruples of a friend as an absolute refusal. I have always been ready to swear what you please, and
if

my oath be required to this forgery, I am ready to give it.

That was spoken like a major-domo, says the nurse; let us away to Hubble-bubble, and settle the tenor of your evidence.

C H A P. XIV.

Showing how it was the fashion to harangue Mrs. Bull.

ALTHO' Mrs. Bull, in all matters of consequence, generally took her resolution before she came into the office, yet it was the fashion to talk to her, as if she was undetermined to the last; and she herself humoured people in this whim, by listening to them, as if she was drinking in instruction at both her ears, from every word they said. This same had its consequences, for she got the habit of doing nothing, unless somebody spoke to her more or less, and then if she was never so much determined upon a point, she was often out of countenance, when all the talk and the noise was on the other side.

This circumstance made Jowler so precious a fellow, that Hubble-bubble himself, at the time he had most to say with Mrs. Bull,

would have given a piece of his ear to have had Jowler hold his tongue; which he, however, would never do, till he saw time and place convenient. Then, do historians say, that they have seen him as silent as a lamb, or making his noise on the other side of the question.

However this be, you may believe, that this affair of sister Peg's was not to pass without talking enough. Mrs. Bull was no sooner seated, than there were people enow ready to advise her; she was told to put off the matter to another time, that it was an affair of great consequence, and that Peg appeared to be in too great a hurry. Which was scarcely said, when she was told, that her ladyship was no stranger to such subjects; that she had heard enough of it lately from her own husband, and given her opinion; that the people who spoke of Margaret's hurry, were certainly in jest, and meant to ridicule the poor woman for her long patience and forbearance.

In short, some people said, that they did not think it was safe to trust sister Peg with any arms at all. They bid Mrs. Bull recollect, whether she had not heard, that Peg had been in the practice of biting and scratching her brother, when they were both in the nursery; and asked, what security John now had,

ad, that she might not beat him out of his own house, or otherwise use him as she thought proper.

Mrs. Bull herself was ashamed of this argument; for a woman, whatever she may think, cannot bear to hear her husband meanly spoke of. But she was soon relieved of this distress, by a person who set forth John's manhood to some purpose; and in short, gave his opinion, that to be afraid of so inferior a force, was mean and dastardly, to express any jealousy of Margaret's dispositions was injurious and abominable, as they had every reason to believe, that she was well satisfied with her brother, and only meant to tread in his steps, in a matter which would be so honourable for both.

One fellow came running from the pantry, with a bib and an apron, and quoted the nurse's dream; he said, that although John Bull had banished the weavers, it was no reason why his sister Peg should do the like; that she had more need to have a piece of cloth sent her to make coats for her children, than authority for any such pernicious scheme; and that if she and her whole house were at the door, he would not grant so ruinous a favour; that he remembered to have heard the condition that both houses were in, when every body thought himself qualified to fight; that

that there was then neither wheel nor loom within the door, and nobody wrought any at all; and he asked Mrs. Bull, whether she would have those times revived?

To this it was said, that every body might have heard of times, when people wrought very little, but that they always wrought more or less; and that if there was less work done formerly than now, it was because fewer people were bred to business, and because there was not so ready a market for fine cloths or other niceties, by which tradesmen get their livelihood; but that now, when every body is bred to business, and a tradesman's work is well paid for, it was absurd to say, they would grow idle, merely because they could keep their own, and were put in a condition not to be robbed and plundered.

This did not hinder others from talking on, without end. Some of your fine-spun faint-hearted thinking people declared, that they did not think that John Bull or his sister could prosecute this scheme; it was a fine one indeed, they said, but the brother and sister were now too old to think of such projects; a good warm bed, an elbow-chair, or a couch, a glass of cordial, or a bit of comfortable dinner, were properer subjects for them to think of, than scrambling over hedges, lying out of nights, and dry blows: That game-keepers might

might be dangerous within doors, but that John had now no other chance to keep off his envious neighbours: That either his own watch-keepers, or those of other people, would find him in his grave at last: That it became John and his sister, who had so many marks of death about them, rather to think of preparing themselves for the other world, than to talk and vapouring any longer in this. In short, there was no end of the impertinencies which were spoken in this strain, all giving Mrs. Bull a speedy prospect of widowhood, and turning her thoughts towards Sir Thomas, or some other of your spruce young gallants.

Some said, it was lucky that John heard nothing of all this, for he was sometimes as jealous as ten furies; and if he had symptoms of old age, he had likewise remains of youth, which would have very ill brooked such insidious attacks on his honour. For our parts, we wish that he had heard every word of it, and had given the person who spoke so, a slap on the face; for we do not see what any body does to do putting people in mind of their age, and we are very sure that John will not die any sooner, for doing all he can to keep himself alive; and if he was to die to-morrow, we would rather see him hearty and well while he lives, were it but for an hour, than moping and drooping his head, and in terror, not only

only of what is to come in the other world; but even of every fool who may think to tread upon him in this.

No sooner the rustling, whispering and hubbub which this speech had occasioned was over, then in steps a game-keeper, to tell how much better he could defend the house than any body else. For you must know, that the game-keepers were very angry, and treated John Bull as little better than a poacher, for pretending to keep a gun in his own house.

He told Mrs. Bull, that her husband and his family were mere awkward lubbers, who never could get the strut nor the air of a game-keeper to the end of the world; that a man could not fight, unless he gave his whole time to it; and that unless a man could fight to purpose, he had better not fight at all.

This speech met with an answer too. It was said, that every body would fight till he ran away; that some people ran away sooner and others later; that nobody, however, could do it sooner than the game-keepers themselves had done upon occasion; whether their manner of running away was better than any that John or his sister could attain, this speaker would not pretend to say; but he saw no harm in letting them have a gun in their hands now and then, to use them to it, in order that they might stand as long as possible,

e, if any body came to attack them; and could see no objection to this, unless it was d, that people were the worse for being u- to a firelock, and fought best when they ew nothing of the matter, which, from at he had heard of new hired game-keep- , might possibly be the case; but that peo- e would probably not urge that argument; d for his part, he had always considered a evious use of arms, as an advantage in times danger; and therefore, he thought that ot only Mr. Bull, but his sister too, should ave as much of it, as was consistent with eir situation.

C H A P. XV.

How Mrs. Bull sat still and heard a great deal more on this subject.

WE cannot well tell how it happened, that although Mrs. Bull was considering only, what answer should be given to sister Peg's letter, yet John's own affairs were brought in head and shoulders, and it seemed as if people were afraid to hurt Peg, except through John's sides. The truth was, that though some people did not like to see the
humour

humour spreading, they did not chuse to flatter it by objections peculiar to Peg, in which they could have been contradicted; and as to the state of disparity to her brother, in which she was put, could by no means be glossed over, they chose to keep away from it as far as possible, and speak only in general terms. Peg's clerks found themselves obliged to do the same thing. One of them told Mrs. Bull that he came there to solicit a piece of justice for an aged parent, and was surpris'd to find so many people ready to dissuade her from granting it.

If there are, says he sufficient objections to the use of arms in a family, discontinue it in your own; if there are not, why disgrace one part of your house, by refusing what all mankind know to be the great distinction between masters and slaves?

I am surpris'd, however, to hear so much concerning the absolute inconveniencies of this measure. It may be inconvenient for a man to do any thing at all for his own defence; but if it be necessary for his preservation, to what purpose talk of inconveniencies? It is certainly meant by people who speak in this strain, that the method now in question is more inconvenient than that by game-keepers, which is the only other one that I have heard of. If this is their opinion, they should have
entered

entered somewhat farther into the question, than at present they appear to have done.

This family has been for sometime in the practice of committing their defence intirely to a certain class of people, whom they call game-keepers. Those are the only persons about the house, supposed to know any thing at all of the use of arms; they are set apart from the rest of the family, and by their manner of life, are made to shake off all connection with them as much as possible; and this, I suppose, that they may be at all times ready to go any where, or do any thing that their profession may require, without any regret of their own, or incumbrance from other people.

They are taught, for the same reason, to obey their leader implicitly, and to know no law but his commands; to all which conditions they bind themselves for life; and in the mean-time, do no work either in seed-time or harvest, but are fed at the expence of the family.

This, I apprehend, to be a very fair description of a game-keeper, as that profession is now maintained. Every body knows, that Mr. Bull has chosen this expedient with great reluctance. He was always apprehensive, that whoever was master of the only arms in a house, might soon become master of the

house itself. The practice, however, stole upon him, and for ought I know, he might have gone all lengths in the use of it, if he had not been ashamed of a sudden, to find himself and all his family afraid to look any enemy in the face. He bethought himself of the wretched condition he must be in, either if his game-keepers should turn against him, should desert him, or even be out of the way at any unlucky time. And, to fortify himself against those calamities, he has distributed a certain quantity of arms among his children; a certain number are to be named in their turns, to learn the use of those arms, under the direction of a person, to whom all his other affairs are so happily intrusted. The people who receive this instruction live in the family, and mind their business, with the single interruption, which some days of practice, or necessary service may occasion. When they have taken their turn, they leave that station to others, and live as before; with this only difference, that if the house is alarmed, they are readier to act a part, in which they have already had some practice.

We have heard enough of the impossibility of putting this scheme in execution; but, I think, it is found sufficiently practicable, when we want to have somebody in place of the game-keepers, whom we employ so liberally elsewhere;

elsewhere ; and therefore, I shall not say any thing at all upon that point.

Has it then any inconveniencies which do not attend every other method of self-defence ? The expence, the interruption of business, the trouble attending it, do certainly not exceed what is found of the same kind, in maintaining the profession of game-keepers. In point of expence, it is evident we can afford a much more numerous body of men in this way than in any other, if, instead of augmenting our game-keepers without end, to vie with our neighbours, we are satisfied with a moderate number in ordinary times, and prepare this resource for ourselves, against any sudden alarm.

With respect to the interruption of work, it must be allowed, that nobody can possibly work less than a game-keeper. To have so many people idle in succession, or the same number of individuals idle for their whole lives, appears to me precisely the same thing, with this only difference, that a game-keeper is idle, whether there be occasion to employ him in his profession or no, the other is not.

As for the trouble, I do not know any body who can have cause to complain of it, except Mr. Bull and his sister ; and when they are tired, they will probably let it alone, with-

out troubling your ladyship for any orders about the matter.

But I find people of very solemn authority, who tell us that it is dangerous to trust the youth of a family with arms. That besides quarrelling among themselves, they will fly in the face of every body else. That they may even drag your ladyship off that couch where you sit, and kick us, your clerks, down stairs. I should be glad to know from whom it is you are to fear these outrages; or if any body in reality was to offer them, to whom would you apply for protection, but to those who call you their lawful superior and their parent? It is strange, that a parent should be supposed to have no hold in the affections of her own children, or that they who stand first in point of esteem and respect in the family, should be in danger of being maltreated by those with whom they are so nearly connected. For my part, if the children of this family improve in their courage, their vigour, and their spirit, I expect to improve with them, and should be ashamed to own, that I fear losing, in that case, the respect and affection, with which I am now received among my companions.

At any rate, it seems it is owned, that we may quarrel among ourselves; and pray who is it we would have to be worsted in case of such

such a quarrel? Can we foresee who will be in the right, that we may arm them, and nobody else? It seems we are sure, the game-keeper, at least, will be always in the right, since we are for keeping him perpetually armed, and for rendering all the rest as tame and helpless as possible, that he may have the less trouble, or find them ready subdued to his hand. Or do those who alarm us with the fear of domestic quarrels, pretend that the game-keeper will never quarrel with any body? I would gladly avoid this subject, but the question is forced upon us. I honour the profession of which I speak, and would often in my life have gladly embraced it. But when I was describing it to you, I thought that I was pointing out the most dangerous quarter, into which the spirit of domestic faction can come. Here is an order of men, who are always in readiness to act, whose leader is always prepared; in possession at all times of great power, and at all times desirous of more. Other factions may lurk under-ground in the seed, or spring into view to be crushed as they appear: But this is at all times a full grown plant. There needs no giant to tear it from the roots, nor is there any great address required, with the help of this weapon, to confound and destroy all the civil and domestic institutions of men.

I speak not with a view to excite groundless jealousies ; I speak in behalf of an institution, which is now completed in one part of the family, and which, if carried to the other, must prove our best security against ill-designing men, from within or from without, in either house. If it be an advantage where it is already established, I hope that your ladyship will not refuse to share it with an only sister, who would be glad to employ all her force in your service, and now only claims her privilege as a piece of justice, from a person to whom she has intrusted the management of her affairs.

C H A P. XVI.

How Bumbo gave his evidence.

WE are far from commending the practice of certain historians, who pretend to give the complete speeches which were spoken many ages before, by leaders of armies, members of councils, and orators in popular assemblies ; we maintain, that nobody can do this, except the devil, or some person to whom the speaker himself gave a copy of his harangue in writing. This not
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being our case, we content ourselves with giving a few broken hints, such as we have been able to collect from the best authorities, in order to give our reader some notion of the substance of what was said to Mrs. Bull upon this great occasion. With respect to the contents of this chapter, indeed, we are singularly happy, in having met with the memoirs of Suck-Fist, a very learned man of that age, who used to feed the game-keeper's pointer, and being present with Mrs. Bull on this occasion, has transmitted to posterity the particulars of Bumbo's appearance.

By him we are informed, that Bumbo, after all, was not put to his oath; that the terrors of a formal oath approaching, he so explained what he had said about the forgery, that it was not thought expedient to put him to it in public; and the nurse thought it was better to hazard a speech from him at large, which if the lady's bowels could bear to an end, would at least show the world, that there was one of Peg's own people against granting her request.

Bumbo therefore appeared with this view, as no better could be made of it. Suck-Fist relates, that he began with declaring the instructions he had got from Margaret, to second her application. He said, that for his part, it was his opinion, that nothing could be

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be more reasonable than the proposal she made; that if John Bull had arms in his house, or sent his children to the fencing-school for a month or two, there was no reason why Margaret should be hindered from doing the same thing; and that there was nothing more desirable, than to have every distinction between the two families abolished.

Were not Suck-Fist a writer of good authority, both in point of judgment and veracity, we should be apt to question the following particulars of his narration; they are so repugnant to what went before, and so totally void of sense or coherence, that not only we, but all future historians will hesitate before they transcribe this part of his memoirs into their works. But as fiction is often more probable than truth, we draw a presumption of veracity from the very want of likelihood in the case, and are sure that such things could never have come into any body's head, if they had not been true. To dissuade Mrs. Bull from signing the order, which, it seems, was brought her ready written, relating to Peg's people, he tells her, that it was exactly like that she had already given in her own house. He did not pretend, at least in public, that the Geoffrites were many in Peg's house, yet he would not even let Sir Thomas pick and chuse, but said, it was giving arms
indif-

discriminately, to raise turbulent spirits. He commended Mr. Maclurchar extremely, and said it was a pity to take him off his loom, except he was to be transported; that giving him arms would spoil his hand as a weaver, and hinder his fighting, in which he had behaved so gloriously, that he did not deserve to be discouraged, much less annihilated, till John had made up matters with Lewis Baboon. He pointed at many bad consequences that would attend employing Mr. Maclurchar, for the defence of the house, such as spoiling a good weaver, and the like; but he insisted, that no distinction should be made between him and any body else, by pushing a line, or any other method that could separate the house into two parts; I implore, beseech, and entreat, says he, that you would not push any such line across our house; let us all be treated alike, and if there be any of us who are not in danger of being molested, or others who are not fit to carry arms, let us all be refused them together, that nobody's mind may be ruffled, nor any heart-burnings be left, but those which do or may subsist between John Bull himself and his worthy sister Margaret; they have been used to more dust than any man raise between them, and can bear it all. He advised Mrs. Bull to do nothing at all in Leg's house, lest she should forget something; when

when you have shown to us, that you can remember every circumstance at once, then we will apply for your directions, or devise a method of our own; and as Margaret has already born the disgrace of this difference so long, I see no reason why she may not bear it sometime longer; her house can never be more open, or more defenceless than it is now, nor her children less qualified to resist thieves; and I see no reason to hurry the supply of defects, to which she is now so well accustomed. He concluded by telling Mrs. Bull, what a dangerous thing it would be to give any orders in Peg's house, when he was told that her ladyship was just going to give some fresh orders in her own.

These particulars, posterity will no doubt admit upon the testimony of Suck-Fist; especially as he adds, that if any body shall say, that Bumbo reasoned upon other principles, he is ready to contradict them, by saying it is not true. He subjoins, that Jowler paid him great respect in speaking after him; and we ourselves know, that Small-Trash exclaimed, that he had gained immortal honour.

C H A P. XVII.

How Mrs. Bull settled her stomach.

MRS. Bull, in the course of the foregoing speech, was observed by many people to change colour, and before it was done, hartshorn drops and smelling-bottles were produced in abundance. Every one said, that nobody but Jowler could settle her stomach, for he used to stun her sometimes, so as to take away the sense of every thing else, which has often been observed to have very good effects in trifling illnesses, by drawing off the patient's attention, as the fear of drowning will do in the case of sea-sickness, and blisters, caustics, and stimulusses, in the case of other disorders. Jowler accordingly set to work with her: But for want of the big words, with which he used to coax John Bull, and which he avoided now for reasons best known to himself, he could produce nothing that day, but a maukish sort of stuff, that was little better than the warm water, which people are made to drink after a vomit.

In short, Mrs. Bull was up and just going, when one of Peg's clerks begged her not to be rash in dismissing a business, in which the
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interest, the honour, and the preservation of her husband's family, were so deeply involved; he told her, that he was surpris'd, to find any objections made to the terms of the order that was laid before her, as they did not pretend to ask any more at that time, than that she should appoint a day to consider that order, and correct it if she thought proper; that if she refused that request, the whole world must say, that she was determined to hear no reason on the subject, and would be left to suspect, that she had as little inclination to the measure in Mr. Bull's own house, as in his sister's; for he had scarcely heard one argument, that was not equally strong against it in both. That whether this was the case or no, he never could think the establishment secure, whilst it reached only to one part of the family, nor the union between the two houses complete, whilst some were treated like step-children or bastards, and others like gentlemen and heirs to the paternal estate.

It were painful, says he, to lay before you at large the iniquity of such a conduct, of which I believe you incapable; but if you are disposed to hear what may be offered on the point in general, I have yet those impressions deeply rooted in my breast, which made me wish for this establishment in your house, as the best security to your fortune, your honour,
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and your life. Impressions, which make me behold with joy the steps you have pursued, although I am now reduced to the necessity of begging as a favour, in behalf of a parent, what, on the foot of equal treatment, she has a right to demand, and what, if refused, must appear as a stain to her honour, and a mark of disparity which she was not born to endure. But her oppressors have saved us the trouble of enlarging on this topic, and wisely made it unnecessary to prove, what is already too plain.

Their arguments are such as would make us believe, that every moment which is bestowed by individuals for the good of the public, is lost to that family for which it is bestowed. They talk of the advantage of private industry, but speak of every practice that connects an individual in his views or affections with the family to which he belongs, as an allurement to idleness and sloth. To act for the family, to defend it in times of peril, is the noblest office to which any individual can aspire: and if he labours within your doors to heap up wealth, without having a soul capable of this office; you may call him, indeed, a gainful property, but will scarcely show him among your children, when they come to appear before those who are judges of men. Who, upon such an occasion, would

point out a sneaking mercenary selfish coward, and call him a child? Yet such is the race which we are desired to propagate, and such is the character which we are cautioned not to corrupt.

We have heard from many the praise of industry, as if any body were inclined to dispute that praise. We have heard at large, the advantages of wealth, as if wealth and industry were inconsistent with the measure for which we contend. From this source, say they, your store-houses and your granaries are filled: Let them tell us then from what source the defence of our stores are to proceed? Will our wealth deter a rapacious enemy? Are the eagles intimidated, when they are told that the doves are fatter than they? No; but our wealth will hire a protector. Who then will defend us against the protector whom we have hired? Is the gripe of a rapacious hireling less to be feared, than that of a rival at the gate? But our wealth, we are told, will enable us to maintain a large and a numerous family. But what is it will render that family worth maintaining, or make the company of those numbers that we hear of desirable? For my part, I never thought it a blessing to be placed in a multitude of base, degenerate and selfish men. If the people we live with
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are vile, the more there are of them, just so much the worse.

I have been surpris'd, therefore, to hear gentlemen speak of filling a house with men, without ever mentioning the quality of those numbers they mean to assemble; and speak of clothes and food, as of consequence, whilst the character of him who is to use them is neglected. A little reflection will convince, that the soul of a man is of more value than his possessions, and that the happiness of individuals, as well as that of the families which they compose, depends more on the generosity, justice and fortitude of their spirit, than on the trappings in which they are clothed, or the quantity of merchandise they sell to their neighbour. They, however, who contend that the present measure is inconsistent with the success of industry and traffic, throw these advantages into a light of greater contempt, than I am dispos'd to do. We excel our predecessors in the art of procuring wealth; we excel them in the knowledge of domestic œconomy; why should we not excel them too in the skill and resolution to defend advantages, which so far exceed what they ever possess'd?

Without we carry this quality along with us, other advantages are of little avail; wealth and affluence are but allurements to rapine;

even a disposition to gentleness, humanity and candour, but exposes the more to the assaults of others, and doth not secure the integrity of him who inherits it. If I contend with a knave in behalf of the innocent, and dare not stand the hazard of a contest when brought to extremes, my antagonist knows how to prevail from the first, for I shrink from the countenance of a person who is hardier than I. I am prepared on the slightest trial to betray my friend, my brother, my father, and the honour of my race. I am already formed for a slave, and hold my safety and my life by the tenor of another's will. There is no vice, which may not be grafted on cowardice, as successfully as upon avarice itself, that other stock which we are so willing to cultivate.

I shall be told that the people of this house are yet far removed from this despicable extreme. I hope they are, and that every assault of injustice would meet with a hardy and resolute opposition in the members of this family; but let us beware of the extremes, to which our maxims and our practices may finally carry us.

We educate a few only to the use of arms; them, indeed, we endeavour to inspire with courage and a contempt of danger, but we endeavour, at the same time, by throwing them into a separate way of life, to weaken
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their connection with the family, and to stifle the sentiments of filial tenderness and respect, under the load of artificial subordinations, to which they are bound for life. The familiar use of arms may fortify the breast; but more is required to accomplish a faithful and dutiful child, a tender, a generous affection, to that parent, whom he is bound to defend.

The flower and choice of our young men, crowd into the profession of which I speak: for what station is more desirable to a man of spirit, than one in which he can exert the native vigour of his mind, and stand in the right of a protection and defence to his father's house? They place themselves in this station with a glowing and ardent mind, but their continuance in it seldom fails to extinguish or depress those sentiments, and leave no impression but that of a servile dependance on the persons under whose directions they are placed.

Whilst we thus educate one part of the family, the remainder, we say, are left to cultivate pacific arts; and those arts must be pacific indeed, which render the ability of self-defence unnecessary, by which men are made tools to procure the means of life, and are scarcely put in mind, that they have a right to defend the privileges of men, against all who shall presume to attack them. The

former are bred to commit acts of violence in cold blood, the latter to bear them with a tame and dejected soul. Did we resolve to try what the utmost corruption could do, to debase, to sink and destroy a race of men, a more ingenuous contrivance could not be found than this we are disposed to follow.

It is the business of one man, it seems, to think of nothing but quarrels and violence; to another, it is not even permitted to defend himself. In this hopeful partition of your children, where are you to find the generous, the manly, and the dutiful spirit, equally prepared for times of quiet and of trouble? A spirit, which the suspension even of domestic government will not discompose, but which can, by a well-directed resolution and vigour, restore that order, which it is so well qualified to adorn and maintain.

If we would have any vestige of such spirit remain among us, let those who have the habits and affections of children, be likewise endowed with the force of men; let those who call you parent, be inspired with a resolution to stand by you in all your distresses and difficulties; and whilst they enjoy the privileges and immunities of children, be taught to know that it is their duty to defend them.

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I was always fond of the measure now under consideration, because it aimed at producing those happy effects. You need not be told in what manner it tends to produce them, for your family has already gained strength by pursuing it; and I feel with pleasure, the hopes of a gallant and happy race of men, likely to continue in this house. But let not so wise a measure be partially pursued; let not one part of your race be doomed to baseness and servility, whilst the other is formed to elevation and honour. One rotten member is sometimes found to spread corruption over the whole, and a lurking humour in one corner, to destroy the soundest constitution.

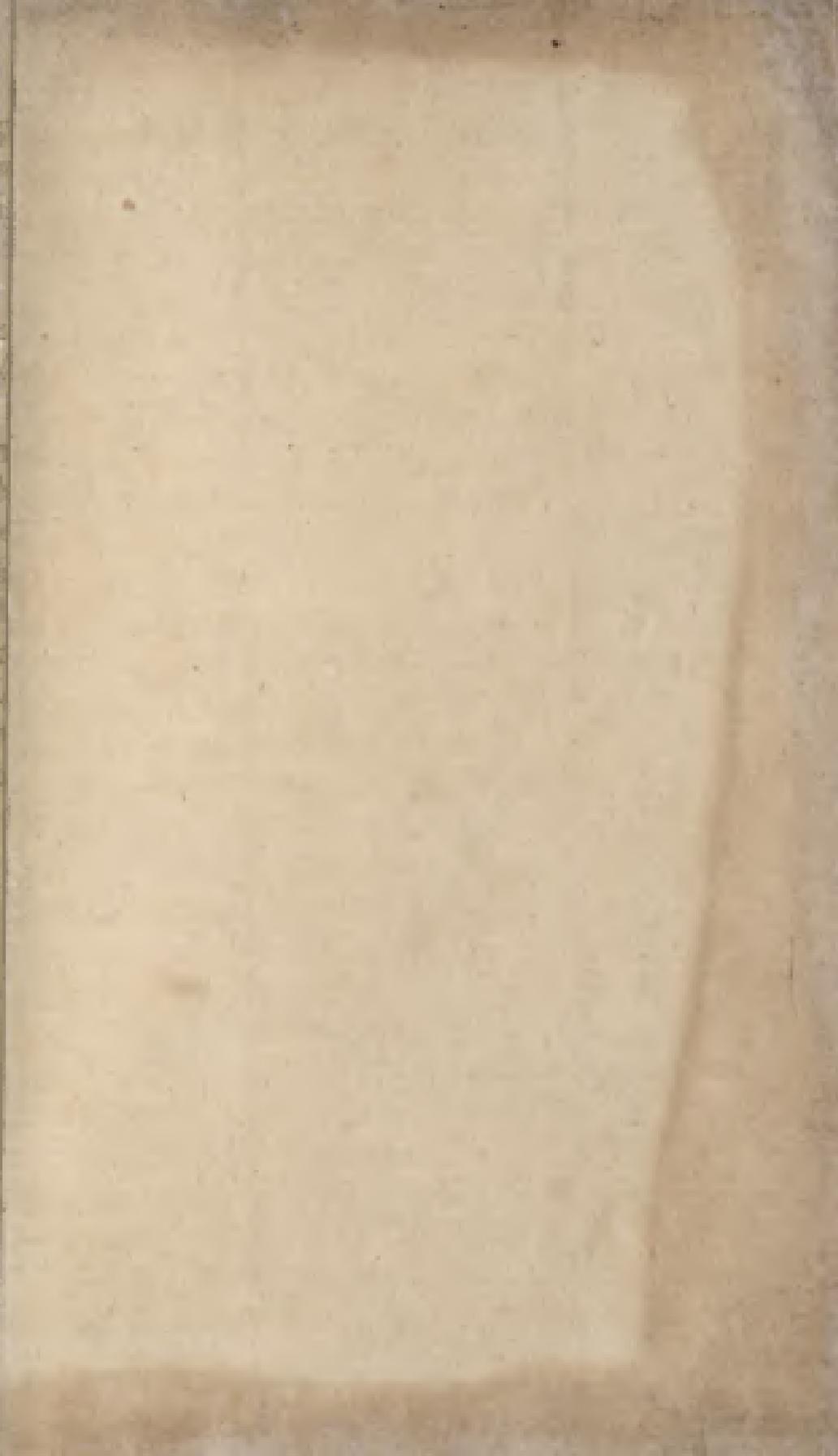
Your wisest establishments, when confined to a part, may perish for want of that emulation, which, when all are equally engaged, must kindle the ardour and spirits of generous minds. And the implements of slavery may one day be brought from that corner, to which you now deny the privileges of freemen. Into other families we have heard that a master has come, who turned his dwelling into a jail, where nothing is heard but the clank of chains, and the crashing of iron bars. He himself is distinguished by the gloomy depression of his look; the whip, which he holds in his hand, and the instruments of death which are carried before him.

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But where are the ministers of his cruel purpose to be found? They are purchased with gold in those obscure corners of his neighbourhood, where every man that is born a slave.

It has been the practice of other families to condemn a particular race to servile purposes. Their names were never reckoned in the roll of the family, their numbers never estimated as any part of their strength. For they were such as by their crimes deserved no better treatment; or by the baseness and servility of their minds, had naturally sunk into that station. But never did the father of a family, by any supercilious neglect or act of violence, throw down the offspring of his own blood, into a state of such deplorable inferiority.

F I N I S.



James M. Smith
1845

