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OS

LUNATIC'S
SATIRIC TALES,

&c. &c.



SATIRIC TALES:

CONSISTING OF

A Voyage to the Moon;

ALL THE TAILORS;

OR, THE OLD CLOAK;

AND THE

FAT WITCH OF LONDON.

BY

NICHOLAS LUNATIC, F.R.S.

Plain Truths are disagreeable, we must be
Humoured into a knowledge of ourselves.

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1808.

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OS

MOTTO:

Huc propius me

Dum doceo insanire omnes, vos ordine adite.

HOR. SAT. 3 l. 2. v. 80.

**Attend my lecture, whilst I plainly shew
That all mankind are mad, from high to low.**

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PREFACE.

THE desire of being acquainted with foreign countries, is truly laudable, because it arises from a wish of being profitable, not only to ourselves, but to others..

We learn the good qualities of their inhabitants; and, of course, emulate their conduct. We learn also their failings;—we view them in their real light; and grow wiser and better, at the expence of their misconduct.

To those who are acquainted with the vast powers of aerostatic machines, this voyage will not appear impossible; but to those

who are ignorant of them, it will seem as ridiculous as Columbus's voyage to America, which, however, contrary to all expectation, was crowned with success.

The account of the Aerial Voyage, &c. is taken from a series of Letters, which the author wrote to his friend, in London. It should seem, that there were some more, or at least one, which, in all likeli-

hood, contained the particulars of his descent; but that, however, notwithstanding the most diligent inquiry, could not be obtained.

DEDICATION.



TO

THE EMPEROR OF MOROCCO.

May it please your Majesty,

IT has long been to me a matter of great consideration, to which of the Mundane Potentates I should dedicate this Volume, of the good-

ness of which your Majesty will, no doubt, be thoroughly satisfied when you read it.

I revolved in my mind all the Emperors I could recollect, for at the feet of no less a personage was I resolved to lay this my production. The Emperor of China was too far removed from me, to afford a hope that my attention would be noticed by him, though I do not

doubt but that he would have presented me with some of his best tea, in return for my civility.

I also objected to the Emperor of Russia, because I well knew that he was too busy to pay that attention to this Work, which it undoubtedly deserves; and, in consequence, might have neglected to send me some bear-skins and sables.

As to the man who is called the Emperor of France, your Majesty will believe me, when I assure you, that I have such a mortal aversion to the creature, that I really would not disgrace my Works, by dedicating them to him ;—no, not even though he were to offer me one of his best gingerbread crowns.

Therefore, with all the civility befitting me, in addressing myself

to so great a personage as your Majesty, did I turn my thoughts to the footstool of your throne.

May your Majesty live a thousand years! I kiss the dust at your feet. Never was there an Emperor who possessed such extraordinary talents—such strength of intellects—such amiability of disposition—such—but in pursuing so pleasing a theme, I should swell

my Dedication to a volume ; and though praise is very sweet, yet, I fear your Majesty might tire of such a large repast.

Perhaps, your Majesty might like to know something concerning the person who presumes to dedicate this volume to you.

Though I am near twenty-eight years of age, yet I can assure

your Majesty that I have had but three birth-days, owing to my being born on the 29th of February, which circumstance bringing on me the ridicule of my acquaintance, I am informed, has turned my brain: but, however, the fact is, that I am sufficiently in my senses, to discover that all around me are out of them; and, in order to prove it, have turned Author, and am determined to advise them

till I bring them back to their reason.

One good turn, your Majesty, deserves another ; but these people do not think so, and therefore return my good offices by laughing at me. Your Majesty, I am sure, is of the same generous opinion as myself ; and therefore will, no doubt, favourably consider my attention to you.

The Voyage to the Moon being a mere statement of facts, only deserves admiration for the wonderful circumstances recorded in it; but the Tales, your Majesty, are very much admired for their novelty,—figurative expressions,—elegant diction,—and profundity of meaning. They are highly esteemed by connoisseurs, and though not wanted in my country, may be of

some utility in your Majesty's dominions.

That they may improve and amuse all who read them, is the sincere prayer of

Your Majesty's

Devoted Slave,

NICHOLAS LUNATIC.

SATIRIC TALES.

CHAPTER THE FIRST.

A Voyage to the Moon.

YOU and I, my dear friend, in our juvenile days, have often amused ourselves with gazing on the Moon, and in communicating to each other our infantine ideas respecting it. The marks on its surface we then fancied were like the figure of a man, carrying a bundle of faggots. We imagined it

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was a place of punishment, and have often commiserated the fate of those, who, we firmly believed, had incurred the penalty of being kept there in "durance vile," for cutting wood on a Sunday.

At length we were separated; and while I followed the fatiguing employment of a merchant, you enjoyed the comforts of ease and independence.

Many a night, when I have been on deck, have I gazed for hours on the pale lamp of night;—then, my more informed ideas made me consider it as a world. A world self-poised, holding its never-erring course through

the vast aërial expanse, the abode, doubtless, of human beings like ourselves. What wonderful conceptions—what sublime awful ideas did it produce in my mind of the almighty power of the Deity!

Still unable to conquer the prejudices of youth, I did not think that the inhabitants of the Moon were endowed with the same extent of intellectual qualities as we are. And this I was more inclined to conclude, from the known influence which that planet has over insane people, in support of which, were I inclined, I could quote Butler, as well as many other authors.

You know I was always of an enterprising disposition, extremely fond of making mechanical experiments, which, I fondly hoped, might, in some shape or other, prove serviceable to my country.

But, my dear friend, this disposition led me into so many Quixotic schemes that *I* thought were for the good of my country, but which, being unable to persuade any one else of, I at last desisted in disgust, though not convinced that they were useless, but that they would interfere with the private interest of great men in office.

When I reflected on this circum-

stance, I really thought myself somewhat insane not to have foreseen it; and also, that I well deserved the singular name I inherited from my father, which has given rise to much mirth to my young friends.

To know that my motives were good, was certainly a vast source of satisfaction to me; and in spite of all the difficulties I had encountered, but not subdued, there remained a strange hankering, a continual longing in my bosom to render myself a conspicuous character.

I had always a most exalted opinion of the power of aërostatic machines.

I thought that the experiments which had been made, were nothing in comparison to what might be effected ; and I determined to try what I could do, though my intents, in case I succeeded, then scarce dawned in my bosom, and I was fearful of making any one acquainted with my embryo ideas, lest I might be thought worthy of an apartment in Bedlam.

What those thoughts were, I will now explain to you.—I determined, should I succeed, not to confine my voyages to this Globe, but to endeavour to explore the unknown regions of the Moon !!

I think I see you start; but "season your admiration for a while," for my scheme succeeded far beyond my most sanguine hopes.

In the prosecution of my plan, I had, however, many difficulties to encounter; for, as I had determined that no one should be privy to my designs, I had every thing to prepare myself, and had very little money to purchase the necessary materials. I was too conscious that it would be impossible to borrow any to forward so wild a scheme; for whatever sums might formerly have been thrown away on experiments, to appearance equally as absurd as mine, yet the world was now too wise

for me to hope to obtain any for my purposes,

I was, however, certain, that whether I succeeded or not, I should be provided for. In the one case, I knew I could depend on the liberality of my countrymen ; and that their eagerness to purchase the relation of my adventures, would completely establish my exhausted finances ; and in the other event, the inviting doors of a mad-house, I was certain, would not fail of being open to receive me.

- In order to prosecute my plan as privately as possible, I took a wood-cutter's cabin, in the centre of a forest,

in Warwickshire ; laid in a small stock of provisions ; and, unseen by mortal eye, commenced my operations.

I first made an immense bag of silk, of a spherical form, more than twice the size of any balloon I had ever seen : this I strengthened by a coat of varnish, and covered it with a strong network ; I then filled the silk with inflammable air.

When I had done that, my fears were greatly excited by the astonishing propensity it had to ascend ; and so great were its exertions, that it absolutely loosened two trees to which I fastened it ; and had I not at that very

moment succeeded in attaching it to double the number, my intended vehicle would most certainly have departed without me.

As I did not know how long I might be on my journey, I determined to take with me sufficient provision for a week; and having fastened a long kind of vehicle, resembling a boat, to the ends of the netting that was round the balloon, I put in it whatever I might have occasion for, and also made two pair of oars to guide its course. Thus, every thing being prepared, I fixed on the approaching night to commence my journey.

All these operations took me up the greater part of two months, during which I did not see a human creature ; but never did time slip away so fast : intent on my employment, and buoyed up by the flattering promises of hope, the hours passed almost unnoticed by me.

And now, my friend, to you, and you only, will I candidly describe my sensations on the eve of so wonderful an undertaking, which was never before attempted, or perhaps even thought of.

My balloon, which I had hitherto regarded with delight, now became to

me an object of terror. All those pleasing expectations of success which I had so constantly cherished now vanished. My fears surmounting them, suggested a thousand dangers :--so greatly, indeed, did they take possession of me, that I was afraid to look at the Moon ; and when I considered that it was many thousands of miles from the earth, the immensity of the distance made me shudder, and almost resolve to give up the undertaking, though I had been at so much trouble and expence in my preparations.

Two days did I pass in a state of misery and uncertainty which beggars description ; but, on the evening of the

third, as I was pensively gazing on the Heavens, I beheld the Moon "red, rising in the east" (it was then the month of June); and it being of an extraordinary size, that circumstance made me conclude it was nearer than usual to the earth.

Deluded by this idea, my fears forsaking me,—heedless of the consequences, I jumped into the boat, cut some of the ropes which fastened the balloon to the trees, the struggles of which tore up entirely those it had before loosened, and, swifter than the ball from the cannon's mouth, I ascended into the regions of air.

You may think it wonderful, but it is no less strange than true, that, in proportion as my distance from the earth increased, so all my terrors vanished.—It was a lovely evening; the object of my wishes, of my hopes and fears, brightened to my view; and, in idea, I was already there,—already among a people whom no mortal on this earth had seen. I anticipated the astonishment which such a journey would cause to my countrymen, and the applause, the adulation, I should receive on my return. I little thought then of what I might possibly experience in going there, and was not even certain of succeeding; but I was young and sanguine, bold and daring; all

difficulties vanished before me. And, now being embarked, I determined to make every possible exertion to prosecute my voyage.

The rapidity of my ascension (being wholly unaccustomed to it, for I had never been in a balloon before) at first made me find great difficulty in breathing: but that, however, I soon conquered; and, after I had continued rising about three or four hours, I collected sufficient resolution to quit my convulsed hold of the sides of the boat, and thinking that the progress of the balloon was impeded by the trees, which hung to the ropes, I took my hatchet, and cut them.

The noise they made in their descent, was awful, somewhat similar to the rushing of a vast cataract over irregular rocks. I trembled lest they should do any one a mischief, and sat for some time involved in melancholy reflections, from which I was at length roused by my situation.

The Moon, on which my gaze was almost constantly directed, had now attained the summit of the horizon, and as the poet expresses it,

—————“ Viewed with equal face,

“ Her steepy rise, and her declining race.”

As I advanced, her surface appeared more rough and irregular, and her cir-

cumference not so beautifully round as it appears from the earth.

Reflect, my dear friend, on my situation,—alone,—traversing the trackless regions of the atmosphere,—my very existence depending on the silken bag, which contained the inflammable air, in which, should the smallest rent be made, like another adventurous Phaëton, I would have been dashed to pieces. The earth was far distant beneath, and appeared but faintly irradiated with the lumen of the Moon; whilst to me, her lucid beams seemed brighter than the sun in his meridian glory.

I now approached several clouds ; and, 'ere I was aware of it, became suddenly enveloped with a moist vapour, which wetted my cloaths, and made me very uncomfortable. I was also alarmed lest it should affect the silk of my balloon ; but, thank Heaven ! the varnish prevented it.

I was not very long in this situation, for I soon beheld the clouds floating below me, which totally obscured the earth from my sight.

The scene was awful,—each star increased in size as I ascended, and many of the nearest appeared as large as the Moon does to you. I imagined my-

self approaching an infinity of worlds, and my whole soul was occupied in reflections on the wonderful works of the Almighty.

After having ascended some time, I found it necessary to make use of my oars, in order to keep the balloon as near to the Moon's course (whose rapid motion I could plainly discover) as possible. The wind favoured my exertions, and my doubts of being able to attain the object of my journey almost vanished.

Whether it was the fatigue of rowing, or that my senses were unable to support the change of atmosphere, is

uncertain ; but the novelty of my situation was not sufficient to prevent me falling into a deep sleep.

How long I continued in this situation I am ignorant, for my watch was down, and might, for what I knew, have been so for hours. My brain seemed confused, for at first I could hardly recollect where I was, or how I came into that situation ; and my astonishment and terror were so great, that had I not taken the precaution, for fear of accidents, to secure myself to the boat by a strong cord, which I fastened round my waist, I should, in all likelihood, in the delirium of the moment, have fallen out.

In such an event, you, my friend and my countrymen, would have been deprived of that information, which, by an effort almost beyond human conception, I have obtained.

The Moon now was not so luminous as it had before appeared to be ; and I seemed as if I was descending on it, rather than ascending to it. This circumstance at first greatly astonished me ; but my surprise ceased, because I could account for that circumstance, by having got within its attraction.

Above me appeared an infinity of planets ; some larger than others, by reason of my proximity to them ; and

the nearest to me, which I concluded must be our earth, seemed nearly as luminous as the Moon, from whence I concluded that the earth, in its turn, afforded light to that planet.

At first I thought my project had failed, and that I was descending to the earth ; but, as I rapidly approached, I perceived that the view I had of the scenes below, were similar, taken collectively, to the appearance we observe on the Moon's surface, but which was, as I then plainly saw, an immense continent, abounding with high mountains, large vallies, deep cavities, and even volcanos, the smoke

of one of which, high as I was, I could distinguish.

I now became rather anxious about my descent, for the continent was bounded by immense seas, on which I was as likely to alight as on the land.

Whilst I was surveying the objects beneath me, to my horror I found that the balloon was approaching the volcano, which appeared to be much larger than *Ætna*. It was to no purpose that I endeavoured to use my oars, to avoid the danger I was in, for the flames and roaring of the volcano had the same effect to lull the wind, as

I have observed in engagements a constant discharge of ordnance has on the sea ; and I descended rapidly towards the flaming mountain, already rendered uncomfortable by the suffocating heat and smoke, and expecting every moment to experience the fate of Empedocles.

The horrific explosions from the mountain now made the balloon tremble like an aspen leaf, while some of the vast stones emitted from it, threatened me with instant destruction.

The condensing clouds of smoke surrounding me now, hid every object from my view. As I continued to de-

scend, in order to lighten the ballpon, I threw out every thing I had in the boat, and even made preparations to cut that away, and fasten myself to the netting. However, finding the machine was become more stationary, I plyed my oars, and had succeeded in getting a little way from the volcano, when an immense stone, or rather piece of rock, which was exploded from the burning mountain, dropped into my boat ; and, by its weight, made the balloon descend with inconceivable rapidity.

I now gave myself up for lost. I had, it is true, avoided the mountain ; but I was directly over a sea, into

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which the weight of the stone would instantly sink my balloon.

Convinced that nothing less than a miracle could save my life, I grew desperate, and seizing my hatchet, cut away a large portion of the boat's side: but still being unable to rid myself of the stone, I supported myself in the netting, and cut the ropes which held the boat.

Both instantly fell into the sea, and thus lightened, the balloon swiftly ascended, and passed over a part of the continent, which appeared to be very wild and mountainous, and, as

far as I could judge, destitute of inhabitants.

I think, my friend, when you read this narrative, you will shudder at my dreadful situation. As near as I could judge, I might be about three miles above the land, supported only by the net-work, and expecting every moment, that, unable to keep my hold, I should whirl from the giddy height, and be dashed in atoms.

I now beheld, on the edge of the shore, a large city, which, at first view, appeared, from the multitude of spires, more like an assemblage of churches than houses. I was not much

surprised at that circumstance, because I had made up my mind to see strange things. I was delighted to find that my balloon was approaching it; and when I came within a mile of the place, in order to facilitate my descent, I opened a valve, to allow some of the inflammable air to escape; but in my agitation, permitting too great a quantity to pass, my balloon descended with inconceivable rapidity, and getting into another current of wind, instead of alighting near the city, fell into the sea!

Thank heaven! Providence, in this moment of dangers, did not desert me; for as I was descending, observing a

small boat not far off, when I reached the water, I swam towards it, and was humanely taken in by the mariners.

It would be difficult to imagine the astonishment of these people, who asked me a thousand questions; but which, through my ignorance of their language, as well as my agitation, I was unable to answer. They immediately supplied me with fresh clothes, and gave me a kind of drink, which they called *alder-juice*, in taste not unlike our port wine; and when I was somewhat recovered, they pointed to a large vessel, which was lying at anchor, amongst some others, and gave me to

understand that they were going to take me there :—in fact, in a short time after, the people weighed their anchor, and stood towards the ship.

When I was sufficiently composed to pay attention to their language, I found in many of the words so striking a resemblance to our Welch, of which country, you know, I am a native, that I flattered myself I should soon attain a sufficient knowledge of it, to assist me in my researches in this newly-discovered world..

As I have already swelled this chapter to nearly half the size of a volume

of some of our *late* English publications, I shall resume my adventures in the next.

CHAPTER THE SECOND.

On board the Blusterman's Thrasher,
off the Nation of Crescents.

I was received very kindly by the person who commanded the vessel, and who, I was given to understand, was a blusterman (a high post among these people, something similar to that of our admiral).

You will be surprised when I tell you, that I found very little difficulty in

understanding his conversation, which, I imagine, was owing to the distinctness of his articulation ; or, perhaps, the sailors might, like ours, interlard so many of their technical terms in their discourse, as to make it unintelligible to me.

The blusterman gave me to understand that he was sent from his country, which he called the Moon Island, with a few thrashers (which, it seems, is the name for their men of war), in order to conquer the nation opposite to whose shores he now was, and whom he termed the Crescents.

You may imagine, my friend, how

I stared, when I learnt that a few thrashers were sent to conquer a whole nation! Indeed, I could scarce restrain a smile, but as it would have been at the expence of my friend, the blusterman, who seemed perfectly convinced of the feasibility of his mission, I endeavoured to controul the muscles of my features as much as possible, which I am sure you, my friend, who live in England, where wisdom is so pre-eminent, will not be able to refrain from, unless indeed your sensations are turned into pity, on hearing of a people who possess such an extraordinary imbecility of intellect. Indeed I have every reason already to conclude, my youthful ideas of the inhabitants of the

Moon were perfectly correct, and that they are deranged.

I fear you will call it ungenerous in me to decide so hastily on the character of a people by whom I have been so humanely treated.

The national character of the inhabitants of Moon Island, certainly comprehends every thing that is generous and liberal : yet these virtues carried to too great an extent become follies ; and, I fear, I shall more than once have occasion to justify this observation.

So confident did the blusterman feel of success, that, instead of proceeding

to hostilities the moment he arrived, when perhaps, in the general consternation, he might have succeeded, he disdained to take any advantage of that circumstance, and therefore commenced a correspondence with the Crescents, in which he endeavoured to persuade them, by dint of fine-written letters, to acquiesce to the demands of his master, the governor of the Moonites; which was, that they should immediately turn all the Froglanders out of their nation, they being a people whom, it appears, the Moonites would consign to the devil any day in the week, and *vice versa*.

The Crescents, however, had not the

smallest idea of complying with the demands of the blusterman; but conscious of being very weak, they thought it best to conceal their real sentiments till they were in a condition to defend themselves.

The blusterman, therefore, for some time, shut his eyes, that he might not see the fortifications they were erecting, while he dictated to his secretary the letters he sent, which the Crescents laughed at in their sleeves, while they answered; and proceeded so indefatigably with their works, that, at length, the blusterman was obliged to open his eyes, that he might find some way of escaping from an enemy he had so

greatly despised :—and lucky, indeed, he was in getting off when he did ! for had he staid many days longer, in all probability his return would have been prevented ; and, to use the old English saying, he would have caught a tartar, which means, when you expect to take another, to get taken yourself. As it was, some of his thrashers were damaged, and his men killed by the stones with which the Crescents pelted them, till they had left their coast.

I think I see you, my friend, shaking your fat sides at this account. If, indeed, you imagined these people endowed with reason like your countrymen, you might enjoy your mirth ;

but deranged as they are in their intellects, I think them rather deserving of pity than ridicule.

As I had often signified to the blusterman my wish to go to Moon Island which, I was informed, contained the most polished people in the Moon, he very kindly ordered me to be received on board of one of his small thrashers, which was returning to that island, in order to acquaint the governor with his ill success; and having requested the stormo (or captain) to pay me every attention in his power, he pressed a purse of spangles (which is the name of the current coin) on my acceptance, and I went on board the thrasher,

deeply impressed with his kind and generous conduct, and firmly of opinion, that such a man as he was, if once got out of the influence of the Moon, which had affected him equally with his countrymen, would be an acquisition even to my dear native island.

As nothing worthy of remark occurred during my voyage to Moon Island, I shall not intrude on your patience by describing it. The stormo was very attentive to me, and very inquisitive about England; and as I never am better pleased than while expatiating on the wise laws and regulations, the correct manners and customs of my

countrymen, he had no reason to complain of my taciturnity.

At length he pointed out to me one morning, as we were walking on the deck, the distant rocks of Moon Island; and, towards the evening, we anchored in a large bay, where were a great many of their thrashers, which are certainly the finest vessels I ever beheld.

It was late in the evening when we landed; and as we walked along the streets, would you believe it, my friend, I was actually solicited by several women to leave my companion, and go along with them. At first, never having met with any occurrence of the

like nature, I was unable to conceive what they could want, and accordingly applied for information to my friend, when what was my horror on finding that these women desired my company for the most abandoned purposes.— Can you imagine any thing half so dreadful? Thank Heaven, such things are unknown in England !

I figure to myself what a tumult it would excite, if a female was to act in that manner in the streets of London ; —unquestionably the fury of the mob would be such, that her existence would be in the greatest danger. Here, however, it is thought nothing of,—

Can I give you a greater proof of the insanity of these people?

The capital, called Moon City, was at some distance from the place where we landed ; and my friend, the stormo, whose business made it necessary for him to get there as soon as possible, procured a rumble and four crawlers (a chaise and four), and we set off towards the great town.

There was one circumstance that occurred on the road, which greatly astonished me. About day-break (for we travelled all night), a smouchum (a robber), mounted on a very fine crawler, came to the window of the rumble,

having previously ordered the drivers to stop, and requested my friend and myself to give him all our spangles, protesting that if we did not, he would blow out our brains, and for that purpose held a pistol close to my head.

You may easily imagine how I was surprised at this circumstance, which gave me a very bad idea of the laws of these people, which, it plainly appeared, were insufficient to prevent such dreadful doings, and led me to some reflections on the secure and comfortable travelling in England, where such things are unknown, and where a person may leave a bag of spangles in the streets, in the full certainty that no one

would touch it. I forget, indeed, that I am writing about these things to you who know the truth of them full as well as myself; but the honesty of my friends at home, is so agreeable a subject, that I feel the greatest pleasure in expatiating on it, whenever an opportunity occurs.

But to proceed.—No sooner had the smouchum made his demand, than the stormo, who, it appears, was no stranger to the dishonesty of his countrymen, pulled out a pistol from the pocket of the rumble, which, it seems, he had put there to be ready in case of such an emergency, and discharged the contents at the fellow, who appeared so

fully satisfied with the answer he received, that he set off at a full gallop, not, as I fear, without being wounded, and we proceeded on our journey.

At length, to my joy, we entered Moon City, which appeared of great extent. The streets were all illuminated with lamps, which made it as safe to travel through by night as by day; and though it was then near morning, the lamps were still alight. We stopped at a cheat, or inn, and the drivers soon rousing the inhabitants, we entered a handsome building, and immediately retired to rest.

My repose, however, was soon de-

stroyed by the cries of various mechanics ; and wishing to see what they were vending, I opened the window.

Exactly opposite to me was a pump, where I beheld a woman busily employed in filling a large tin vessel with water, which, afterwards mixing with a white substance, she marched off, crying, in a voice which penetrated my very ears, “ Sky-blue ! Sky-blue ! ”— This composition, I afterwards found, was what these people make use of for milk !

My friend, the stormo, now entered my chamber, and informed me, that his business obliged him to go out ; but

that he would return time enough to breakfast with me. He was as good as his promise; and after we had concluded it, desired the waiter to bring him his bill. Imagine my astonishment, when I found that the trifling accommodation we had received, amounted to near two spangles! I pulled out my purse, in order to pay my share, but this the stormo would not permit; and shortly after, his business obliging him to go out again, in order to pass the time, I determined to take a stroll about the town.

I now found that the two spangles which had been paid, and which I thought so exorbitant a demand, were

not the whole expence, for I was assailed, as I passed through the passage, by half a dozen different people I had never seen. A woman begged to be paid for making my bed ; the waiter, who attended us, I found, expected a remuneration for his services; the boy who cleaned my shoes, hoped my honour would not forget him : so that I really thought the name of the house, according to the meaning attached to it in England, was not an improper one.

Having complied with the demands of these people, which took about half a spangle, I sallied into the street.

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Before I left my friend, the bluster-man, he had supplied me with several suits of the clothing worn in this country; and, therefore, I did not attract that vulgar notice, which foreigners do in my own country.

Reflecting, as I walked along, on the enormous expences attendant on residing at the cheat, I thought that it would be much more economical for me to take a private apartment; and as I was looking about me, saw wrote on the side post of the door of a good looking house, which had two lamps before it, "Lodgings for Gentlemen."

I determined to make inquiries at it;

and accordingly walking in, knocked at a small door in the passage, which was, soon after, opened by a man, to whom I mentioned the accommodation I wished to have.

He seemed to be very good natured, for he smiled, and conducted me upstairs, into a very handsome apartment; and retired, after telling me he would call the young lady of the house.

In a few minutes after, the door opened, and a very pretty girl entered, who also smiled, and looked so good humoured, that I was quite delighted with the idea of having met with people who appeared so kind and amiable.

I immediately disclosed to her my wants, when she opened a door in the apartment which led to a handsome bed-chamber; kindly taking me by the hand, which she squeezed in such a manner as rather surprised me; and, closing the door after her, began to lay aside all modesty, for she endeavoured to kiss me!

You, my friend, who know my remarkable attachment to modesty, can only feel for my situation. I was, indeed, so astonished and confounded, that I was at a loss how to act. At length, contriving to get near the door, I opened it, and ran down stairs as fast as possible, followed by the girl, who,

I suppose, finding that I would not submit to her abandoned purposes, loaded me with all manner of abuse (a small part of which I was happily only able to comprehend), which brought out that complaisant man, who desired to know the reason of the uproar.

As I thought, from his former behaviour, that I should find him disposed to listen to me, I told him my case in a few words, and was moving towards the door, in order to leave the house, when he collared me, and calling another man to his assistance, declared I should not leave the house till the lady was satisfied for her *intended*

kindness, and he paid for the use of his rooms.

As it was useless to contend with two men and a woman, I demanded what I was to pay ; and, on being informed, took two spangles out of my purse, and gave him, when he opened the door, and I was glad enough, as you may suppose, to find myself at liberty in the street.

I had purchased my experience pretty dear ; and therefore, as you may imagine, determined to look out no longer for lodgings till I had consulted my stormo.

Indeed, I began to wish myself back to the earth, and once more in London, where my native modesty would never call up a blush in my cheeks, as I should then be surrounded with whatever is virtuous and correct.

As the man at the lodging-house had torn my neckcloth, I went into a large warehouse, where I saw a quantity of the same stuff of which it was made, displayed for sale.

You will hardly imagine my surprise, when, on looking about me, I saw nothing but fine stout young men in the shop, which, according to the London custom, I expected would have

been attended by females. You cannot imagine how awkward I felt when I communicated my wants to a man about six feet high, who was dressed as well, if not better, than myself; and I could not help smiling, when I saw him measuring out a yard of the article I wanted, and the other men busily employed in displaying to some well-dressed women, laces, tapes, and even pins and needles.

I know very well that this will not be credited in England, where females only are, with great propriety, constantly employed in those truly feminine departments; and where our young men, with a spirit becoming

Britons, man our navies, increase our armies, and look with disdain and contempt on the occupation of a man-milliner.

My manly feelings made me very glad when I left the shop, though I could not avoid some ideas taking place in my mind, which were rather inimical to an exalted opinion of the laws of Moon Island. Indeed, every thing I have as yet seen, strengthens my opinion, that these people labour under a mental derangement, which exists equally amongst all ranks, high and low.

As I was strolling along the streets,

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I came to a most magnificent building, which, from its appearance, I judged was a place of public worship :—however, to be certain, I applied for information to a person who was passing by ; but the rude brute staring at me, without answering my question, laughed in my face. In the moment of anger, which was roused by his insolent conduct, I lost all command of myself, and struck him ; but no sooner had I done this, than I became sensible of the folly of my acting in that manner, in a strange country, the consequences of which might be of a very serious nature.

However, when the man received the

blow, he immediately threw off his coat and waistcoat, and challenged me to fight ; to which I agreed, being rather heated by the insult I had received.

By this time, a mob of the Moonites had collected round us, and I singled out a genteel-looking man, to whose care I entrusted my watch, which was a very valuable one, and my coat and hat.

From my size and strength I had every advantage over my antagonist, who, after receiving a severe beating, owned himself conquered ; and I turned about to put on my clothes. The

man, however, to whom I had given them, was gone, leaving my coat and hat in the care of another, who restored them to me ; but, unfortunately, forgot to be equally honest with respect to my time-piece.

It was to no purpose I made inquiries, for no one knew any thing about him ; so I concluded that he was a smouchum, and had only to curse my own folly, in venturing out without the protection of the stormo.

Boxing in this country is held in high estimation ; though in England it is looked on in its real light, as the most abominable practice that ever disgraced

a civilized country ; but here it is countenanced, not only by the big wigs, or lords, but also by the sons of the rum-bo.—This is, indeed, a rare proof of the folly of the Moonites!

A I concluded my watch was gone, beyond a possibility of recovery, I resolved to bear my loss with as good a grace as possible. Indeed, I thought myself fortunate that I had not been deprived of my purse of spangles, the present of the blusterman ; but, luckily for me, they were safe in my pocket.

I now once more directed my attention to the building, which was, as I conjectured, erected for religious pur-

poses ; and, in order to allay the agitation of my mind, I walked up the large flight of steps which led to the gates, and requested admittance.

Judge of my astonishment, my dear friend, when I found that I must pay for entering a place set apart for the worship of the Deity, just as if it had been a playhouse. I was not merely surprised ; I was shocked beyond expression. But this is nothing to what was done here some time back, when one of their blustermen, who died in an engagement with some of the Froglanders' and Grayos' thrashers, being laid in a vault, the people were absolutely admitted into it at so much per

head. With this circumstance I was made acquainted by reading a pretty piece of poetry, written by a Moonite, called *The Blusterman's Ghost!* in which it is represented as complaining of the sacrilege, and reprobating such a horrid practice.

But to proceed.—No sooner had I entered the edifice, than I was both astonished and delighted with the magnificence of the architecture; and I could not but admit, in my own mind, that it was equally as beautiful as the Cathedral of St. Paul's; and that it conferred a considerable portion of credit on the Moonites, which was much

increased, on considering their natural imbecility.

After I had staid here some time, admiring the different monuments, which are very fine, I began to think that it was time I should return to the cheat, where I had promised to dine with my friend. So leaving the church, I directed my steps to that place, which I easily found from its remarkable situation, being near a great black figure, seated on a horse, whose saddle was of a particular construction, and as I concluded, by not observing any girths to it, fastened by a concealed spring to the body of the animal.

I there found my friend, who had been in a state of much uneasiness on my account, and had sent several people to seek me.

He was excessively amused with the relation of my morning adventures, particularly with the circumstances that took place at the lodging-house. He, however, counselled me not to attempt going out by myself, till I was better acquainted with the customs and manners of these people, politely offering to accompany me on any excursion, when his occupations would permit; he now informed me he had that day been honored with an audience of the rumbo, who, having heard of my

arrival and singular journey from the earth, desired to see me on the second day.

However, as my preparations for this great honor, and the interview itself would extend this chapter too much, I shall defer that information for my next.

CHAPTER THE THIRD.

Moon City.

AS my wardrobe could not furnish me with suitable apparel for my introduction to the rumbo. My friend immediately sent for the various artificers which clothe and decorate the human frame.

Here my surprise was greatly excited, for as I only expected to see a tailor and a shoemaker, you will imagine my astonishment on being waited

on by almost half a score of people, one measured me for a coat, another for my waistcoat and breeches, a third brought me some stockings, a fourth a hat, a fifth, they called Toby, came to measure me for shoes ; and the noted Mr. Quake waited to cut my hair.

This last operator astonished me beyond expression, for, after he had done his office, he *modestly* demanded no less a sum for it than a whole spangle, about twenty times more than I ever paid ; but my friend accounted for this extraordinary charge, by informing me that Mr. Quake only cut the hair of the first people in Moon City, such as the rumbo's children, &c. and that it

was even deemed a sort of honor to get him to officiate on a commoner's head.— What consummate folly!! but I forget that I am in the Moon.

The important hour arrived which I had looked forward to with the greatest anxiety. At eleven o'clock the stormo and myself went to the residence of the rumbo; you may be sure, my friend, I had brought to my recollection all I knew of our excellent laws and constitution, concluding, of course, that the rumbo's anxiety would be great to be informed of things which, from his high situation, must greatly interest him; however, in this particular I was deceived.

The rumbo received me with the greatest civility, but he talked so quick that I could hardly understand a word he said till he had repeated it, or one of his big wigs for him; he asked me particularly about the size of the earth; and whether it was all one farm.

You may be assured, my friend, that my risible faculties were rather excited by this question, and so indeed were that of some of the big wigs when I answered that the earth was about four times as big as the Moon, and contained 199 millions of square miles on its surface. I, however, observed that in the island from whence I came, agriculture was an object of particular atten-

tion, and that several of our nobles encouraged it by their laudable examples.

The other questions, if I rightly recollect, were respecting our commerce, our internal laws, and regulations.

To the first I replied, that the commerce of England far exceeded that of all the nations of the earth; that the ocean was covered with our victorious navies; that we not only laid claim to, but kept the sovereignty of it; that just before I left the earth to visit the regions of the Moon, the English were on the point of being engaged in a just and necessary war with a people

called the Starlanders, who seemed to dispute our acting as we thought most consistent with our honour and dignity as masters of the seas; that in so doing, they not only proved their own folly, but also paved the way for the entire destruction of their commerce; for that the sovereignty of the ocean was ever considered as the birthright of Englishmen, who would lose their last drop of blood sooner than that right which they had established by their valour.

You may be sure, my dear friend, that while I was thus talking to the rumbo, I felt that enthusiasm so natural to a Briton when expatiating on his

rights ; and had I not recollected before whom I was, doubtless I should have entered into a long dissertation on the subject.

With respect to our laws, I believe what I told him gave him a greater opinion of us than any thing else. I explained the meaning of a trial by jury ; told him that redress for any grievance might be as easily obtained by the peasant as the lord ; that all were amenable to the laws ; and that tyranny and oppression were unknown in England.

The rumbo appeared to be much delighted with my answers ; and, in-

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deed, I have much reason to be grateful to him, for when I was taking my leave, he turned to one of his big wigs, who kept the spangle-box, and desired him to make me a handsome allowance while I remained in that country.

From every one with whom I have conversed on the subject, I find that the rumbo is a most excellent man, the very best of all the Moonites; a good father, excellent husband, and a sensible governor.

His consort is also a pattern even for the females of the earth, being a most excellent mother, and a faithful wife: they have been united many

years, and even Scandal herself, with all her busy slanderous tongues, has never attacked her fair fame. She has been the mother of a large family, who are as much respected for their virtues as their parents.

Without such a good rumbo, Heaven only knows what would become of the Moonites ! for even all his care and prudence, you will find, cannot keep them from the commission of acts which the most illiterate Englishman would be ashamed to be guilty of.

Their eldest son is called the gilprig, a very fine young man, and beloved by all the Moonites with a degree of

enthusiasm, who see in him a worthy successor to the government, when, covered with years and honours, the present rumbo shall attain a celestial throne.

His extreme good nature, sensibility, and high sense of honour, however, have laid him but too much open to the arts of some designing Moonites; though, from what I have lately learnt, he is now beginning to see through their dark purposes.

He was united some time since to a most amiable, lovely, and accomplished female, and the union promised as uninterrupted a state of happiness

as his father's ; but whether it was that his mind was biassed by the calumnious reports which the enemies of his lovely bride spread about, or that some circumstances did occur which were unpleasant to his feelings, is, I believe, unknown ; but, however, a separation took place, which, it is firmly hoped, will not be of long duration.

He is the patron of merit, the friend of the indigent, and the principal promoter of every elegant and useful art.

His house in Moon City is adorned and furnished with the various productions of the nations of the Moon. People were sent to the land of Crocodiles

to collect rarities: the Souchongs' country contributed its share, as well as the Crescents, the Squall-alls, Gravos, Froglanders, and the Grumbos', or bear country.

The next son is, by profession, a killumall; a man of a generous and friendly disposition, who has served his country in a war which it had with the Froglanders. He is now killumall in chief, in which situation he is much beloved, and gives general satisfaction.

The third son is a blusterman, who, much to his credit, has served his country in the earliest stations which lead to that rank: he now lives quite

retired amongst a chosen circle of friends.

There is another killumal in the family, a very fine young man, of a truly liberal turn of mind, and of a most amiable disposition.

Being abroad in the command of a strong hold, which the Moonites possess in the country of the Gravo's,—finding that the soldiers were greatly relaxed in their discipline, he very properly resolved to restore them to their former correctness, and accordingly took every method so to do. Unfortunately, however, he failed in his good intentions, and his enemies (for it

is the same in Moon Island as it is in England, where we daily see thousands of instances of the best men having the fewest friends) laid hold of every trifling report which those whose interests were hurt by his regulations, in their deep malice invented ; and he was at length induced to return to Moon Island, without having accomplished his laudable purposes.

I have had much conversation with an officer on this subject, who was under his command at that place, and who gives him the best of characters as a gentleman, an officer, and a soldier's friend.

The worthy governor has also several daughters, who, for beauty, and every female accomplishment, will scarcely find their equals on the earth. One of them, some time since, was united to a big wig of the Gorman-dizers, who lately has been induced to be on terms of friendship with the rum-bo of Frogland, who has made him a présent of one of his crowns for his condescension !

It is a thousand pities that these amiable women cannot, in conformity to the laws of Moon Island, be united to any other than the big wigs or rum-bos of other countries, and thus are condemned “ to waste their beauties

on the desert air." How happy would they make their own countrymen, with whom they are the universal objects of admiration, if they might presume to be competitors for such lovely prizes ! and how happy too would it make their worthy parents if they could witness the happy lives of their children, enjoying the blessings of connubial felicity, and surrounded with the smiling pledges of their love !!

You must not expect from me a regular account of the laws, manners, and customs of these people. All that I can learn, I will communicate to you ; but as a foreigner, and under obligations to the Moonites, it does

not become me to be inquisitive,—a conduct which would excite suspicion, and perhaps oblige me to leave the island, which, you may be sure, I should be very loath to do, particularly as I am informed it is the most civilized in the Moon.

CHAPTER THE FOURTH.

Moon Island.

YOU are, no doubt, desirous of being informed respecting the state of religion in this country. I had, indeed, been some time in it without being able to discover that they had any ; for though I often heard them revile and execrate the people of Bogland, a neighbouring island, who profess the Glum religion, and even carry their

animosity so far, as to exclude them from holding any office, or place of trust in Moon Island: yet as that was certainly no proof of religion in them, I conceived their hatred originated, not from pious, but from some political reasons, which I could not comprehend.

These people have great buildings called shows, something like our churches, where they assemble once a week. I went into one of them; but as I saw the company all busily employed in staring at each other, and making comments on their dresses and the fashions, I hastened out, fearful of being considered as an intruder. However, some

short time after, my friend, the stormo, informing me, that they were there for religious purposes, I again entered one, though, even after I had been an attentive observer of their actions, I was still unable to form any favourable notion of their religious principles.

Every thing in this island, even religion, is guided by fashion; for if a thumpo, or preacher, is not in fashion, no one would go to hear him. He might strain his lungs for hours together to no purpose, as no one would listen to him; while the fashionable thumpo harangues in an easy familiar manner his attentive audience, instructs them how to be *fashionably religious*,

makes excuses for the sins of the female sex, calling them *pardonable and delicate feelings*. These men are, therefore, sought after with avidity ; and no wonder, because in their discourses, every one finds a healing medicine for his wounded conscience. However, in all this, there is but little religion !

But, my dear friend, how great will be your astonishment. when, the other day, as I was taking a tour about this country, for the purpose of making myself well acquainted with the manners and customs of its inhabitants, for the more correct information of my friends in England (should I ever be so happy as to see them again), I entered

a large town, where a solemn anniversary was held in praise of their Deity, in the great shew (a church).

Concluding I should now be able to gain some insight into their religion, and being anxious to witness the celebration of these rites, which might perhaps bear some affinity to what we have in England, I entered the building, which was sumptuously decorated for the occasion, and crowded with Moonites of both sexes; the females dressed in the extremes of fashion, that is, half-naked, absolutely exposing to sight the beauties of their bosoms, and scarcely leaving any *thing else* to imagination.

I have before, in this chapter, had occasion to mark the power of fashion, and as this circumstance recalls several instances to my recollection, you will excuse the following digression.

Fashion is a kind of deity that is worshipped by every one. By its power it strangely perverts the ideas and dispositions of these people; their feelings, their faculties, appear entirely guided by its influence: hence, the summer of fashionable people scarcely commences when the leaves begin to fall; their morning not till our afternoon; their dinner time is at night. Their dress, with respect to the females, such as modesty blushes even to think of,—fa-

shion making them imagine they are full-dressed, when they are half naked; and as to the males, whatever is ridiculous and absurd. Modesty is no longer thought of; virtue reprobated; vice encouraged; the poor detested; the rich; though the vilest and most abandoned, courted and countenanced. —And all this is, because it ~~is~~ the fashion !!!

But to return to my former subject. I entered the edifice with sentiments suitable to the solemn occasion. The music was grand, and its melody awakened my soul to the adoration of its Maker: but, oh! my friend, how greatly was I shocked to find that the

female performers, instead of being people celebrated for their sanctity, were no other than the public *loose fishes*, the favours of any of whom might be purchased for a few spangles ! You may, therefore, easily suppose, that, instead of feeling myself elevated by the religious ceremonies, I retired, disgusted at such a horrible profanation of them.

How will this relation astonish my religious countrymen, so far famed for whatever is good, virtuous, just, and laudable. I think I see them starting with horror at my narration. I think I see the stealing smile of incredulity distending their lips as they escape

from their sudden terror, and hear them exclaim, that “we travellers see strange things.”

Indeed, the moral conduct of these people is so strangely depraved, that the great, who ought, as well in this country, as they do in England, to set an example to others, absolutely admit into their houses, and even think themselves honoured by her presence, a female *loose fish*, who was the kept mistress of half of the killumalls of Frogland; and I must also further astonish your weak ideas in informing you, that this *loose fish*, who comes from the country of the Squall-alls, during the last twelve circles, has

realized no less a sum than 10 or 12,000 spangles by singing, while many of the Moonites were absolutely starving in the streets for a morsel of allum (a composition not unlike our bread), which, with a few grub-grubs (a vegetable similar to our potatoes) constitute, at the best of times, their chief support.

I think I hear you say, "This is impossible, Mr. Lunatic." I grant that the people of Moon Island may be deranged in their intellects, owing to the well-known influence of the planet in which they reside ; but, surely, they never can be so ridiculously mad, as to conduct themselves in the manner you have described.

If such is your observation, my friend, I smile at it. You who have staid on the earth all your life, can have but little idea of the manners, or customs, of these people: they are, indeed, infinitely beyond the comprehension of the correct and virtuous inhabitants of Great Britain.

Moon Island is of great extent: at first, it contained two nations, viz. the Moonites and the Scratchlanders, who were governed by their own rumbos; but the Moonites, after much fighting, compelled the Scratchlanders to obey their rumbo.

Bogland, a neighbouring island,

shared the same fate ; therefore, Moonland, Scratchland, and Bogland, have only one rumbo : their religions, however, are very different ; but the Lord above only knows which is best. The Moonites prótest against both, and mortally hate the Boglanders, who are all Glumps, and very charitably consign their souls and *bodies to the safe keeping of his infernal majesty. What the *religion* of such people can be, I will leave you to guess ; but, let us thank Heaven that such things are unknown in England, for there we have liberty of conscience, without fear of being hurt for it, either in our interest or persons, as is the case in Catholic countries.

The folly of the Moonites is so very apparent to me, in every thing they undertake, though of course, as you will imagine, they are quite blind to their own inconsistency, that my risibility is constantly excited.

They are continually endeavouring to obtain possession of the lands of others, which appears to me to be rather a singular principle; while their own country, which is more than sufficient to supply them with every comfort, lies uncultivated, and whole tracts of it, which would produce food and clothing for the starving poor, are now a dreary waste.

A pretty proof of madness, you will say, is this in the Moonites ; you whose well-pleased eye reposes on the luxurious meadows and waving fields of corn in England.

They say, too, that this is the land of liberty, but that appears to me to be an ironical appellation, for there is scarce a town without a prison. In Moon City there are eight or nine ! and a hard hearted creditor can confine his debtor, all his life, for the trifling sum of ten spangles !!

CHAPTER THE FIFTH.

Moon Island.

YOU will, perhaps, be surprised my dear friend, when I tell you that learning in this country was formerly at a very great pitch of excellence ; but now it is in a most deplorable declining state. The present authors being little better than plagiarists, without even possessing the talent of making

good selections from the works of others. I was really greatly amused on perusing a work, called the *Private Memoirs of the Gilprig and his Wife*, for I well recollected to have read more than a fifth part of it in a little work called the *Setting Moon*. The author of the former challenged the Moonites to contradict his asseverations; but not finding any one who chose to take the trouble, as not thinking his puerile efforts of sufficient importance; he became vexed, and absolutely wrote against it himself!! and after having vented much abuse on his dear self, and declaring that he was the greatest simpleton in the Moon—the truth of which no one ever dis-

puted) he very coolly copies *verbatim, et literatim*, his own productions ; and, making a few ridiculous comments upon them, by that means scrapes together sufficient for another volume !!

If an author, by poring over foreign works, happens, by chance, to light on some good romance or novel, he immediately turns it into the Moon language, and claims it as his own production !

An instance of this happened some time ago, and one of these translators published a work called *The Nun*, most of the pages of which were only

fit for the impure inhabitants of a brothel; and the thumpo's, or priests, were about to punish the avowed author, when reflecting that the more disturbance there was made about it, the more likely it was to be read,—such is the folly of the Moonites,—than they desisted: but no sooner had this affair got wind,—no sooner was it known in Moon Island, that it was an improper book, than every one was dying to peruse it; and the work, which would have disgraced the hands of the common hangman, was to be seen in the possession of almost every female, who could procure the means of purchasing it.

The success of this work made many other authors attempt similar ones; and whole monasteries and convents were ransacked to supply tales of monks and nuns. From this, you may form some idea of the morals of these people, though I fear it will be far from a favourable one.

There was another work, called *The Devil of Sicily*, which was no better than *The Nun* (though, to do the author justice, there appears to be some originality in the tale); but as works of this kind, though they amuse, yet are incapable of yielding instruction, the readers of them were just as foolish after their studies, as they were before.

The amusements of these people are various, and some of them of such a ridiculous nature, as I am sure will excite your pity. Would you believe it, they delight in seeing men boxing and bruising each other?—A thing which in England would, with great propriety, excite universal detestation:—even the gilprig himself used to countenance these vile exhibitions, by attending them ; but once an unfortunate combatant being killed, shame has prevented him from appearing at them since. His brothers, however, still continue to attend them, to their disgrace as men, and still more, so as the sons of the rumbo.

Besides this *delectable felicity*, there are men, who, envious of the applause bestowed on horses, strive to emulate their speed ; and amongst these, I have remarked several big wigs and officers. No doubt, in the Moon, such proceedings may be thought wise ; but you and I know them to be the extreme of folly. Besides these, there are horse races, donkey races, duck hunts, cock fights, &c. with which the Moonish nobility contrive to amuse themselves during the summer season ; and in the winter, they game.

Perhaps, you will ask, what time they devote to study to improve their minds and understanding ?—to which

I answer, none. That the word science itself is quite obsolete; or if it is used, it means being acquainted with every thing that relates to horses, dogs, &c. &c. being a good whip or coachman, excessively debauched.—In short, whatever would degrade an Englishman to know, they study with the greatest attention, to become adepts in.

The other day I went into the Bear Hall, which is the place where the business of the nation is transacted; but, instead of grave senators, such as we have in England, whose appearance give weight and consequence to their sage opinions, I saw only a parcel of

noisy jockey-looking men, who, apparently, were amusing each other by their ill-timed merriment, puns, and quaint remarks, while discoursing of matters of the greatest consequence to the safety, interest, and welfare of the nation.

The meeting-house of the big wigs is little better, being generally full of confusion, and at times exhibiting scenes not unlike what formerly happened at the building of the Tower of Babel; but with this difference, that there, every one understood what he said himself, though he could not make his neighbour do so. Here, they talk for hours, without understanding the subject of their own conversation!

CHAPTER THE SIXTH.

Moon City.

THE stormo, who appears to be a well-informed man, has favoured me with some particulars relative to this nation.

It seems, about one hundred circles ago, these people being very quiet, and enjoying all the comforts of peace, were so very foolish as not to be able to content themselves, but must, forsooth, en-

gage in as ridiculous an affair as any Moonite could be supposed to undertake against one of their tributaries, the nation of Thirteen Stars, a very good sort of people, who, wishing to live peaceably and quietly, gave, it appeared, almost of their own accord, a vast quantity of spangles to the inhabitants of Moon Island. This payment was certainly an acknowledgment of subjection; and the Moonites, in consideration, protected the colony, while in its infancy, from the encroachments of other powers, by means of their troops and thrashers. But, in process of time, their numbers increased, and they became better able to take care of themselves. They built some

thrashers, and might have been independent, if they chose ; but, however, they still continued to pay them tribute, which they collected amongst themselves, with a degree of honesty and punctuality, that proved them a good sort of people.

However, the Moon Islanders becoming jealous of their rising consequence, determined to lower them a peg ; and accordingly demanded more money, and insisted on sending their own people to collect the taxes themselves.

Here, however, they reckoned without their host ; for the Thirteen Star-

landers were so enraged, that they gave the Moonites who were sent, a good beating, and refused to pay them any spangles at all.

The Moonites now declared war, and sent a large force to reduce them to subjection; but it was of no use, for the inhabitants of the Thirteen Stars were more numerous than the forces of the Moonites: and after they had beat them, and destroyed the greater part, the rest were glad enough to take themselves off, and the Starlanders declared themselves independent.

I figure to myself how you will smile at the ridiculous conduct of these weak

people;—you who belong to the senate-house, which is always thronged with men, celebrated for their wisdom and rectitude of conduct. Difficult, indeed, would it be to make them credit such absurdities in any people, however weak they might be in their intellects.

Some circles after, when the Moonites were recovering from the distress occasioned by this ridiculous war, the following circumstance took place in Frogland.

It seems that the governor of the Froglanders had, by some means or other, made himself obnoxious to his

subjects, and they, profiting by the example of the Starlanders, who were ruled by a chosen body of their people, resolved to have a similar sort of government.

They first began by killing their rumbo, a most barbarous and unheard-of thing, which, it is thought, will give the devil a great claim to those concerned in that affair, when he collects his subjects. Every nation started at this horrid deed, and every governor is said to have felt a pain in his neck, occasioned, no doubt, by their sympathizing with the fate of their brother in office; and through fear of its becoming the fashion,—a sort of word,

in this country, which is advanced as an excuse for any thing which is ridiculous and absurd; for were you to ask a female here, why she went half naked? Why she exposed those parts, which modesty, no doubt, would direct her to conceal? Why she delighted in vicious and depraved habits? Her answer would simply be, *it is the fashion*. And if you did not conceive that, a most correct reason, you would be thought the greatest Goth, or Vandal, that ever had existence.

But to return.—No sooner had the Moonites heard of this affair, than they immediately fitted out a number of thrashers on purpose, as they said, to

place the late governor's son on the throne, but more probably, as some hinted, to possess themselves of part of the country, which having formerly belonged to them, they longed to have again; some even said that they aspired to the subjugation of the whole, which perhaps, at that moment, owing to the distracted state of its inhabitants, was not a very difficult matter to undertake.

A desperate contest now ensued between the Moonites and the Froglanders, thousands were slain on both sides; and though the Moonites were reduced to their last spangle, they obstinately continued the contest.

The Froglanders had now almost every nation against them; and they, who, had they been left alone, would have soon cut each others throats, now began to agree together, and become united for their public safety.

Such being their situation, they conquered many of their neighbours, and entered into a league with others, among which were the Gravos, a nation who possessed a great many span-gles of a larger size than others, and consequently were much sought after by the Moonites.

However, if I were to enter into a detail of this war, my narrative might

become tedious to you; and, perhaps, my friend, you will think it ridiculous in me to write when I have no means of sending my letters; but I do it in the hope that when I return (if ever I should be so fortunate) you may have a proof, that though in the Moon, yet I did not forget my friends in England.

The Gravos are a nation who have a number of settlements abroad, in those countries where they get the gold of which their spangles are made; now you may be sure those spangles were eagerly desired by all the nations, and more particularly by the Moonites, whose finger ends were always itching after them. The

most trifling pretext was sufficient for them to go to war with the Gravos in order that they might possess themselves of their alluring coin; thus the Gravos had very little rest, for as long as they were in possession of riches, so long were they an object of plunder; though had they, like the beaver, when pursued, given up the treasure they possessed, God knows no one would have thought of molesting them.

Amongst their settlement, they were possessed of a large tract of country, called Fine-Airs, which one of the blustermen belonging to the Moonites, having with him a number of thrashers, determined to take possession of, and

accordingly coming unexpectedly upon the inhabitants, he easily defeated them, and made himself master of the town and other places.

When the news arrived in Moon Island, great indeed were the rejoicings, the rattles were sprung, the bells rung, and such a noise made by their shouting and huzzaing, that it might almost have been heard on the earth, every one was in a bustle, the foolish Moonite merchants immediately sent off vessels full of merchandize to the place in the hopes that the inhabitants of Fine Airs, who had lost all their spangles, would purchase the commodities of their bitter enemies!!!

However, a short time after the people armed themselves, and furiously attacked the Moonites, who thought of nothing less, and having beat them, retook the town, and made prisoners of half the men.

When this intelligence was received in Moon Island, those who had been the foremost to praise the blusterman, now were the first to condemn his conduct; and those who thought him the most sapient of blustermen, now thought him the most foolish. In fine, he was sent for home, when *All the Tailors*, a society of the Moonites so called, from their promises and boasts of patching and mending the constitution of the

country so as to make it appear as good as new, (though in this they were terribly mistaken, for by putting new pieces amongst the old they made it look absolutely frightful). These people, now that the blusterman had met with such ill luck at Fine Airs, publicly reprobated his conduct for attacking that place (though every one might easily see that he did it for the best), and as an example to all other blustermen, they ordered him to be tried for his offence!!

But mark their future proceedings. In order to make the worst of a bad business, all the tailors fitted out a number of thrashers under the command of

another blusterman, and also appointed a new killumall or general to the land troops.

This killumall was a great man, who promised to do wonders ; and so indeed he did, as you will confess, when you learn his actions.

On his arrival at Fine Airs, he landed his men, and proceeded to attack the town, but in the way there, how it was the Lord only knows, but the killumall affirms that his guide misled that part of the army with which he marched, and in consequence he did not arrive *till the day after* an action had taken place with the enemy's troops.

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However, as soon as he had collected all his forces, he proceeded to make the necessary arrangements for the attack, and here we cannot sufficiently praise the wonderful and eccentric conduct of the killumall, in making a most singular experiment in order to prove the valour of his own people, and to strike their enemies with terror and amazement.

Having divided his men into a number of small parties on purpose to weaken them as much as possible, he commanded them to march, with their guns unloaded, through the town, the huts of which were crowded with the fighting men of Fine Airs; and, in or-

der to give them notice of his approach, he politely sent two Moonites, who walked in front of each of the parties, to knock at the doors of the huts, that the inhabitants might be ready to fire on his men, as they marched past them !!!

The result may well be imagined. The poor foolish Moonites walked coolly on, and bravely stood the fire, which knocked one-half of them on the head ; while the killumall was in extacies, at the intrepid conduct of his people, in allowing themselves to be murdered, without making any resistance!!!

At length the Moonites began to exert themselves, and being good soldiers, and a courageous people, one party possessed themselves of a piece of ground where bulls were baited; another seized a place called the Residence: and these grand acquisitions were fortunately made with only the loss of two or three thousand Moonites; —a mere trifle you will say, my friend, when compared to the carnage on the earth, where sixteen or eighteen thousand men have fallen in one day.

One very successful occurrence, however took place, and which, indeed, the killumall, in his report, seems to dwell on with some satisfaction.

A pop-gun, said he, lay in the street, which the people of Fine Airs endeavoured to possess themselves of. To prevent them, I ordered two officers of high rank, with a detachment, to charge the Gravos, and which they did with great spirit. In an instant, one of the officers and the greater part of the detachment were killed; but, happily, the pop-gun was saved Certainly the loss of a good officer, and 150 or 160 men, was a mere trifle, compared with the preservation of the gun: at least, the killumall seemed to think so; but you and I, who reside in a reasonable country, may, perhaps, be of a different opinion.

One of the killumalls being, as I imagine, religiously inclined, entered a convent with his men; and while he was devoutly saying his prayers, the Gravos made him and his Moonites prisoners of war.

But you are not to suppose, my friend, that the people of Fine Airs were a whit wiser than their neighbours, or that there was any solid sense in the inhabitants of the Moon; for when these people had more than half the Moonites in their power, they offered them leave to depart the place, and also promised to restore all their prisoners. This proposal was accepted with delight by the brave killumall, who

quickly took himself off; and thus concluded his eventful undertaking.

Happy is it, indeed, for us, that such transactions as these are unknown. The relation, therefore, of the consummate folly of the Moonites being new to my countrymen, will furnish them with a vast source of mirth; though, indeed, I am not without my fears that they will treat it as a fabulous history, the same as "Jack, the Giant-Killer," "Munchausen's celebrated Journeys," "Gulliver's Travels," or fifty other learned productions of the brain of an hungry author.

I shall now relate to you some of the

particulars of a late affair at Oldenbogen, with which singular proceeding I shall conclude this chapter. Indeed, I am rather fearful that even you, who have known my veracity for so many years, will find your reliance on it a little shaken: but while you peruse these chapters, you must constantly keep in your recollection that they are from the Moon; for if once you were to imagine me as writing to you about events that had taken place on the earth, their folly would be so apparent, that you would condemn me, and not without reason, as a promulgator of falsehoods.

It seems, that the rumbo of Frog-

land had succeeded in conquering almost every nation about him, and was now turning all his thoughts to the destruction of the Moonites; but, as in order to effect this, it was necessary he should have a great many thrashers, of which he was in much want, he began to look about him, to see if he could steal any from his neighbours. Now, the people of Oldenbogen were in possession of a considerable number of thrashers, which were exactly what he wanted, and he therefore began to endeavour to get them into his possession.

The Moonites, however extraordinary it may appear, had sufficient

sense to discove his intentions; and therefore sent a number of thrashers and men, under the command of a blusterman and a killumall, both very great men in their way, and very polite too, as you will soon learn.

At first, they told the people of Oldenbogen, that they wanted to take care of their thrashers for them, till such time as a peace was made between themselves and the Froglanders; but the Oldenbogenites thought themselves perfectly competent to keep their own thrashers, and therefore refused to listen to the Moonites.

Finding that such was the case, the blusterman and killumall told them, that if they would not give up their thrashers quietly, it did not signify a damn, for have them they would, either by fair or foul means. But, however, that their conduct might be correct and justifiable, in the eyes of the rumbos of the nations of the Moon, they sent the people of Oldenbogen a letter, the contents of which were nearly as follows :—

GENTLEMEN,

Our master, the rumbo of Moon Island, with whose considerative kind-

ness you are well acquainted, has sent us to desire you will immediately deliver up all your thrashers, pop-guns, naval and military stores, and whatever else you may be worth, in order to divert the designs of the rumbo of Frogland, who means to deprive you of your property ; but which our master foreseeing, has been graciously pleased to send us to take—in order to keep it securely for your future use.

If, however, you do not see this matter in the same light that we do, it is your own fault, and you must suffer for it ; and unless you acquiesce before the termination of twenty-four hours,

we have orders to take your things by force, and in case of resistance, to cut your throats.

Given on board the Blasterman's thrasher,
off the land of Oldenbogen.

Signed, GRUMBLE, Blusterman.
SCRATCHCAT, Killumall.

Although this letter was little else than "Deliver your property, or I'll blow out your brains," it appears that the threat it contained, was not sufficient to frighten the Oldenbogenites, who boldly resolved to make every exertion to retain both their goods and their brains; and in order to gain time to make the necessary preparations for

their defence, very sily, not unlike the Crescents, began to enter into a correspondence with the blusterman and killumall, who were so very good as to allow them, by which means a great number of the Moonites, when at length the place was attacked, were sent either to Heaven or Hell, who might certainly have been prevented taking either of those journies for some time;—however, as such proceedings were only copies of several fatal originals,—the Crescents, Fine Airs, for instance,—no one took any notice of it!!

The blusterman and killumall at

length succeeded, and having got possession of the thrashers, brought them to Moon Island, where this curious transaction was termed a grand achievement.

Oh, my dear country ! the more I see of other nations, the more I admire the wisdom, good conduct, and wise administration of thy rulers. Would I were once more on your loved shores ! Alas ! how it grieves me to think that perhaps I may never be able to return ! and thus am condemned to reside amongst a people, whose consummate folly is the least of their defects, for they are entirely destitute of those vir-

tues which adorn my dear countrymen.
—Good Heavens! what could induce
me to be so desirous of an empty fame,
as to leave such an enlightened nation,
to herd with madmen !

LUNATIC'S TALES.

THE PREFACE

AND

INTRODUCTION.

**Thus much is absolutely necessary
for the elucidation of the following
pages.**

NICHOLAS LUNATIC.

ALL THE TAILORS;

OR,

THE OLD CLOAK.

A TALE.

ONCE upon a time there was a family of great respectability in England, who highly valued themselves on their origin, being free born, which many other families, their neighbours, were not ; but had masters, who ruled over them with much tyranny and oppres-

sion,—insomuch that they would hardly allow them to eat their own ducks and peas, or cabbages, which they had sown themselves, but would come and take the greatest part away, without these poor people being able to help themselves.

The circumstances which produced the freedom of the family, were as follows :—

About ten or twelve centuries ago, an old woman came to their garden gate, and begged the master, who was digging up some potatoes, to give her something to eat.

The master hearing some one speak, looked up, and saw the poor old creature, who was so infirm, that her limbs trembled under her, and her head shook like an aspen leaf: he compassionated her sufferings, and asked her into his house, which invitation she cheerfully accepted, and partook of the coarse fare which he hospitably set before her.

She asked him a great many questions about his family, his mode of living, and many other circumstances, which would have been thought impertinent by any other person than the good-natured farmer, who satisfied all her inquiries, and promised to let her

see his children, for he had a large family, which she seemed delighted with, and he accordingly left her for that purpose.

But, on his return with his family, judge of his astonishment, when he found that his guest was gone, and in her place, a lady, richly attired, who rising gracefully from her seat, thus addressed her astonished hearers :—

“ I am the fairy Liberty, whom, without your being conscious who I was, you behaved so kindly to, when I assumed the appearance of an old and distressed female. I have travelled

through many countries in that disguise, in order to find out those who were worthy of the blessings I have it in my power to bestow. Some spurned me with contempt from them ; others, perhaps, did afford me some assistance, but in a way that made it no favour, and offended me. You, however, have behaved in a far different manner, and your attention in relieving my imaginary wants, shall not go unrewarded, for I will bestow on you that inestimable blessing, liberty, which is in my gift ; and besides that, I will make your sons and daughters, and all their posterity, the handsomest, wisest, and bravest people in the world."

You may be sure, dear reader, that the farmer was very glad to hear the fairy's fine promises, which he soon found she meant to perform ; for happening to look on his family, he could not but be delighted at the change that had taken place in them. The boys were tall, well shaped, had a fine ruddy glow in their faces, and seemed as strong as Hercules himself: the girls were beautifully delicate, their lovely countenances blushing with unaffected modesty, and, in fact, were the resemblances of so many Hebe's.

The fairy now presented to the farmer a large mantle.

“ This cloak,” said she, “ is of particular workmanship, it is composed of a kind of stuff, call magna charta, which is a beautiful composition, invented by one Mr. Alfred, a farmer, like yourself. I made it, and from its warmth have given it the name of the Constitution ; while your wear it, you will be possessed of liberty and independence, wealth, and every other blessing this world can produce ; and as it is like other things, subject to decay, you must be careful that you procure the best informed tailors the country can produce to repair its defects, for if you employ bad ones, the virtue of the cloak will be lost never to be regained.

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This said the fairy, with a most gracious smile, left the apartment, and in the astonishment which had seized the farmer and his family, departed from the house without any of them observing which way she went.

You may be sure the farmer was not long before he put on the cloak. It was then a cold wintry day, but the moment he had wrapped it round him, he felt as warm and comfortable as if it had been in May or June; his ideas too seemed more elevated, and he looked with pity on his neighbours, whose conduct had prevented them from enjoying the same comforts he did.

Many years now rolled away which were passed by the farmer and his family in the undisturbed enjoyment, of every blessing they could wish ; but as time destroys every thing that is mortal, so the cloak began to evince great symptoms of the want of a tailor, for the right arm was become quite threadbare, and the elbow nearly worn out.

The farmer, therefore, remembering the advice of the fairy, immediately sent it to a shop kept by one Greville, who was looked on by his friends as the best tailor of those times, for he, unlike other tailors, was neither ignorant or indolent, but his knowledge was unfortunately guided by misrepresentation,

and perplexed with errors, so much so, that he very often sewed two sleeves to the waistband of a pair of breeches, and substituted the remainder of that article of dress to the coat; however, as these things were never known till they were found out, and as one of Grenville's shopmen used to examine and alter the cloaths before they went to the customers, his master's inability, as a tailor was not generally known.

No sooner, however, did he get the cloak into his shop, than he immediately took his shears and nearly cut off one of the arms on purpose to see what it was made of, and how it would bear the scissars: he had hardly committed

this foolish act, when Towns, his shopman coming in, gave the poor sleeve such a lug, that it came off, and with all the efforts of the whole set, assisted by the great Mr. Cheatham (nicknamed the lord of the tailors on account of his superior understanding and abilities in his profession), they were never able to set it on right again, and it remains to this day, a blemish which never can be repaired.

The cloak was now going very fast to decay, and the farmer with grief, beheld the effect it had on his family, who were dwindling away from their former beauty, and appeared as if oppressed with some heavy calamity.

The farmer now employed new tailors, but alas, whether it was through ignorance, or that their interest was connected with the ruin of the mantle, is unknown ; but certain it is that the unfortunate garment daily evinced fresh symptoms of decay, the farmer and his family seemed to have lost that air of independence which they had assumed amongst their neighbours, and to add to his distresses, he could not pay the heavy expences he had incurred, for he was not able to exert himself in his farm while he had to attend to the tailors, who were continually pestering him about the repairs of the cloak.

While in this deplorable situation, a

society was formed from the principal tailors of the country, who imagined themselves equal to the repairing of any garment however it might be torn and damaged, and, indeed, boasted of their talents, surnaming their society, *All the Tailors*; intimating thereby, that in them consisted the whole knowledge of that ingenious tribe.

We shall now endeavour to give some description of the members of this singular body, before we proceed to relate the wonderful feats they performed, or (what to them was the same thing) promised to perform.

Mr. Stoick, the head of the society,

was a singular kind of creature,—a kind of sneak to every master-tailor who was superior to himself; but proud, insolent, and domineering to all beneath him. He thought himself “the best of all possible tailors;” and when, by his bowing and cringing, he had got into business, gave his advice with as much authority and hauteur, as if he had been a cabinet minister: but, poor man! he knew nothing of his business, for he was, in fact, a meer botcher, that made things look worse by what he termed mending them; and long, very long, will the farmer rue the day, when he intrusted his precious mantle to his reparation.

The next tailor was one Greville, perhaps the best of the society, if he had not allowed himself to be biassed by the opinions of others, who, under the garb of friendship, sought to undermine him, and to turn him out of the trade.

Dick Harridan was the third ; a man no more suited for a tailor than I, Nicholas Lunatic, am for a member of parliament. He might, indeed, have made a conspicuous figure at the bar of an alehouse, or as a scene-shifter ; but as a hero of the needle, one who was to mend and reform the habits of mankind, Dick Harridan never was

intended. Indeed, he rather, by his example, made them a thousand degrees worse than they originally were.

There are fifty pleasant stories told about Dick, more to the credit of his ingenuity than his honesty;—in fact, he used both those words as synonymous terms.

It seems, Dick, like many other tailors, was excessively fond of brandy; in order to obtain which, he made use of all honest, that is, ingenious contrivances, for he seldom had a guinea in his pocket, and therefore was obliged to set his wits to work, in order to obtain his favourite liquor.

Amongst the many singular occurrences which daily take place, it happened that a liquor merchant had trusted Dick with some brandy. No persuasions, however, could induce him, after the first account had been sent in, to open another. The reason of which was pretty evident;—because that same account was unpaid, and likely to be so till Doomsday, a period when all mundane matters will be finally adjusted.

Dick, however, whose conscience would bear stretching, like Indian rubber, resolved to get more brandy, by hook or by crook, from the same merchant, he having consumed his former

stock, which had contributed to illumine the exuberances on his countenance.

In order to effect this, he sent for the merchant, and ordered him to make out his bill; adding, that having been paid, contrary to his expectations, by a nobleman, whom he worked for, he would settle his account, and have some more liquor from him.

The merchant, highly delighted, fell to work with his pen, and while he was busily employed, Dick told him to write to his wife, to let his apprentice (who, *fortunately*, happened at that

moment to be going close by his house) have some more bottles of brandy.

This the merchant, unwilling to disoblige his *honest* customer, readily consented to : he therefore gave the order ; the boy was dispatched with it ; and before the bill and receipt were ready, Dick contrived to be sent for in great haste, by one of his employers : and the merchant, too late, found out the trick which had been played upon him ; for Dick was ever after denied to him, and used frequently to laugh at his successful contrivance to take in the merchant.

There is also another story about a

horse, and another about ———; but if I was to relate all that is said, and might be said of him; this work would take me my life time, and perhaps I might die, and leave it unfinished. As to his virtues, I will mention them all in the remainder of this page.

Dick Harridan's virtues!

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Windfall, another of the tailors, was a singular kind of being, destitute of the smallest talent requisite for his situation:—indeed, the society were of that opinion, and if they would but have acknowledged the truth, which tailors never do, they would have confessed him to be a most troublesome and dangerous colleague.

A most notorious instance of his want of reason, was, (as soon as he got into the society) his sending an apprentice, one Crawlfoot, to take the entire charge and management of a very large concern in the tailoring-line; a thing which, from his youth (for he was the youngest apprentice on the list), and

consequent inexperience, he was unable to do ; for how could it be supposed that his shopmen, who were grown grey in the service, and had sat more years on the shop-board, than the apprentice had days, would consent to be guided by such a boy.

The result may easily be imagined ; they all grumbled at it ; and things being in this situation, their shears remained inactive, and their goose became cold, while their work increased every hour upon them to such an extent, that there was but little probability of their ever being able to get through with it.

At length, however, another apprentice, who had served a longer time, was sent, and the work proceeded; but how, the Lord above only knows, for, in a short time, the whole concern was involved in utter ruin.

So much for Mr. Windfall !

Mr. Froth was as vain a tailor as ever sat upon a board, and had the singular advantage of esteeming himself what the world vulgarly calls a *devilish clever fellow*. Now, though the world may widely differ with him on that head, yet his being of that opinion argues much confidence in

himself, as well as an unlimited strength of imagination.

It was said of Froth, "that he and the toad are equally destitute of the several virtues ascribed to them. The mouth of a toad contains no venom, and its head no jewel: so neither had Froth harm in his vain boastings, nor riches in his brain." After all, he could make a suit of clothes very well—if he were let alone—after a set pattern; but once put out of his way by a new fashion, he became confused, and knew no more what he was about than the man in the moon. Nature, indeed, never designed this man for a

tailor ; and, in my opinion, he would have made a far better tapster.

Mr. Fearmy, another of the tailors, was a quiet obscure sort of person, who, having got into a good situation, sat himself down silent and contented.

Bearskin was a mighty facetious tailor, an uncommon good hand at his work ; but one who would rather lose his friend than his joke. He was the greatest egotist in nature, and strongly endowed with a deep sense of his own importance. He would frequently laugh at his own conceits, and talk, in a pompous manner, to his apprentices about the best mode of making and

fashioning clothes.—Bearskin certainly made a very good shopman, but a master tailor was too grave a place for such a facetious punster.

Master Henry Small was a singular kind of creature : he was just out of his time, when he got, the Lord knows how ! to be a master tailor ; but he was too fond of capering about, ever to make a steady one, and it would have much better become him, had he been, what Nature certainly intended him for—a little *dancing master*!!

Such were the characters of the greater part of the society, to whom the farmer, in an evil hour, intrusted

his precious mantle. The moment they beheld it, they were unanimously of opinion, that it could be made as good as new, but were greatly divided how it should be done. Master Henry Small talked the most, but did the least; Dick Harridan cut off some of the buttons, and changed them at the nearest tavern, for some of his favourite liquor; and Froth got a little bit of the cloth, though not half so much as he expected.

In fact, it was plain to be seen, that the aim of these tailors was rather to enrich themselves, than to be of any service in their profession; and, with their united depredations, it may be

easily imagined what a situation the garment was in.

The farmer was terrified beyond idea, and in order to save the remnant of his mantle from their rapacity; he took it from them, and looked out for honest men, in the faint hope, that it might be still rendered fit for use; and deeply, indeed, did he regret his folly, in being led astray by the empty promises of the society, to intrust to them his valuable garment, whose beauty he feared (and not without reason) would never again be restored!!!

THE
FAT WITCH,
OF
LONDON.

THERE are many people who are so unbelieving as to affirm, that witches do not exist, notwithstanding the Bible gives an account of one, which is surely sufficient ground to found a very strong argument on, in support of there being such creatures.

It is, however, chiefly in London, that people are so very hard of belief; for you shall hardly go into any village that has not, at least, one or two of these gifted beings, to the terror of all the children; aye, and of many of the grown people too. Their real shape is that of old women, but they can transform themselves into a variety of forms, of which their favourite one is that of a cat; and some of them, while in that shape, having, in vain, been endeavoured to be destroyed, has given rise to the vulgar belief of a cat having nine lives!

Some have been hunted in the shape of hares; and, when hard pressed by

the dogs, have escaped to their huts, where they have been found by the hunters (having resumed their proper shape), panting with the fatigues of the chase.

Such evidence is unquestionable, and those who still doubt their existence, would not believe the Witch of Endor herself, though she rose from the grave.

Witches, heretofore, have been re-

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marked as being very thin, and of a miserable appearance ; but the one I am going to introduce to my readers, is particularly fat, and of a florid complexion, but whether that was natural, or effected by rouge, I will not take upon myself to determine.

The name of this lady, though whether it was her real one, or only given her on account of her figure, I really cannot say, with any degree of certainty ; but she was always distinguished by that of *Mother Bunch*. I

am, unfortunately, in the same state of ignorance respecting her relationship to the famous fairy, who is the author of the tales which go by her name.

Witches are always devising some wickedness or other, and Mother Bunch was as bad as any of her sisterhood ; for she came to London, in order to plan and execute the deepest schemes, which a witch may be supposed to generate in her malicious brain.

There was a good honest gentleman, the landlord of a considerable freehold, in England, who, with his amiable partner, and his large family, had taken a house in London, where he lived respected and beloved by all his neighbours.

Good people have always more enemies than bad ones, for they are detested by the wicked, who hate that excellence they cannot reach; while the wicked are only avoided and pitied

by the good, and esteemed by their companions in iniquity.

The Fat Witch mortally hated the old gentleman, and as she was resolved to hurt him in the tenderest point, determined to fix her spells on his eldest child, then a very good young gentleman, and from whom the tenants had considerable hopes.

In order to do this, she put on the form of a fat waddling woman, not un-

like that which, reader, thou mayest have beheld on the stage, of Shakespear's Dame Quickly; she knowing, through her arts, that shape was most likely to please and captivate him.

Beauty does not depend on regularity of features, roseate hue, brilliant eyes, or white teeth; but on the particular taste of people. White teeth to a Chinese would be abominable; the blush of health, odious; to be able to walk, or even to waddle, vulgar in the extreme; the large languish-

ing blue eye, hateful. Give him a beauty with a broad face, small eyes, thin lips, white cheeks, and black teeth. The negro sees no beauty in a mulatto. They are alike averse to the negro, and both hate white people.

Thus the young squire's ideas of a beautiful woman, were just as ridiculous as the Chinese, though in another extreme. In short, the figure of the Fat Witch, disgusting as it might appear to every one else, was to him a

perfect pattern of every thing that was elegant and captivating.

In short, being completely fascinated by the witch's art, he fell into the snare that was laid for him, and became in love over head and ears.

The ancients have represented Love as blind, in order to account for the foolish acts that people commit, when under the influence of that deity ; and so, indeed, was the young squire, for, without seeing the danger he was run-

ning into, and without chusing to see into the venal motives of his *lovely* enamorata, he blindly acquiesced to whatever she, anxious for his ruin, chose to urge him to perform.

At first, she pretended, forsooth, to be so modest, after having broken through all bounds of decorum, after having endeavoured, by all her arts, to excite the young squire's passions, as to be unable to gratify them, without his consenting to certain preliminaries,

which were necessary to lull the reproaches of her rigorous virtue. The young squire swallowed the bait, and the witch, content with having him securely on her hook, allowed him to play about in the stream, well knowing she could draw him up to certain destruction whenever she pleased.

People call this an enlightened age, and talk very finely about the intellectual rays, which, they affirm, beam so brightly, and illumine so finely the reasonable parts of mankind ; but Nicho-

las Lunatic is of opinion, that reason is just as far from the brains as ever she was; or if she has approached them, it is in such a slight manner, as to make people more deranged: for a little reason is a dangerous thing, because the holders of it, are too often apt to conclude, that they possess a great store, and therefore, that they are able to guide and direct themselves; and like people, who being intoxicated, cannot be persuaded they are so; so those who have a small portion of reason, cannot be convinced but that they

are possessed of vast learning, and sound penetration.

The squire having a spark of reason in him, concluded that it must be a never-dying flame, and therefore imagined himself the pinnacle of human excellence, and became firmly persuaded that whatever he did was right; though it may be possible, that this very singular idea was created by the spells of witchcraft.

Mother Bunch now proposed to the

young squire to marry her ; and, as an inducement, modesty hinted that then he might satisfy his passions. The poor young man, like Philip's warlike son,

Gaz'd on the fair—

Stay, we will begin it.

The p—— unable to conceal his pain,

Gaz'd on the fair,

Who caus'd his care,

And sigh'd and look'd, sigh'd and look'd,

Sigh'd and look'd, and sigh'd again.

At length, with love and wine at once oppress'd,

The vanquish'd squire

Married her first, and then—

“ Sunk upon her breast.

War he sung was toil and trouble,

Honour but an empty bubble ;

Lovely Bunch does sit beside thee,

Take the bad the Devil provides thee.

The many rend the skies with loud applause ;

So love was crown'd, the Fat Witch won the
cause !

Bunch led the way,

To light him to his prey,

And, like another Helen, ruin'd another Troy !

Being tired of singing, I will go on with the story.

It afforded the Fat Witch a vast deal of pleasure, to see what a tool she had made of the squire, and how miserable she had made his respectable parent ; but this was not all, for she was still hatching more mischief in her prolific brain.

The squire's father, and some of the principal tenants, now persuaded him

to marry the daughter of a neighbouring landlord : they being of opinion, that his union with the witch was not binding ; and hoping too, that, by such a step, he would be recalled to the path of virtue, which he had so long and so widely wandered from.

And in this, no doubt, they would have succeeded, for the young gentleman, when not spell-bound, did, in fact, possess some grains of reason ; but the witch, relying on her demoniac

agency, laughed at all their sage plans,
and determined not only to overwhelm
them with worse confusion, but also to
revenge herself on the innocent young
lady, and to hurt her fair fame, which
she well knew, once tainted,

“ Not the quick’ning gales,

“ That sweep Sabæa’s spicy vales,

“ Nor all the healing sweets restore,

“ That breathe along Arabia’s shore.”

To be brief, the marriage took place,

and people who had heard of the squire's attachment to the witch, went to her hut on purpose to see how she was conducting herself at this eventful period ; but Bunch, who, by her arts, knew very well what they were about, took her three-legged stool, and sat very composedly at her window, to the astonishment of the beholders.

However, the squire had not been married long, before the arts of the

witch prevailed over his grains of reason, and she succeeded in her plans ; for the young gentleman was so deluded by her spells, that he believed his wife unfaithful to him, loaded her with reproach and infamy, and returned once more to the dear fat embraces of the witch. But let him take heed, lest,

“ Like some deluded peasant Merlin leads
Thro’ fragrant bow’rs, and thro’ delicious meads ;
While here enchanting gardens to him rise,
And airy fabrics there attract his eyes,

His wand'ring feet the magic paths pursue,
And, while he thinks *the fair illusion true*,
The trackless scenes disperse in fluid air,
And woods and wilds, and thorny ways appear !

END.

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