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To Alvaro de Campos  
this "Book of Ole  
Wit" to his up-to  
date wit.

from your  
sincere friend

Alberto

End 1923 -

THE  
ENCYCLOPEDIA  
of  
*Wits.*

"Care to our Coffin, adds a Nail, no doubt;  
But evry Grin, so merry, draws one out."

*Peter Pindar.*



*Let those laugh now, who never laugh'd before,  
And those who always laugh'd, now laugh the more.*

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## PREFACE.

THE philosopher who was asked, what was beauty; answered bluntly and sensibly, that it was the question of a blind man. To the enquiry, What is Wit? an analogous answer might be given, *z. e.* that it is the interrogation of a dull pedant.

The exhaustless variety of modes by which a man of genius expresses his thoughts or illustrates his positions, render the definitions of wit very imperfect in all cases, in many very confused, and in some totally impracticable. By its numerous species, it also eludes the rigid efforts of the most dextrous logician to ascertain its boundaries. Learning can find no alembic by which its various hidden properties can be distinctly discovered, and no *retort* can be invented capable of retaining its volatile and sublimate qualities.

Whenever a writer or orator deviates by fancy or caprice, from the common modes of speech into a tralatitious or metaphorical method of expression, if he be perspicuous he may justly assume, in some degree, the character of a wit. Good sense, though necessary to the essence of wit, does yet by no means imply it. Two eminent Latin authors, who have both written on morals, will



serve for an example of the distinction between wit and sense; however elegantly, forcibly, and perspicuously the latter may be expressed and explained. The 'offices' of Cicero, though replete with good sense and moral instruction, have no witty passages; while the Letters of Seneca, though on subjects equally grave with those of Tully, are yet abundant in lively turns of thought and diction, which cannot escape the observation of the dullest of the most inattentive reader.

To come near to our own times, the Sermons of Tillotson can boast all the accomplishments of sound sense, beautiful expressions, happy illustration, &c. yet they cannot aspire to the same character as similar productions of the witty South. The Sermon of the latter divine on the use and abuse of words in political matters, will, to the intelligent reader, place this observation in the strongest and most agreeable light. The Roman Histories of Echard and of Gibbon point out likewise the distinction between sense and wit; and the lively and epigrammatic writer of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire has often occasioned a smile in the face of his reader, though the subject be of high import and grave argument. The rhetorical modes of speech, the frequent antitheses, the poetical circumlocutions, the ingenious sophis-

tries, and all the rhetorical aids by which Gibbon *amuses* his reader, stamp his writings with the character of wit. Voltaire, among the French, as well as Montesquieu, has thought fit to *enliven* grave subjects with sportive illustrations and facetious allusions, in their historical and political writings. The Travels of the late Dr. More, and the Cruelties of Tom Coriatt, in 1611, are both witty, and the only difference between them is that of more or less. In common conversation, we call a person who confines himself to a plain, accurate, and dull narration, a "matter of fact man;" on the contrary, to that man who joins to rich fancy a lively turn of thinking and expressing his ideas, we assign the name of "a wit." The component parts into which wit may be analysed are the various species of tropes, metaphors, allusions, and sketches, uniting both the subject of thought and expression; and so widely does the circle of wit extend, that even a play on words is frequently employed in its service. The line,

"Though often thought, yet ne'er so well express'd,"  
is descriptive of a kind of wit, which is very popular, though confined to diction only. Short stories, either descriptive of a moral or political meaning, are often rendered brilliant by a single trope or

metaphor. When Dr. Johnson said on the subject of old men losing their friends, "Sir, we must from time to time *repair* our *acquaintance*," we are pleased with the wit of the idea. Though, as we have before observed, wit is a quality of certain thoughts and expressions, much more easily perceived than defined, yet, in a preface to the "Encyclopædia of Wit," it will be right to the reader to state the attempts of three English eminent writers to *bottle* this volatile substance in a definition. According to Mr. Locke, "wit lies in the assemblage of ideas, and putting those together with quickness and variety wherein can be found any resemblance or congruity whereby to make up pleasant pictures and agreeable visions to the fancy." Mr. Addison, however, deemed this definition too ample and comprehensive, and thereupon observes, that "the assemblage of ideas productive merely of *pleasure* does not constitute wit, but of those only which to *delight* add *surprise*." Mr. Pope defined wit to consist in, "a quick conception of thoughts, and an easy delivery." The poet's definition of wit seems rather an attempt to be *witty* than logical, as it would make every lively and eloquent man witty, and constitutes quickness of thought and happiness of diction alone as the ground-work of wit. Mr. Addison, who confines



the power of wit to that of creating surprise, gives us too narrow a definition, as surprise often arises only from the reader's confusion and astonishment. In a preface to our Collection of Witticisms, we are happy to adopt the more philosophical and more comprehensive definition of Locke, which, more shortly expressed, amounts to this, that, "Wit is the faculty of quickly combining those images which please the fancy." To the dull, therefore, we do not address our efforts to please; to men of fancy, the pointed sting of epigrammatic tale or poem, the lively repartee, and the sophistical argument, the play on words and expressions in the antithesis and in the pun, will be grateful entertainments.

In a work of this kind, brevity in the articles has been attended to, because it was thought essential to their matter. In the bee, the poignancy of the sting is greater than in proportion to the size of the animal's body; and a stream of light is rendered more intense by the contraction of its current. It is not the intention of this Preface to bestow undue praises on the collection to which it is affixed: its purport is to state to the reader, that variety is one of its recommendations; and that so great is the extent and variety of examples, that, if we do not exhibit all the best which his fancy

might have supposed, we have yet many that may escape his censure, however fastidious he may be. The difficulty of selecting is very great, when it is known how few good specimens of wit are to be found in many volumes which by their title promise to be replete with them. Those only who have hunted over these grounds know the scarcity of the game there to be found; for though the country exhibits plenty of strong covers, they have been too often poached to leave much to the fair and liberal sportsman.

The compiler of the "Encyclopædia of Wit" wishes to tell his reader, on the threshold of the book, something further. He has, under the influence before-mentioned, of the distinction between good-sense and wit, selected those anecdotes, bon-mots, poetical essays, &c. only which have the character of playfulness and humourous sally, restrained indeed by a perpetual attention to avoid whatever might be offensive to delicacy and morals. In these "coster-monger days," (to use a term of Shakspeare) when ribaldry, obscenity, and filth, pass for wit and humour, it is necessary to avoid that too general and just objection urged against books of this nature, that they are not what Horace boasted with manly pride of his Odes, suited altogether, "virginibus puerisque."

It is the ambition of the “Encyclopædia of Wit” to lie, and not neglected, in the window of the parlour, and on the shelf of the library. It may be proper to add further, that the same liberty is taken with this collection as is common to all the best of the French *anas*, viz. to affix titles to the subjects which they seemed most naturally to import, and to impute witticisms and bon-mots to names of persons who were notorious in their lives for promptitude of wit and luxuriance of humour. The reader will frequently see to the names of Chesterfield, Samuel Johnson, J. Wilkes, George Selwyn, &c. many stories of a facetious nature, to which in truth perhaps they had no claim, but which to the story itself will give additional zest, and to the speaker

“A local habitation and a name.”

This liberty is at least harmless, and in many cases very useful.

To the curious reader it may be grateful to add from what sources the contents of the “Encyclopædia of Wit” are deduced. The most respectable article in all *our* jest-books have been selected as well as from the best French *anas*. The immense volume of the Encyclopediana has been diligently perused for the purpose. The poetical pieces, which are for the most part short and epigramma-

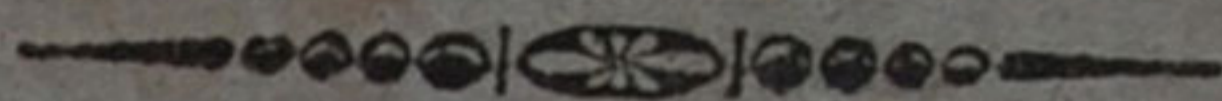
tic, are chosen from our best authors in that mode of writing, Swift, Prior, Congreve, Waller, &c. and to the defect of an ample and good collection of English epigrams may the paucity of epigrams in this Encyclopædia be ascribed, and not to want of diligence in the compiler to collect them from their hiding-places. We will not raise a smile in the face of the good-humoured reader by giving him any rules by which he should conduct himself in the perusal of these dainty morsels, which, if continued too long a time, may nauseate by their flavour; nor will we raise the indignation of the less gentle reader by any pompous praise or authoritative recommendations of things which are in their natures

“ Trifles light as air.”

A French wit calls these collections the *blanc-mange* of literature; we shall therefore now end our dull *prologomena* by wishing the Encyclopædia of Wit to be considered as a *desert*, pleasing to the palate after the appetite has been satisfied with more substantial food, and that the reader who has had his belly-full of the substantial nutriment derived from the morning studies of Locke, Bacon, or Sir Isaac Newton, may conclude his jaded hours of reading with the perusal of the

ENCYCLOPÆDIA OF WIT.

THE  
ENCYCLOPÆDIA OF WIT.



1. SCARCE ARTICLES IN A REPUBLIC.

**G**EORGE the First of England, having frequently experienced the rapacity of the Dutch at Helvoetsluys, was, in one of his journeys, determined to avoid it by not stopping there. It was a fine summer's day; and while the servants were changing the horses, and stowing his baggage in the coach, he stopped at the door of the principal inn, and asked for three fresh eggs; which having eaten, he enquired what he had to pay for them. "Two hundred florins," was the reply. "How!" cried the astonished monarch, "why so? eggs are not scarce at Helvoetsluys."—"No," replied the landlord, "but kings are."

2. IRISH DREAMING.

**WHEN** general V—— was quartered in a small town in Ireland, he and his lady were regularly besieged as they got into their carriage by an old beggar woman, who kept her post at the door, assailing them daily with fresh importunities. Their charity and patience became exhausted: not so the petitioner's perseverance. One morning, as Mrs. V. stepped into the carriage, our oratrix began—"Oh, my lady! success to your ladyship, and success to your honour's honour, this morning of all the days in the year; for sure I did not *dream* last night that her ladyship gave me a pound of tea, and your honour gave me a pound of tobacco."—

“But, my good woman,” said the general, “don’t you know that dreams go by the rule of contrary?”—“Do they so?” rejoined the old woman: “then it must *maan*, that your honour will give me the tea, and her ladyship the tobacco.”

### 3. AN EPIGRAM, AND A RECEIPT.

“King, author, philosopher, poet, musician,  
Free-mason, economist, bard, politician,—  
How had Europe rejoic’d if a *Christian* he’d been!  
If a *man*, how he then had enraptur’d his queen!”

The above was many years ago handed about Berlin, and shewn to the king, who, with the spirit of lord Mansfield, deemed it a libel, because it was true; but instead of filing an information, and using the tedious methods practised in this country, he took a summary way of punishing the author, who he knew from internal evidence must be Voltaire, at that time resident in Berlin.

He sent his serjeant at arms (one of the tall regiment), not with a mace and scrap of parchment, but with such an instrument as the English drummers use for the reformation of such foot-soldiers as commit any offence against the law military.

The Prussian soldier went to the poet, and told him he came, by his majesty’s special command, to reward him for an epigram on his royal master, by administering thirty lashes on his naked back. The poor philosopher knew that remonstrance was vain; and, after submitting with the best grace he could, opened the door, and made the farewell bow to his unwelcome visitor; who did not offer to depart, but told him, with the most Germanic gravity, that the ceremony was not yet concluded; for that the monarch he had the honour of serving must be convinced that his commission was punctually fulfilled, on which account he must have a receipt. This was also submitted to, and given in manner and form following:

“ Received from the right hand of Conrad Bachoffner, thirty lashes on my naked back, being in full for an epigram on Frederic the Third, king of Prussia;—I say, received by me, VOLTAIRE. *Vive le roi!*”

#### 4. INDIAN ACUTENESS.

Soon after the settlement of New England, governor Dudley, taking a walk, met a stout Indian begging, and saying he could get no work. The governor told him to go to his house, and he would give him work. “ But,” says the negro, “ why you no work, massa?”—“ O,” said the governor, “ my head works.” He however turned out an idle good for nothing fellow, and his master found it necessary one day to have him flogged. With this view he gave him a letter, desiring him to carry it to the keeper of the workhouse. The negro, suspecting its contents, committed it to the care of one of his comrades; who got a sound whipping for his trouble. The governor having learnt this, asked Mungo why he did so. “ O massa,” said he, “ *head work.*”

#### 5. A DARK AGE.

Among the addresses presented upon the accession of James the First, was one from the ancient town of Shrewsbury, wishing his majesty might reign as long as the sun, moon, and stars, endured. “ Faith, man,” said the king to the person who presented it, “ if I do, my son then must reign by candle-light.”

#### 6. PATENT TUMBLING.

When the same monarch went to Salisbury, one of the active adventurers of those days climbed up the outside of the spire of the cathedral, and at the top made three summersets in honour of his majesty; who, being applied to for a reward, gave him a patent, whereby every other of his subjects, except the aforesaid man, and his heirs male, was prohibited from climbing steeples for ever.

## 7. A LESSON.

A friend of dean Swift one day sent him a turbot as a present, by a servant who had frequently been on similar errands, but had never yet received the most trifling mark of the dean's generosity. Having gained admission, he opened the door of the study, and abruptly putting down the fish, cried very rudely, "Master has sent you a turbot." "Heyday! young man," said the dean, rising from his easy chair, "is that the way you deliver your message? Let me teach you better manners; sit down in my chair, we will change situations, and I will shew you how to behave in future." The boy sat down, and the dean, going to the door, came up to the table, with a respectful pace, and making a low bow, said, "Sir, my master presents his kind compliments, hopes your reverence is well, and begs your acceptance of a turbot."—"Does he?" replied the boy; "here, John, (ringing) take this honest lad down to the kitchen, and give him as much as he can eat and drink; then send him up to me, and I will give him half a crown."

## 8. A COMPLIMENT.

When the great duke of Marlborough visited the duke of Montague at Boughton, he, in high terms, commended the excellency of his water-works; to which the latter replied, "But they are by no means comparable to your grace's *fire-works*."

## 9. EULOGY OF PUNNING.

A gentleman observed one day to Mr. Henry Erskine, who is a great punster, that punning is the *lowest* sort of wit. "It is so," answered he, "and therefore the *foundation* of all wit."

## 10. ONE AT A TIME.

Penn, the celebrated founder and legislator of the colony of Pennsylvania, had both great and amiable qualities; and was no stranger to the essentials of good-



breeding, though he was too stubborn to yield to the forms of it. He had, or affected to have, all the spirit of the hat; which availed him much, as the leader of a people who made it a part of their religion. He sat with his hat on before Charles II.; and the king, as a gentle rebuke for his ill manners, put off his own. Upon which Penn said to him, "Friend Charles, why dost thou not keep on thy hat?" The king answered, "It is the custom of this place, that never above *one* person should be covered at a time."

### 11. A SIMILE.

There are two members of the house of commons, named Montagu Matthew, and Matthew Montagu; the former a tall handsome man, and the latter a little man. The Speaker once having addressed the latter as the former, Montagu Matthew observed it was strange he should make such a mistake, as, though their names might be confounded by a transposition, there was as great difference between them, as between a *horse chesnut*, and a *chesnut horse*.

### 12. LOGIC.

(*A tale founded on the foregoing.*)

An Eton stripling, training for the law,  
 A dounce at syntax, but a dab at law,  
 One happy Christmas laid upon the shelf  
 His cap and gown, and stores of learned pelf,  
 With all the deathless bards of Greece and Rome,  
 To spend a fortnight at his uncle's home.  
 Arriv'd, and pass'd the usual How-d'ye-do's,  
 Enquiries of old friends, and college news,  
 "Well, Tom; the road: what saw you worth discerning?  
 Or how goes study? What is it you're learning?"—  
 "Oh! logic, sir; but not the shallow rules  
 Of Locke and Bacon, antiquated fools;  
 'Tis wit's and wrangler's logic: thus, d'ye see,  
 I'll prove at once, as plain as A B C,  
 That an *eel pie's* a *pigeon*. To deny it,  
 Would beto swear black's not black."—"Come, let's try  
 it."—

“An *eel pie* is a pie of *fish*.”—“Agreed.”—  
 “*Fish-pie* may be a *jack-pie*.”—“Well, proceed.”—  
 “A *jack-pie* is a *John-pie*; and ’tis done,  
 “For every *John-pie* must be a *Pie-John*.” (Pi-geon).—  
 “Bravo!” sir Peter cries, “*logic* for ever!  
 That beats my grandmother’s, and she was clever.  
 But hold, my boy; since now it would be hard  
 That wit and learning should have no reward,  
 To-morrow, for a stroll, the park we’ll cross, [horse.”  
 And there I’ll give thee—”—“What?”—“My *chesnut*  
 “A horse!” quoth Tom, “blood, pedigree, and paces!  
 Oh, what a dash I’ll cut at Epsom races!”  
 To bed he went; and slept for downright sorrow,  
 That night must go before he’d see the morrow:  
 Dreamt of his boots and spurs, and leather breeches;  
 Hunting of cats, and leaping rails and ditches.  
 He left his rest an hour before the lark;  
 And dragg’d his uncle, fasting, to the park.  
 Halter in hand, each vale he scour’d, at loss  
 To spy out something like a chesnut horse;  
 But no such animal the meadows cropt.  
 At length, beneath a tree, sir Peter stopt;  
 A branch he caught, then shook it, and down fell  
 A fine horse-chesnut, in its prickly shell. [side?”—  
 “There, Tom, take that.”—“Well, sir, and what be-  
 “Why, since you’re booted, *saddle it, and ride*.”—  
 “Ride what? a chesnut?”—“Aye, come, get across;—  
 I tell you, Tom, that *chesnut* is a horse,  
 And all the horse you’ll get; for I can shew,  
 As clear as sun-shine, that ’tis really so:  
 Not by the musty, fusty, worn-out rules  
 Of Locke and Bacon, addle-headed fools;  
 Or old Malebranche, blind pilot into knowledge;  
 But by the laws of wit, and Eton college.  
 All axioms but the wranglers’ I’ll disown;  
 And stick to one sound argument, *your own*:  
 Thus now, you’ve prov’d it, as I don’t deny,  
 That a *pie-John*’s the same as a *John-pie*;  
 What follows then?—why, as a thing of course,  
 That a *horse-chesnut* is a *chesnut horse*.”

## 13. A PARTNERSHIP CONCERN.

Some years ago a young gentleman, named Broderip, was captain of the montem at Eton college; and the newspapers of the day informed their readers that it was the son of Messrs. Longman and Broderip, the musical instrument makers.

## 14. A COMMISSION.

A felon who was just on the point of being turned off, asked the hangman, if he had any message to send to the place where he was going. "I will trouble you with a line," replied the finisher of the law, placing the cord under his left ear.

## 15. POWERFUL PREACHER.

A certain reverend drone in the country preaching a very dull sermon to a congregation not used to him, many of them slunk out of the church, one after another, before the sermon was nearly ended. "Truly," said a gentleman present, "this learned doctor has made a very moving discourse."

## 16. PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE.

When Dr. Zimmerman was at the court of Berlin, Frederic II. asked him one day in conversation, if he could ascertain how many he had killed in the course of his practice. "That is an arduous task," replied the doctor, "but I think I may venture to say, not half so many as your majesty."

## 17. ARITHMETIC.

An honest Hibernian, in a company who blamed the clergy for taking a *tenth* part of the people's property, exclaimed, "Aye! they would take a *twentieth* if they could."

## 18. COMPLIMENT TO A JUDGE.

An attorney brought an action against a farmer for having called him a rascally lawyer. An old husbandman

being a witness, was asked if he heard the man call him a lawyer? "I did," was the reply. "Pray," says the judge, "what is your opinion of the import of the word?"—"There can be no doubt of that," replied the fellow. "Why, good man," said the judge; "there is no dishonour in the name, is there?"—"I know nothing about that," answered he, "but this I know, if any man called me a *lawyer* I'd knock him down."—"Why, sir," said the judge, pointing to one of the counsel, "that gentleman is a lawyer, and that, and that, and I too am a lawyer."—"No, no," replied the fellow; "no, my lord: you are a judge, I know; but I'm sure you are *no lawyer*."

#### 19. AN ADVERTISEMENT.

"Whereas my lawful wife, Mary Murphy, alias Humphrey, was *kidnapped* away from her father's, John Humphrey's house, at Glanattale, in the county of Limerick, on the night of Sunday the 8th instant, by an *old goat*; now, in order to get intelligence where she may be found, I will pay a reward of five guineas on being put in possession of her. "TIMOTHY MURPHY."

#### 20. HOW TO MAKE THE DUMB SPEAK.

A gentleman being one day at a public entertainment, where one of the company sat several hours without speaking a word; and as, from the character of the person, there was great reason to suspect that his silence was owing to a supercilious contempt of the company; he determined to shew his resentment the first opportunity that offered. Accordingly when supper was brought in, he was remarkably assiduous in helping the silent man to the best on the table, and taking care to supply his plate when he saw it nearly empty. Upon this, one of the company desired to know his reason for this extraordinary attention to the silent person; to which he replied, "I assure you, it is from the tenderness of my disposition, for I cannot bear to see a *dumb creature want*."

## 21. A CASUISTICAL DIVISION.

Three gentlemen being to sup at a tavern, one of them wished for partridges: a brace was brought, and he who had ordered them was requested to divide them; which he accordingly did, by taking one to his own plate, and leaving the other for his friends. "Stop," cried one of them, "this is an unequal division."—"Not so," replied he, "there is one for *you two*, and one for *me too*."

## 22. A FAIR DISTINCTION.

A gentleman asking doctor Johnson why he hated the Scotch, was answered: "I don't hate them, sir, neither do I hate frogs, but I don't like to have them hopping about my chamber."

## 23. PENANCE.

When old Parr was brought from Shropshire by lord Arundel, and introduced to Charles the First, both king and queen were, from the untoward situation of their affairs, in a very serious frame of mind; and the queen, looking at him with great earnestness, asked him what he had done more in his long life, than men who had not lived half his time. "May it please your majesty," replied he, "I did penance for a bastard child in Abberbury church, when I was above a hundred years old."

## 24. PLEASANT READING.

A German lady whose education had been neglected, obtained a place at the court of Brunswick. Here she found the inconvenience of her ignorance, and resolved to study. She mentioned this resolution to the duchess, and begged her highness to lend her a book to begin. The duchess applauded the design; and sent her a dictionary, as one of the most useful books. Some days after, her highness enquired how she liked it. "Infinitely," answered the fair student; "it is the most delightful book I ever saw. The sentences are all short, and easily understood; and the letters charmingly arranged, *like soldiers on the parade*: whereas in some books that I have seen,

they are huddled together like a mob, so that it is no pleasure to look at them, and very difficult to know what they mean."

## 25. ANOTHER.

Of a similar character was a man who, on making the same request to a friend, was accommodated with Euclid's Elements: which he returned with observing, that it was a *pretty book*, and seemed *true enough*; but that he had *skipped the A's and B's*, and *crooked lines*.

## 26. A RECIPE.

A young clergyman having buried three wives, a lady asked him how he happened to be so lucky. "Madam," replied he, "I knew they could not live without contradiction, so I let them all have their own way."

## 27. END OF THE LAW.

When old serjeant Maynard waited upon William the Third, with the address and congratulation from the gentlemen of the law, the king complimented the old man upon his good looks, and added, that he had outlived all his brother-lawyers. "Had it not been for your majesty's arrival," replied he, "I should have outlived the law itself."

## 28. LETTING THE CAT OUT OF THE BAG.

Baron, the French actor, was a great favourite of the ladies. A woman of high rank used to receive the visits of Baron very privately. One day Baron uninvited came into her drawing-room, full of company of the highest fashion and rank. "Baron," said the lady, haughtily and angrily, "what do you come for?"—"For my night-cap, madam," replied the indignant actor in a loud voice.

## 29. A WRONG TEXT.

The new king of Wirtemberg, soon after his creation, commanded his favourite orator to preach before him a sermon, from v. 6 and 7 of the *twenty-first Psalm*: "Thou hast made him most blessed for ever; thou hast made him exceeding glad with thy countenance. For the king

trusteth in the Lord, and through the mercy of the Most High he shall not be moved." The parson, however, having received the order verbally, made a sad mistake, and preached from the 6th and 7th verses of the *twenty-second* Psalm.—“But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people. All they that see me, laugh me to scorn; they shoot out the lip, they shake the head.”

### 30. PROOF OF CIVILIZATION.

A person who had resided for some time on the coast of Africa, was asked if he thought it possible to civilize the natives. “As a proof of the possibility of it,” said he, “I have known some negroes that thought as little of a *lie* or an *oath* as any European.”

### 31. ANOTHER.

A modern writer of travels, records, that in one of his peregrinations he traversed a wide extent of uncultivated regions, but at last perceived a *gibbet*, “the sight of which,” says he, “gave me infinite pleasure, as it proved that I was in a *civilized country*.”

### 32. THE PLEA.

An attorney brought an immense bill to a lady for some business he had done for her. The lady (to whom he had once paid his addresses) murmured at the charges. “Madam,” replied the limb of the law, “I had a mind to convince you that my profession is lucrative, and that I should not have been a bad match.”

### 33. CASTLES IN THE AIR.

Ariosto built a small house for himself. Being asked by his friend, how he, who described fine palaces in his Orlando, could content himself with so small an edifice; replied, “Words are cheaper than stones.”

### 34. COMMUTATION OF TAXES.

A gentleman speaking of lord Henry Petty's proposed tax on iron, observed, that as it had raised so many ob-

jections, it would be better to lay it on *coals*. "No," said his friend, "that would be out of the *frying-pan* into the *fire*."

## 35. ETYMOLOGY.

A noted writer in one of the new reviews, lately published a dictionary, in which he defines *Nosology*, a treatise on *noses*; *Egotist*, a lover of *eggs*; and *Botany*, the art of *boot-making*.

## 36. A SIMILE ILLUSTRATED.

When Milton was blind, he married a shrew. The duke of Buckingham called her a rose. "I am no judge of flowers," replied Milton, "but it may be so, for I feel the thorns daily."

## 37. CARD-PLAYING.

Mrs. S—, of faro memory, was reproaching her daughter with her frequent disappointments, in not having been able to get married. "Ah, child!" said she, "if you had *played your cards* as I have done, you would have got off long ago."—"Ah, mother!" she replied, "I should have got off long ago, if you had *not played your cards at all*."

## 38. ADVERTISEMENT EXTRAORDINARY.

The following advertisement appeared in an American paper.—"Run away from his wife and helpless family, on Friday last, John Spriggs, by trade a taylor, aged 35: has a wide mouth, zig-zag teeth, a nose of high-burned brick-blue with a lofty bridge, swivel-eyed, and a scar (not an honourable one) on his left cheek. He primes and loads (that is, takes snuff and tobacco;) and is so loquacious that he tires every one in company but himself. In order that he may entrap the sinner and the saint, he carries a *pack of cards* in one pocket, and the *Practice of Piety* in the other. He is a great liar, and can varnish falsehood with a great deal of art. Had on, when he went away, a three-cocked hat, which probably he has since changed to a round one, with a blue body-coat, rather on the fade. He was seen in Bennington on Saturday last,



*disguised in a clean shirt.*—N.B. It is supposed that he did not go off without a companion, as he is a great favourite with the ladies.”

39. INDIAN DREAMING.

It is a custom among the Canadian Indians, that when one dreams that another has rendered him any service, the person dreamed of thinks it a duty to fulfil the dream if possible. A chief one morning came to the governor, sir William Johnstone, and told him that he had last night dreamed that sir William had made him a present of the suit of regimentals he wore. The governor readily presented them to him ; but as the Indian was going out, “ Stop,” said sir William, “ I had almost forgot, but I dreamed about you last night ; I dreamed that you gave me such a tract of land ;” describing a large tract. “ You shall have it,” said he ; “ but if you please, sir William, we will not dream any more.”

40. NEVER OUT OF LUCK.

A Jew, who was condemned to be hanged, was brought to the gallows, and was just on the point of being turned off, when a reprieve arrived. Moses was informed of this, and it was expected he would instantly have quitted the cart, but he staid to see his two fellow-travellers hanged ; and being asked why he did not get about his business, he said, he waited to see if he could bargain with maister Ketch for the two gentlemen's clothes.

41. *To a LADY, with a blood-shot Eye.*

Oh ! be not afraid, though your eye is all red,  
While your cheeks, my dear Sal, are so ruddy ;  
For so many die by the stroke of that eye,  
No wonder the weapon is bloody.

42. THE SWINISH MULTITUDE.

The bishop of Soissons was remarkable for absence. When once attending the levee at court, he entered into

conversation with a young gentleman whom he did not know, and, among other questions, asked him if he knew who was that fat sow that just came in. "Sir," said the lad, "that fat sow is wife to the Swedish ambassador, and mother to the little pig that has now the honour of squeaking to your grace."

#### 43. JUSTICE SUPERIOR TO VALOUR.

It was debated before Agesilaus, whether courage or justice was the greater virtue. "There would be no occasion for valour if all men were just," replied the king.

#### 44. A CONJUGAL CAUTION.

Sir George Etherege, having run up a score at Lockit's, absented himself from the ordinary. In consequence of this Mrs. Lockit was sent to dun him, and threaten him with an action. He told the messenger that he would certainly *kiss her* if she stirred a step in it. On this message being brought, she called for her hood and cloak, and told her husband, who interposed, that she would see if there was any fellow alive that had the impudence. "Pr'ythee, my dear, don't be so rash," replied the good man, "you don't know what a man may do in a passion."

#### 45. CLASSICAL WAGER.

In the year 1740 the resentment of the country party was carried to an extravagant height against sir Robert Walpole, whose power was then nearly at an end. Mr. Sandys, on the 11th of February, went up to the minister in the house of commons, and informed him that in two days' time he should bring a charge against him in public. Sir Robert was no stranger to the intended motion, nor to the day it was proposed to be made, nor even to the honourable gentleman's intention of acquainting him with it: he therefore received the intimation with the greatest composure and dignity, and not without some mixture of contempt at the nature of the informa-

tion; and, after desiring fair play, he laid his hand upon his breast, saying,

——Hic murus aheneus esto,  
Nil conscire sibi, nulli pallescere culpæ.

Mr. Pulteney (afterward earl of Bath), who, as usual, sat upon the same bench with him, said drily, that that was false Latin: the minister wagered a guinea that it was not; and a copy of Horace being immediately produced, and the words of the author appearing to be

——nullâ pallescere culpâ,

Mr. Pulteney took the guinea, and held it up, with this sarcastic observation, that it was the only guinea of the *public money* that he had ever received.

#### 46. A MARSHAL AND A MONARCH.

Marshal Villars having quarrelled with the mistress and ministers of Louis XIV. occasion was soon found to send him to join the army, then on a very disagreeable duty in Germany. When he came to make his farewell obeisance to the king, he made the following remark: "Sir, I leave you surrounded by *my* enemies, while I go to a place where I shall be surrounded with *yours*."

#### 47. ROOT AND BRANCH.

Sarah, duchess of Marlborough, was accustomed to make an annual feast, to which she invited all her relations. At one of these family-meetings she drank their health, adding, "What a glorious sight it is to see such a number of branches flourishing from one root!" but observing Jack Spencer laugh, insisted on knowing what occasioned his mirth; and promised to forgive him, be it what it would. "Why then, madam," said he, "I was thinking how much more all the branches would flourish if the root were under ground."

#### 48. A CONVENIENT NAP.

Two Oxford scholars slept in the same room at college. "Jack," says one, early in the morning, "are

you asleep?"—"Why?" replied the other. "Because if you are not, I will borrow half-a-crown of you."—"Is that all? Then I am."

#### 49. PLEASANT TRAVELLING.

A man who was following his wife's hearse, and was somewhat corpulent, called out to the coachman, "Drive a little slower, John; you need not be in such a hurry. Why should we make a toil of a *pleasure*?"

#### 50. ADDRESS BEFORE A DINNER AT GUILDHALL, ON LORD MAYOR'S DAY.

Ragouts, fish, soups, wild ducks, and capons,  
 This day our festal table grace;  
 Port, sherry, hock, champagne, and claret,  
 Crown the *homogeneous* mass.  
 With straining throats, capacious stomachs,  
 Let us gorge in spite of sorrow;  
 Pain and head-ache, broth and gruel,  
 We will banish—till to-morrow.

#### 51. THE HEROIC PAINTER.

Vernet, the famous painter, was so attached to his profession, that he used to make voyages in bad weather on purpose to see the sky and ocean in picturesque perturbation. One day the storm was so violent that the ship's crew were in great consternation. Vernet desired a sailor to bind him to the mast. When every one was crying and praying, Vernet, with his eyes now upon the lightning, and now upon the mountainous waves, continued to exclaim, "How fine this is!"

#### 52. CURE OF AN ABSCESS.

Erasmus, who was very fond of reading the letters entitled Epistles of Obscure Men, meeting with a ludicrous passage in one of them, burst into long repeated fits of laughter, and thus broke an abscess which had formed itself in his face. Bayle, who relates this circumstance,

very gravely observes, that this story is a strong illustration of the utility of reading.

53. MODESTY OF TRUE LEARNING.

A mussulman doctor being asked a question in the way of his profession, replied, he did not know any thing of the subject. "Indeed!" rejoined the enquirer, "does not the caliph allow you a salary for your learning?"—"He pays me," replied the doctor, very calmly, "for what I know, and the stipend is handsome; but if he wished to reward me for what I do not know, I question whether his treasures would supply the demand."

54. A SUCCESSOR TO CERBERUS.

Carolan, the Irish bard, being refused entrance to a nobleman's house by the porter, whose name was O'Flinn, wrote with chalk on the door:

"What pity hell's gates are not kept by O'Flinn!  
Such a surly old dog would let nobody in."

55. APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATION.

In a bookseller's catalogue lately appeared the following article:—"Memoirs of Charles the First, with a head capitally executed."

56. TRIAL OF WIT.

A person abusing another to Churchill, said, he was so insufferably dull, that if you said a good thing he did not understand it. "Pray, sir," said Churchill, "*did you ever try him?*"

57. THE CRITERION.

A cobbler at Leyden, who used to attend the public disputations held at the university, was asked if he understood Latin. "No," replied the artist, "but I know who is wrong in the argument." "How?" enquired his friend. "Why, by seeing who is angry first."

## 58. A PROMISING YOUTH.

Concerning the late earl of ———, who when young was remarkable for cajoling his creditors with a future pay-day, it was observed by one of his friends, that it was a pity that fortune should neglect so *promising* a young gentleman.

## 59. IMPROVED BREWING.

They've rais'd the price of table-drink :  
 What is the reason, do you think ?  
 The tax on malt's the cause, I hear ;  
 But what has *malt* to do with *beer* ?

## 60. CIVILITY.

Two gentlemen at Bath having a difference, one went to the other's door early in the morning, and wrote *Scoundrel* upon it. The other called upon his neighbour, and was answered by a servant, that his master was not at home, but if he had any thing to say he might leave it with him. "No, no," says he, "I was only going to return your master's visit, as he *left his name* at my door in the morning."

## 61. DIFFERENCE OF TASTES.

A gentleman who had visited his friend for the first time in a very solitary and dreary situation, observed to him, "My dear Tom, you may have your reasons for living here, but," added he, looking with great surprize at the rookery, "what can induce these poor birds to stay here too?"

## 62. A KNOWING ONE.

George Selwyn was walking one day with a young lady in Hyde Park, when a number of bathers were indelicately exposing themselves. "This is very indecent," said she. "It is indeed," answered Mr. S. "very indecent for so many girls to be running about naked." — "Girls!" exclaimed she, "they are boys," — "I beg

pardon," resumed the wit: "as they had no clothes on I did not know, but I yield to your better judgment."

### 63. THE DEMOCRATIC BLOOD-ROYAL.

Mr. Selwyn seeing the chimney-sweeper's on May-day in all their gaudy trappings, observed, "I have often heard of the *majesty of the people*, but I never saw any of the *young princes* before."

### 64. PROXIES.

A French constitutional priest who had usually a very small audience, was one day preaching at the church in his village, when, the doors being open, a gander and several geese came stalking up the middle aisle. The preacher, availing himself of the circumstance, observed, that he could no longer find fault with his district for non-attendance; because, though they did not come themselves, they sent their *representatives*.

### 65. CONSIDERATION.

A patriotic candidate, who offered himself as the representative of a Kentish borough, told a yeoman to whom he applied, that, if he were returned member, he would exert all his influence to turn out the ministry. "Will you?" replied the yeoman: "then I promise, you shall not have my vote; for I am not for changing them, be they good or bad. I know well enough how it is with my hogs: when I buy them lean, they eat more than they are worth; but when they have once grown a little fat, the feeding them is not half so expensive. So I am for keeping the present set; a new herd would devour more."

### 66. THE PLEASURES OF BATH.

To drink without thirst, and to ask your physician  
A thousand odd questions to mend your condition;  
To raise up your spirits against wind and tide,  
With a hundred sick people just close to your side;

To sit down to dinner with persons who grumble  
 At ev'ry new dish, which they hardly can mumble ;  
 And, when this delightful repast is gone by,  
 For something to do next you yawn and you sigh.  
 'Tis too hot to walk out, and you doze in your seat  
 Till the cool of the evening succeeds to the heat ;  
 A nap then comes on, and you lose then the pow'r  
 To enjoy the delight of the cool balmy hour.  
 For joy, on the next day your fancy you cast :  
 When it comes, you mis-spend it as bad as the last.

## 67. MASQUERADES.

A lady of fashion asked a bishop if there was any harm in going to a masquerade. "Your ladyship can answer that question better than I," replied the prelate.

## 68. A COALITION.

At the commencement of the parliament in 1802, Mr. Pitt and Mr. Sheridan took the oaths at the same time; the premier, happening to have no silver in his pocket, borrowed a couple of shillings to pay for his oath. This being observed from the gallery, the following paragraph appeared in a morning paper of next day: "Something is certainly on the carpet at present between the ministry and opposition, for we assert from undoubted authority, that yesterday a loan was negotiated between Mr. Pitt and Mr. Sheridan."

## 69. COLUMBUS AND THE EGG.

Columbus mentioning with great humility his discovery of America, some of the company spoke in very depreciating terms of the expedition. "There was no more difficulty," replied Columbus, "than there is in setting this egg on its end." They tried the experiment, and all failed. Columbus, breaking one of the ends, set the egg upright. The company sneered at the contrivance. "Thus," observed Columbus, "a thing appears very easy after it is done."



## 70. A MINOR.

Lady Wallace, overtaking a gentleman of her acquaintance who was walking along in a thoughtful mood, slapped him on the back, and cried out, "Pray, sir, can you tell me how old I am?"—"Madam," replied he, turning round, "I cannot be very exact, but you certainly have not arrived at *years of discretion*."

## 71. AN EASY WAY TO SATISFY ELECTORS.

When Mr. Sheridan first stood for Stafford, he made abundant promises to procure places for such electors as would vote for him; and, wonderful to relate! he kept his word, for numbers of them were appointed to offices in Drury-lane theatre and the opera-house. By this munificence he gained his election; but in a very short time he found opportunities to oblige new friends, most of the others being obliged to relinquish their situations from *receiving no pay*.

## 72. EASY TERMS.

A celebrated courtesan in the decline of her beauty put up to sale by auction all the trinkets, &c. which she had received from her former lovers. Observing some pretty women who murmured at the appraisal of them as too high, the fair sinner addressed them with a sly look, and a kind of frown in her face, "I suppose, ladies, you would like to have them at *prime cost*."

## 73. MATRIMONIAL CONCORD.

"I wonder," says a woman of humour, "why my husband and I quarrel so often, for we agree uniformly in one grand point: he wishes to be master, and so do I."

## 74. BATH FESTIVITIES.

Two musical parties to Bladud belong,  
To delight the old rooms and the upper:  
One gives to the ladies a supper, no song;  
The other, a song and no supper.

## 75. RATHER TOO LATE.

A buffoon at the court of Francis I. complained to the king, that a great lord threatened to murder him for uttering some jokes about him. "If he does," said Francis, "he shall be hanged in five minutes after."—"I wish," replied the complainant, "your majesty would hang him five minutes before."

## 76. LOSS OF TIME.

A devotee lamented to her confessor her love of gambling. "Ah, madam," replied the priest, "it is a grievous sin. In the first place, consider the great loss of time."—"Yes," replied the fair penitent, "I have often grudged the time that is *lost in shuffling and dealing.*"

## 77. TO LORD NELSON,

(*By Peter Pindar,*)

With his lordship's night-cap, that caught fire on the poet's head, as he was reading in bed, at Merton.

Take your night-cap again, my good lord, I desire,  
For I wish not to keep it a minute;  
What belongs to a Nelson, where'er there's a fire,  
Is sure to be instantly in it.

## 78. SELF-COMPLACENCY.

A writer upon botany, after enumerating *several hundred species* of the *geranium*, concludes by remarking that he has no doubt there are *as many more*; which, if he is blessed with a few years of life for the completion of this *great work*, he will describe with accuracy.

## 79. JUDGMENTS.

The duke of York, afterwards James II. once visited Milton; they talked together for some time; and in the course of their conversation, the duke asked Milton whether he did not think the loss of his sight was a judgment upon him for what he had written against Charles

the First, the duke's father. Milton's reply was to this effect: "If your highness thinks that the calamities which befall us here are indications of the wrath of heaven, in what manner are we to account for the fate of the late king himself? The displeasure of heaven must, upon this supposition, have been much greater against him than against me; for I have only lost my eyes, but he lost his head."

80. AN INSCRIPTION ON INSCRIPTIONS.

The following lines were written on seeing a farrago of rhimes that had been scribbled with a diamond on the window of an inn.

Ye who on windows thus prolong your shames,  
 And to such arrant nonsense sign your names,  
 The diamond quit, with me the pencil take,  
 So shall your shame but short duration make:  
 For lo, the housemaid comes, in dreadful pet,  
 With red right-hand, and with a dishclout wet;  
 Dashes out all, nor leaves a wreck to tell  
 Who 'twas that wrote so ill—and lov'd so well.

81. A ROWLAND FOR AN OLIVER.

"Dog, why dost thou bark?" cried a graceless fellow of antiquity to one of the philosophers surnamed *cynics* or *snarlers*, in the middle of one of his lectures. "Because I see a *thief*," was the reply.

82. A CONVENIENT PUNISHMENT.

A noted thief who was tried for purloining a parcel out of the Worcester mail-coach, being found guilty, Jemmy's observation, on sentence of transportation for seven years being passed on him, was: "It matters not, it is high time I should return to my *estate* at Botany; I dare say there has been a *pretty game* carried on since I left it."

## 83. ELECTION-ANECDOTE.

A gentleman who canvassed for a surgeoncy at the Bristol infirmary, waited upon a grocer who happened to be a subscriber, and, making his bow, as is usual on these occasions, said, "Sir, I have taken the liberty of troubling you, to request that you would———" at which moment perceiving, by the stern brow of the grocer, that he was about to receive a plump refusal, with great promptitude the applicant changed his tone, and instead of soliciting his vote, ended his sentence with "*weigh me a pennyworth of plumbs!*" and laid the money on the counter.

## 84. NO HARM DONE.

Horace Walpole being informed of a serious quarrel between two of his female relations, asked the person whether either of them had called the other ugly. On receiving an answer in the negative, he replied; "Oh, then I shall soon make up the matter."

## 85. HINT TO LOVERS.

On compliments so highly sounded  
From lovers, female pride is founded.  
Strephon, because the girl is showy,  
Will make a *goddess* of his Chloe;  
The wench grows proud, and learns to scorn  
A swain of *mortal* parents born:  
Poor Strephon, ridiculed and hated,  
Complains of pride himself created.

## 86. ROYAL COMPLIMENT.

The deputies from the parliament of Paris waited on Henry IV. to congratulate him on a victory in which marshal Biron had signalized himself. The king, pointing to Biron, addressed the deputies, "Gentlemen, I beg your attention to marshal Biron, a person whom I present with equal pleasure to my friends and to my enemies."

## 87. POLITENESS OF A MAYOR.

At the time when queen Elizabeth was making one of her progresses through the kingdom, a mayor of Coventry, attended by a large cavalcade, went out to meet her majesty, and usher her into the city with due formality. On their return they passed through a wide brook, when Mr. Mayor's horse several times attempted to drink, and each time his worship checked him; which the queen observing, called out to him, "Mr. Mayor, let your horse drink, Mr. Mayor;" but the magistrate, bowing very low, modestly answered, "Nay, nay, may it please your majesty's horse to drink first."

## 88. THE REVENGE.

Two Irish rustics, finding a large cask that was cast ashore from the wreck of a ship, and naturally thinking it contained *dear usquebaugh*, but which, in reality, contained gun-powder, were greatly puzzled how to get at the enviable treasure. At length it was resolved to use a red-hot piece of iron for that purpose. As might be expected, the one who bored the cask was thrown aloft into the air by the explosion of the powder. The other, seeing his companion flying in the air, as he thought, with the cask of whiskey, exclaimed with great coolness, "If you do not come down and give me a share, I shall inform the exciseman."

## 89. NO GRUMBLING.

An Irish bachelor objected to a surcharge of his taxes; but on being told that it arose from his celibacy, the objection was immediately withdrawn. He said, "Every man should pay for his *luxuries*."

## 90. THE PATRIOT.

The late lord R——, with many good qualities, and even learning and parts, had a strong desire of being thought skilful in physic, and was very expert in bleeding. Lord Chesterfield, who knew his foible, and wished on

a particular occasion to have his vote, came to him one morning, and, after having conversed on indifferent matters, complained of the head-ache, and desired his lordship to feel his pulse. It was found to beat high, and a hint of losing blood was given. "I have no objection," said the politic earl, "and, as I hear your lordship has a masterly hand, will you favour me with trying your lance upon me?"—"A propos," added lord Chesterfield after the operation, "do you go to the house to-day?" Lord R—— answered, "I did not intend to go, not being sufficiently informed of the question which is to be debated; but if you have considered it, which side shall you be of?" The earl, having gained his confidence, easily directed his judgment: he carried him to the house, and got him to vote as he pleased. He used afterwards to say, he had literally *bled* for the good of his country.

## 91. PHILOSOPHIC PUN.

Doctor Hough, some time since bishop of Worcester, who was as remarkable for the evenness of his temper as for many other good qualities, having a good deal of company at his house, a gentleman present desired his lordship to shew him a curious weather-glass which the bishop had lately purchased, and which cost him above thirty guineas. The servant was accordingly desired to bring it in; but, in delivering it to the gentleman, accidentally let it fall, and broke it to pieces. The company were all a little deranged at the accident. "Be under no concern, my dear sir," said the bishop smiling, "I think it is rather a lucky omen: we have hitherto had a dry season, and I hope we shall have some rain; for I protest I do not remember ever to have seen the glass so *low*."

## 92. EPIGRAM.

Treason does never prosper—What's the reason?  
Why, when it prospers, none dare call it treason.

## 93. ANOTHER.

The lovely hair that Galla wears  
Is hers—Who could have thought it?  
She swears 'tis hers; and true she swears,  
For I know *where she bought it.*

## 94. HOW TO MULTIPLY FLIES.

The child of an Irish grocer, in St. Giles's, very nearly escaped death, from a poisonous mixture used as fly-water, which was incautiously laid upon a shelf behind the counter, where the poor child got at it, and had taken a considerable quantity with a tea-spoon before the danger of it was discovered. The father upbraided his wife with the folly of leaving the mixture in the child's way, or attempting to kill the flies "at all, at all," adding, "Sure you know, that killing flies only increases them; for every one you kill, fifty more come to his funeral, and will stay with you as long as they can find any sugar in the shop."

## 95. WARM WORK.

An itinerant preacher, in the vicinity of Kensington, told his congregation, "that all the great guns of heaven were charged up to their muzzles, and would shortly be fired off by the angel Gabriel, against the devil's heir-at-law, Napoleon Buonaparte."

## 96. A MERITED REWARD.

A physician, much attached to his profession and his own skill, during his attendance on a man of letters, observing that the patient was very punctual in taking all his medicines and following his rules, exclaimed, in the pride of his heart, "Ah, my dear sir, now you *deserve to be ill.*"

## 97. A GREAT MAN AMONG LITTLE ONES.

King Charles II. on a certain time paying a visit to

doctor Busby, the doctor strutted through his school with his hat on his head, while his majesty walked complacently behind him, with his own hat under his arm; but when he was taking his leave at the door, the doctor, with great humility, thus addressed the king: "I hope your majesty will excuse my want of respect hitherto; but if my boys were to imagine there was a greater man in the kingdom than myself, I should never be able to rule them."

## 98. A BROAD HINT.

A gentleman of the King's County perceived his stock of pigeons fast decreasing, but was unacquainted with the cause. He was, however, informed that a tenant of his knew something of the matter: the man was sent for, and on being questioned he at first denied any knowledge of the transaction; but when closely pressed, he declared, "he *did not mean to accuse any man of shooting the pigeons, but he was certain Billy Dooley shot the pigeons for all that.*"

## 99. A FIRST APPEARANCE.

The late duke of Norfolk was much addicted to the bottle. On a masquerade-night, he asked Foote, what *new character* he should go in. "Go *sober!*" said Foote.

## 100. A NON-FREEMAN.

A person who resides in Pall-mall, happening to spend an evening in the city, was asked in his turn for a song; which he declined, alleging that any attempt of his would give no entertainment. "I have heard him sing," says a gentleman, "and he has an excellent voice."—"Whatever be in that," resumed the other, "as I am not a freeman, I have no *voice* in the city."

## 101. A FREE GIFT.

Rock, the comedian, when at Covent Garden, advised one of the scene-shifters, who had met with an accident, to the plan of a subscription; and a few days afterwards



he asked for the list of names, which, when he had read it over, he returned. "Why, Rock," says the poor fellow, "won't you give me something?"—"Zounds, man," replied the other, "didn't I *give* you the *hint*?"

## 102. MR. JOHN ROBINSON.

During the administration of lord North, Mr. Fox, in the course of a speech in the house of commons, observed, it was well known that there was a certain individual appointed by government as the manager of that house. "Name him, name him," was the general exclamation. "No," said Mr. Fox, "I don't chuse to do that, though I could do it as easily as say *Jack Robinson*."

## 103. A DEDICATION.

When Foote published his *Englishman at Paris*, he wrote the following dedication to his bookseller: "Having no obligations to any lord or lady of these kingdoms, and wishing my play to have a protector, I beg leave to thank you for the neatness of the impression, the beauty of the type, and the fineness of the paper, with which you have honoured the work of your humble servant, SAM. FOOTE."

## 104. CHRISTIAN NAME.

A man with difficulty divests himself of professional habits and terms. The son of a rich merchant being about to be baptised, the curate asked the father what name he should pronounce. The merchant exclaimed pompously, "Robert and Co."

## 105. MEUM AND TUUM.

Lord Thurlow, in his juvenile days, meeting a brother barrister, the latter said, "Thurlow, I am told the bar-maid at Nando's is with child."—"Well, what's that *to me*?"—"Why, I am told it is yours."—"Well, what's that *to you*?"

## 106. MAJESTY IN THE WRONG.

Louis the Fourteenth, playing at backgammon, had a doubtful throw; a dispute arose, and the surrounding courtiers all remained silent. The count de Grammont happened to come in at that instant. "Decide the matter," said the king to him. "Sire," said the count at once, "your majesty is in the wrong."—"How!" replied the king, "can you thus decide, without knowing the question?"—"Because," said the count, "had the matter been doubtful, all these gentlemen would have given it for your majesty."

## 107. A CONVENIENT DAY OF PAYMENT.

Mr. Fox, on one of his occasions for borrowing money, met with a good-natured Jew, who told him he might take his own time for payment. "Then," said Charles, "we'll make it the *day of judgment*; or as that will be rather a *busy day*, suppose we say the *day after*."

## 108. A DEFICIENCY OF EVIDENCE.

A son of Galen, who was very angry when any joke was passed on physicians, once defended himself from raillery by saying, "I defy any person whom I ever attended, to accuse me of ignorance or neglect."—"That you may do safely," replied the wag; "for you know, doctor, dead men tell no tales."

## 109. AN ELECTION SQUIB.

A young gentleman of respectable family and character, offered himself a candidate for a borough in the west of England, and had every prospect of success in his election, when his opponents propagated a report that he was a member of the hell-fire club, and sent a hired mob through the town, to hawl out, "No hell-fire club!" The young candidate's friends, instead of contradicting this falsehood, were, in the true spirit of opposition, equally vociferous in roaring, "Hell-fire for ever!" and the consequence was, the loss of his election.

## 110. A MOTTO.

It is well known that lord Erskine was so fond of the monosyllable "I," that he got the name of Counsellor Ego. Flattered by his friends as the champion of the *trial by jury*, he chose those words on his promotion for his motto. Garrow told him he might have chosen fully as appropriate, and a more classical motto from Virgil:—  
*"Alle Ego qui quondam."*

## 111. CLASSICAL PUN.

During the late disturbances at Covent Garden theatre, at a consultation held by the barristers employed by the managers to conduct the prosecutions against the O. P.'s, sir Vinegar Gibbs quoted the following line from Ovid:—  
*"Effodiuntur opes, irritamenta malorum!"*

## 112. NO CONNOISSEUR.

The late lord Chesterfield happened to be at a rout in France, where Voltaire was one of the guests. Chesterfield seemed to be gazing about the brilliant circle of ladies, when Voltaire thus accosted him: "My lord, I know you are a judge; which are more beautiful, the English or French ladies?"—"Upon my word," replied his lordship, with his usual presence of mind, "I am no connoisseur in *paintings*."

## 113. MIDSHIPMAN'S HALF-PAY.

An officer in the navy being asked what Mr. Burke meant by "the cheap defence of nations," replied that many persons in his line understood him to mean midshipman's half-pay, *nothing a-day and to find yourself*.

## 114. A BARRISTER'S MODESTY.

Mr. Garrow, examining a young lady on a trial for slander, asked if the defendant did not make use of very indecent language. "Yes, sir."—"Words which my modesty will not permit me to repeat?"—"Yes, sir."

—“ Now tell the court and jury what these words were.”—“ Sir, if *your modesty* will not permit you to express them, *you cannot expect that MINE will.*”

## 115. A SUBJECT OF SURPRISE.

Mr. (now lord) Erskine, being counsel for the plaintiff in an action for the infringement of a patent for buckles, expatiated with his usual eloquence on the improvement made on this manufacture. “ What,” said he, taking out his own buckle and exhibiting it to the court, “ what would my ancestors say, were they to rise out of their graves, and see me with such an ornament as this ?” —“ They would be surprised, I dare say,” observed Mr. Mingay, “ to see you with either *shoe or stocking.*”

## 116. PATRONAGE.

The late earl of Chesterfield was universally esteemed the Mæcenas of the age in which he lived. Dr. Johnson addressed the plan of his Dictionary of the English Language to him, on that account ; and his lordship endeavoured to be grateful by recommending that valuable work in two essays, which, among others, he published in a paper entitled *The World*, conducted by Mr. Moore and his literary friends. Some time after, however, the doctor took great offence at being refused admittance to lord Chesterfield, which happened by a mistake of the porter ; and just before the work was finished, on Mr. Moore's expressing his surprize that Dr. Johnson did not intend to dedicate the book to his lordship, the lexicographer declared he was under no obligation to any great man whatever, and therefore should not make him his patron. “ Pardon me, sir,” said Moore, “ you are certainly obliged to his lordship for the two elegant papers he has written in favour of your performance.” —“ You quite mistake the thing,” returned Johnson ; “ I confess no obligation. I feel my own dignity, sir ; I have made a commodore Anson's voyage round the whole world of the English language ; and while I am coming into port, with a fair wind, on a fine sun-shiny day, my

lord Chesterfield sends out two little cock-boats to tow me in. I am very sensible of the favour, Mr. Moore, and should be sorry to say an ill-natured thing of that nobleman; but I cannot help thinking he is a lord among wits, and a wit among lords."

## 117. A MISTAKE.

When Mrs. Robinson published her *Sappho and Phaon*, she wrote a note to Mr. Boaden, the newspaper-editor, in the following terms: "Mrs. R—— would thank her friend Boaden for a dozen *puffs* for *Sappho and Phaon*." By a mistake of the penny-post, this note was delivered to Mr. Bowden the *pastry-cook*, in the Strand, who sent her this answer: "Mr. Bowden's respectful compliments to Mrs. R——, shall be very happy to serve her; but as Mrs. R—— is not a constant customer, he cannot send the *puffs* for the *young folks* without first receiving the money."

## 118. FOLLOWING A PRESCRIPTION.

When the celebrated beau Nash was ill, Dr. Cheyne wrote a prescription for him. The next day the doctor coming to see his patient, enquired if he had followed his prescription. "No, faith, doctor," said Nash; "if I had, I should have broke my neck, for I threw it out of a two pair of stairs window."

## 119. TWO OF A TRADE.

When sir Elijah Impey, the India judge, was on his passage home, as he was one day walking the deck, it having blowed pretty hard the preceding day, a shark was playing by the side of the ship. Having never seen such an object before, he called to one of the sailors to tell him what it was. "Why," replied the tar, "I don't know what name they know them by ashore, but here we call them *sea-lawyers*."

## 120. A COMMANDMENT KEPT.

A young officer, not over-fond of fighting, waited on

the commander on the eve of a battle, to request leave of absence to visit his father and mother, both of whom were extremely ill. "Yes," said the general, "honour your father and your mother, *that your days may be long.*"

## 121. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

At a certain learned institution, a question was brought into discussion, "What is the reason a dead fish is so much heavier than a living one?" Many laborious disquisitions were entered upon, to account for this circumstance: at length one of the members thought proper to weigh a dead fish and a live one, and found them—*both alike.*

## 122. ROYAL REGULATION.

When George the Second was once told by some of his confidential friends, that every thing was complained of, and that the people were extremely dissatisfied at the tardiness of making the public payments, he in great wrath sent for the old duke of Newcastle, his prime minister, and told him he would no longer suffer such infamous delays, but was determined to inspect and regulate the accounts himself; and for this purpose he commanded that the proper papers should be immediately sent to St. James's. "They shall be sent to your majesty to-morrow," replied the duke. When the king rose in the morning, and looked out of his window, he saw two waggon-loads of papers, each tied with red tape, unloading in the area. Enquiring what they were, he was told they came from the duke of Newcastle; to whom he sent to know what it meant. "They are the papers for examination," said the duke: "twelve more waggon-loads for your majesty's inspection will be sent in the course of the day."—"For my inspection!" replied the enraged monarch: "for my inspection! The devil's chief clerk may inspect them, but I would as soon walk barefooted to Jerusalem."

## 123. AN ANTAGONIST FOR BUONAPARTE.

An honest Yorkshireman amusing himself in poaching,

had his gun taken from him by a justice of the peace. Soon after he was unfortunate enough to be informed against for sedition, in saying he wished Buonaparte would land in Yorkshire. Being brought before the bench of magistrates, of which the aforesaid justice was chairman, he acknowledged the words; "but," said he, "my reason for saying so was, that I thought your worship would *take his guns from him.*"

## 124. WHO'S AFRAID?

A sailor coming across Blackheath one evening, was stopped by a footpad, who demanded his money; when a scuffle ensued, the tar took the robber, and bore away with his prize to a justice of the peace at Woolwich. When the magistrate came to examine into the assault, he told the sailor that he must take his oath that the robber had put him in bodily fear, otherwise he could not commit him. The sailor looking stedfastly at the justice, answered, "He! he put me in bodily fear! No, nor any that ever lived; therefore, if that is the case, you may let him go, for I'll not swear to such a lie."

## 125. TRAVELLING-COMPUTATION.

Two Irishmen coming to London through St. Albans, one of them asked a man that was at work by the side of a road, how many miles it was to London; to which he replied, Twenty. "Arrah," said one of them, "we shall not reach London to-night."—"Pooh!" says the other, "come along, it is but *ten miles apiece.*"

## 126. A SEA-HORSE.

The captain of a West Indiaman wished to buy a horse. After the purchase was made, the captain said, "Well, now the horse is mine, pray tell me candidly whether he has any faults, and what they are."—"What do you mean to do with him?" said the other. "Why, to take him to sea," answered the captain. "Then I will be candid," replied the dealer: "he may go very

well at sea; but on land he cannot go at all, or I would not have sold him."

## 127. THE RESERVE.

A gentleman shewing his friend his curiosities of pictures, &c. in his gallery, on the other's praising them all very much, he gave him a choice of any one of them as a present. The stranger fixed his election on a tablet, in which the ten commandments were written in letters of gold. "You must excuse me there," replied the gentleman: "those I am bound to *keep*."

## 128. JOHN BUNYAN AND THE MINCE-PIE.

When John Bunyan, author of the *Pilgrim's Progress*, was in Shrewsbury gaol for preaching and praying, a gentleman who knew his abhorrence of any thing that sounded as popish, and wished to play upon his peculiarity, one 25th of December sent his servant to the poor preacher, and desired his acceptance of a large mince-pie. John, seizing the pastry, desired the fellow to thank his master, and "tell him," added the old tinker, "I have lived long enough, and am now hungry enough, to know the difference between *Christmas* and *pie*."

## 129. A PALPABLE HIT.

One evening Tom Sheridan sitting with his father over a bottle, was complaining of the emptiness of his pocket. The right honourable manager told him jocularly to go on the highway. "I have tried that already," said he, "but without success."—"Aye! how?" replied his father. "Why," resumed he, "I stopt a caravan full of passengers, who assured me they had not a farthing, as they all belonged to *Drury-Lane theatre*, and could not get a penny of their salary."

## 130. MILITARY PUN.

When marshal Tallard was riding with the duke of Marlborough in his carriage, after the victory of Blen-



heim, "My lord duke," says the marshal, "you have beaten to-day the best troops in the world."—"I hope," replied the duke, "you except those who have had the honour of beating them."

## 131. AN UNCOURTLY MISTAKE.

An earl-marshal being told by a king, that some of the arrangements for his coronation had not been sufficiently attended to, humbly answered, "May it please your majesty, I shall endeavour to correct these faults next time."

## 132. PRUDENT ADVICE.

Among the tombs in Westminster abbey is one to the memory of a nabob who is said to have acquired a large fortune in the East by dishonourable means. His ambition and his money conducted him into this repository of deceased nobility, and erected a first-rate monument over him. This monument describes the resurrection. The earth and the skies are falling to pieces, while the angel above is sounding the last trumpet. The defunct is represented as rising from the grave, with astonishment in his face, and opening a curtain to see what is the matter. Some wag wrote under the figure:

Lie still if you're wise;  
You'll be damn'd if you rise.

## 133. GOLD AND PAPER.

At a fashionable whist-party, a lady having won a rubber of 20 guineas, the gentleman who was her opponent pulled out his pocket book and tendered 2*l.* in bank notes. The fair gamester observed, with a disdainful toss of her head, "In the *great houses* which I frequent, sir, we always use *gold*."—"That may be, madam," replied the gentleman, "but in the *little houses* which I frequent we always use *paper*."

## 134. FISH CAUGHT.

A certain priest in a rich abbey in Florence, being a fisherman's son, caused a net to be spread every day on

the table in his apartment, to put him in mind of his original: but the abbot dying, this dissembled humility procured him to be chosen as his successor; after which the net was used no more. Being asked the reason, he answered, "There is no occasion for the net when the fish is caught."

## 135. FANCY-PICTURES.

In a convivial assembly, some of the company questioning, whether the little hamlet of Auburn, in the county of Westmeath, was really the subject of Dr. Goldsmith's *Deserted Village*, and a doubt arising from the circumstance of the doctor's not having been actually on the spot when he composed that pathetic piece, an old Irish gentleman present, with the zeal of a warm defender of his country's rightful honour, exclaimed, "Why, gentlemen, was Milton actually in *hell* when he wrote his *Paradise Lost*?"

## 136. A FLOURISHING TRADE.

A gentleman being asked what business he intended to bring up his son to, answered, "If I thought the rage for *gigs, whiskies, tandems, &c.* would continue, I should bring him up to the profession of a *surgeon*."

## 137. AN EMBARRASSMENT.

Notwithstanding lord Rochester was the most debauched and impudent nobleman of his time, and though he had even exhibited as a mountebank on Tower-hill, yet he had not confidence enough to speak in the house of peers. One day, making an attempt, he gave a true picture of this defect. "My lords," said he, "I rise this time—My lords, I mean to divide this discourse into four branches—My lords, if ever I attempt to *branch* in this house again, I'll give you leave to cut me off *root and branch* for ever."

## 138. MONEY-LENDERS.

Dr. Arbuthnot says, "that money-lenders are like *wire-drawing mills*; if they get hold of a man's finger, they will pull in the *whole body* at last."

## 139. A TENDER WISH.

A beggar in Dublin had been a long time besieging an old gouty, testy, limping gentleman, who refused his mite with much irritability; on which the mendicant said, "Ah, please your honour's honour, I wish your *heart* were as *tender* as your *toes*."

## 140. STAUNCH PIETY.

General Kirk, who had served many years at Tangier, after his return to England, was pressed by James the Second to become a proselyte to the Romish religion, as the most acceptable means of recommending himself to favour. As soon as the king had done speaking, Kirk expressed great concern that it was not in his power to comply with his majesty's desire, because he was really pre-engaged. The king smiled, and asked him what he meant? "Why, traly," answered Kirk, "when I was abroad, I promised the emperor of Morocco, that if ever I changed my religion I would turn Mahometan; and I never did break my word in my life, and must beg leave to say I never will."

## 141. A ROYAL PHYSICIAN.

King Henry VIII. hunting in Windsor forest, struck down about dinner-time to the abbey of Reading, where, disguising himself as one of the royal guards, he was invited to the abbot's table. A *sirloin* of beef was set before him (so knighted, says tradition, by the same monarch), on which he laid to as lustily as any *beef-eater*. "Well fare thy heart," quoth the abbot, "and here in a cup of sack I remember the health of his grace, your master. I would give a hundred pounds could I feed as heartily on beef as you do. Alas! my poor queazy stomach will scarcely digest the wing of a chicken." The king heartily pledged him, thanked him for his good cheer, and after dinner departed undiscovered. Shortly after, the abbot was sent for by a pursuivant, brought up to the Tower, kept a close prisoner, and fed on bread

and water, terrified all the time at his situation. At last a sirloin of beef was set before him, on which his empty stomach made him feed most voraciously. In the midst of his repast, he was astonished at seeing the king come from a private closet, where he had placed himself to be an invisible spectator of the scene. "My lord," quoth he, "instantly deposit your hundred pounds, or else no going hence all the days of your life. I have been your physician to cure you of your queazy stomach; and here, as I deserve it, I demand my fee." The abbot paid the money, glad to escape so easily.

## 142. AN ILL-WIND.

The late sir W—— Y—— was famous for the keenness of his wit; he was likewise so remarkable for the foulness of his breath, that he was commonly called the Bug. Coming into the Smyrna coffee-house, one day after a ride, he complained bitterly of the north wind, as it blew in his face all the way home. "Then, sir William," said colonel Cutwell, who sat next him, "the north wind *had the worst of it.*"

## 143. A RETORT.

Lord B——, who sports a ferocious pair of whiskers, meeting Mr. Curran in Dublin, the latter said, "When do you mean to place your whiskers on the *peace establishment?*"—"When you place your tongue on the *civil list.*"

## 144. THE WAY TO HEAVEN.

As dean Swift was once upon a journey, attended by a servant, they put up at an inn, where they lodged all night. In the morning the dean called for his boots; the servant immediately took them to him. When the dean saw them, "How is this, Tom?" says he; "my boots are not cleaned."—"No, sir," replied Tom, "as you are going to ride, I thought they would soon be dirty again."—"Very well," said the doctor, "go and get the horses ready." In the mean time the dean ordered the landlord to let his man have no breakfast. When the servant re-

turned, he asked if the horses were ready. "Yes, sir," says the servant. "Go and bring them out then," said the dean. "I have not had my breakfast yet, sir," replied Tom. "Oh! no matter for that," says the dean; "if you had, you would soon be hungry again." They mounted and rode off: as they rode the dean pulled a book out of his pocket and began to read. A gentleman met them, and, seeing the doctor reading, was not willing to disturb him, but passed by till he met the servant. "Who is that gentleman?" said he to the man. "My master, sir," said Tom. "I know that, you blockhead," said the gentleman, "but where are you going?"—"We are going to heaven, sir," says Tom. "How do you know that?" said the gentleman. "Because I am fasting, and my master is praying."

## 145. DISPOSAL OF A JOKE.

Mr. Curran observing, one day in court, a louse crawling on a brother-barrister's forehead, told him of it, "You joke," said the other. "If you have many such jokes in your head," replied Curran, "the sooner you crack them the better."

## 146. TO A DISINHERITED SPENDTHRIFT.

Thy father all from thee, by his last will,  
Gave to *the poor*. Thou hast good title still.

## 147. MATRIMONIAL CONCORD.

(By Ben Jonson.)

Who says that Giles and Joan at discord be?  
Th' observing neighbours no such mood can see.  
Indeed poor Giles repents he married ever;  
But that *his Joan doth too*. And Giles would never  
By his free will be in Joan's company:  
*No more would Joan* he should. Giles riseth early,  
And having got him out of doors is glad;  
*The like is Joan*. But turning home is sad:  
*And so is Joan*. Oft-times, when Giles doth find  
Harsh sights at home, Giles wisheth he were blind

*All this doth Joan.* Or that his long-yearn'd life  
 Were quite outspun. *The like wish hath his wife.*  
 The children that he keeps, Giles swears are none  
 Of his begetting; and so swears his *Joan.*  
 In all affections she concurrereth still.  
 If now, with man and wife, to will and nill  
 The self-same things, a note of concord be,  
 I know no couple better can agree.

## 148. A CLIMAX.

A Scotch advocate in arguing a case before the court of session, and wishing to establish perjury in a female witness who had been examined under a commission to an inferior clerk of the court, thus concluded his harangue; "I trust I have satisfied your lordships, that this base woman has perjured herself, not only in presence of Almighty God, but, *what is more*, in presence of David Murray, your lordship's commissioner."

## 149. ECCLESIASTICAL BON-MOT.

An abbé having a violent cold on his return from Rome, where he had been unsuccessfully soliciting the rank of cardinal, it was observed, that the malady was easily accounted for, as he came all the way home without his *hat*.

## 150. THE UNLUCKY DRAMATIST.

A Scotchman presented a tragedy to Mr. Garrick, who after some time returned it, saying, that he did not think tragedy was the gentleman's *forte*. "Then, sir," said the other, taking a manuscript from his pocket, "here's a comedy; and let me tell ye, it's the first comedy that was ever wrote by any of my country." This however Mr. Garrick likewise returned, observing, "*When I said that tragedy was not your forte, I did not mean that comedy was.*"

## 151. PUN.

It was said of a great calumniator, and a frequenter of other persons' tables, that he never *opened his mouth* but at another man's expence.

## 152. IMPROVED SHAVING.

A gentleman coming into a barber's shop to be shaved, was tormented by the fellow's finical manners and insignificant garrulity. "In what manner would your honour be shaved?" exclaimed the tonsor. "If possible," replied the gentleman, "in silence."

## 153. A HINT.

Henry the Fourth of France was much enamoured of a lady who used to attend the court. The prince one day, in a gallant humour, said to the lady, "Pray, madam, which is the way to your bed-room?"—"Through the church," replied she.

## 154. A LITERARY PUN.

An Hibernian being asked what was the meaning of the phrase *posthumous works*, readily answered, "Why to be sure they are books that *a man writes after he is dead.*"

## 155. ROUGE.

The bishop of Amiens was requested by a lady for permission to wear rouge. The lady's character was half coquettish and half devotee. "I can give you permission, madam," replied the bishop, "only for one cheek."

## 156. THE SINGLE-SPEECHED PARROT.

There is an eastern story of a person who taught his parrot to repeat only the words, "What doubt is there of that?" He carried it to the market for sale, fixing the price at 100 rupees. A mogul asked the parrot, "Are you worth 100 rupees?" The parrot answered, "What doubt is there of that?" The mogul was de-

lighted, and bought the bird. He soon found out that this was all it could say; ashamed now of his bargain, he said to himself, "I was a fool to buy this bird." The parrot exclaimed as usual, "What doubt is there of that?"

157. A SUCCESSFUL PLACE-HUNTER.

A gentleman who possessed a small estate in Gloucestershire, was allured to town by the promises of the duke of Newcastle, who, for many months, kept him in constant attendance, until the poor man's patience being quite exhausted, he one morning called upon his patron, and told him that he had at length got a place. The duke very cordially shook him by the hand, and congratulated him on his good fortune, telling him that in a few days a good thing would have been in his gift. "But pray, sir," added he, "where is your place?"—"In the Gloucester coach," replied the other; "I secured it last night."

158. A PARSON'S DREAD.

In a storm at sea, the chaplain asked one of the crew, if he thought there was any danger. "O yes," replied the sailor; "if it blows as hard as it does now, we shall all be in heaven before twelve o'clock to-night." The chaplain, terrified at the expression, cried out, "*The Lord forbid!*"

159. FORGETFULNESS.

A rogue asked charity, on pretence of being dumb. A lady having asked him, with equal simplicity and humanity, how long he had been dumb, he was thrown off his guard, and answered, "Five years, madam."

160. TURN-ABOUT IS FAIR PLAY.

A stranger passing St. Paul's church, asked a tar whom he met, what those figures were at the west front; to which the sailor answered, "The twelve apostles."—"How can that be," replied the other, "when there are but six of them?"—"Why," says the tar, "would you have them all on deck at once?"



## 161. A MONKISH BULL.

An Italian monk has written a Life of St. Francis Xavier, where he asserts, that by one sermon he converted *ten thousand persons* in a *desert island*.

## 162. A POWERFUL PREACHER.

While an eastern priest was preaching in a mosque, one of the hearers seemed greatly affected. Proud of this circumstance, the preacher asked the man how his discourse had affected him so much. "O sir," said he, "it is not that; but your long beard put me so much in mind of a favourite goat I lost that I could not help crying."

## 163. RESEMBLANCE AND REPRESENTATION.

A prince, rallying the fatness of a courtier who had served in many embassies, said he looked like an ox. "I know not," said the courtier, "what I am like; but I know that I have often had the honour to *represent* your majesty."

## 164. ASSOCIATION OF IDEAS.

Lord Strangford once asked a clergyman, at the bottom of his table, why a goose, if there was one, was always placed next the parson. "Really," said he, "I can give no reason for it; but your question is so odd, that I shall never see a goose without thinking of *your lordship*."

## 165. PUN ON A KING.

Daniel Purcell, the famous punster, was desired one night in company to make a pun extempore. "Upon what subject?" said Daniel. "The king," answered the other. "Oh, sir," said he, "the *king* is no *subject*."

## 166. ARGUMENTS PRO AND CON.

A father exhorting his son to early rising, related a story of a person who early one morning found a large purse of money. "Well," replied the youth, "but the person who lost it rose earlier."

## 167. OFFICIAL BULL.

It is an old saying, that "there is no jest like a true jest." The following paragraph actually appeared in the next London Gazette after the date here mentioned. "Erratum in the London Gazette of the 6th of June.—An address, entitled, The humble Address of the Provost, Fellows, and Scholars, of the Holy and undivided Trinity near Dublin, was inserted *by mistake, no address* having been presented to his majesty from that body."

## 168. A FAIR OFFER.

A gentleman who employs a great number of hands in a manufactory in the west of England, in order to encourage his work-people in a due attendance at church on a late fast-day, told them, that if they went to church, they would receive their wages for that day in the same manner as if they had been at work; upon which a deputation was appointed to acquaint their employer, that, if he would pay them for *over-hours*, they would attend likewise at the methodist chapel in the evening."

## 169. COMFORTS OF TRAVELLING.

A gentleman of grenadier growth, having travelled in the mail all night, observed to his fellow-passengers in the morning, that he would just get out and *stretch his legs*; on which his opposite friend, who had been greatly annoyed by them during the night, observed, that there was no occasion for the gentleman to trouble himself, for they were *quite long enough already*.

## 170. HAMLET QUOTED.

A musician, celebrated for his devotion to the rosy god, having sacrificed too freely, found himself at a loss in the orchestra of one of the theatres a few evenings since, to produce harmony. The leader of the band, rather displeased, demanded what was the matter with his violin. The votary of Bacchus, after a short pause, answered, "Why, my fiddle is acting Hamlet. It says, Though you can fret me, you cannot play upon me."

## 171. VIRGIL QUOTED.

A gentleman of the name of Egan, was one day walking with another, not remarkable for the most cleanly habits, when he descried a *creeper* on his friend's forehead; and, pointing to it, jocularly asked him, in the words of Virgil's shepherd, "*Cujum pecus? an Melibœi?*" The other, with promptness, answered in the next line of the eclogue, "*Non, verùm Egonis; nuper mihi tradidit Egan.*"

## 172. THE INGENUOUS LAWYER.

Counsellor Y—— was one day asked by a judge why he, as a man of talents and integrity, was always employed in knavish causes. "Why, my lord," said the counsellor, "I have been so much in the habit of losing good causes, that I think I had better undertake *bad* ones."

## 173. NAVAL PUN.

A gentleman entering the room of some friends with a gloomy face, after having dined with an admiral who was not famous for his hospitality, was rallied on his appearance, and asked if he had not dined to his satisfaction. "No," replied the disappointed guest, growlingly, "the admiral may be a very good sea-lord, but he is a very bad land-lord."

## 174. APPEARANCES ARE DECEITFUL.

A fop introducing his friend, a plain man, into company, said, "Gentlemen, I'll assure you he is *not so great* a fool as he seems."—"No," replied the gentleman, "that is the *difference* between my friend and me."

## 175. CART BEFORE THE HORSE.

A wretched artist, who thought himself an excellent painter, was talking pompously about decorating the ceiling of his saloon. "I am white-washing it," said he, "and in a short time I shall begin painting."—"I think you had

better," replied one of his audience, "paint it *first*, and then white-wash it."

## 176. FELLOW-FEELING.

A lap-dog biting a piece out of a male visitor's leg, his mistress thus expressed her compassion: "Poor little dear creature! I hope it will not make him sick."

## 177. GAINING A LOSS.

A child hearing that his mother had lost a long law-suit, ran home and said, "Dear mamma, I am so glad you have *lost* that nasty suit that used to plague you so."

## 178. PARLIAMENTARY BULLS.

In a debate on the leather-tax, in 1795, in the Irish house of commons, the chancellor of the exchequer observed, with great emphasis, that in the prosecution of the present war, every man ought to give his *last* guinea to protect *the remainder*. A member said, that however that might be, the tax on *leather* would be severely felt by the *bare-footed* peasantry of Ireland. To which another replied, that this could be easily remedied, by making the *underleathers* of wood.

## 179. AFFAIR OF HONOUR ACCOMMODATED.

Weston the actor having borrowed, on note, the sum of five pounds, and failing in payment, the gentleman who had lent the money, took occasion to talk of it in a public coffee-house, which caused Weston to send him a challenge. When in the field, the gentleman, being a little tender in point of courage, offered him the note to make it up; to which our hero readily consented, and had the note delivered. "But now," said the gentleman, "if we should return without fighting, our companions will laugh at us; therefore let us give one another a slight scratch, and say we wounded each other."—"With all my heart," says Weston; "come, I'll wound you first:" so, drawing his sword, he thrust it through the fleshy part

of his antagonist's arm, till he brought the tears into his eyes. This being done, and the wound tied up with a handkerchief, "Come," said the gentleman, "where shall I wound you?" Weston, putting himself in a posture of defence, replied, "Where you can, sir."

## 180. IMPROVED FIRE-ARMS.

A man having sold a gun to an Irishman, he soon returned with it, complaining that the barrel was much bent. "Is it?" said he, "then I ought to have charged more for it."—"Why so?" said the other. "Because these pieces are constructed for shooting round a corner."

## 181. ASK FOR ENOUGH.

An old farmer, on paying his rent, told his landlord he wanted some timber to build a house, and would be much obliged to him if he would give him permission to cut down what would answer the purpose. The landlord answered peremptorily "No."—"Why then, sir," said he, "will you give me enough to build a barn?"—"No."—"To make a gate then?"—"Yes."—"That's all I wanted," said the farmer, "and more than I expected."

## 182. PRAYERS ANSWERED.

Sir Thomas More for a long time having only daughters, his wife prayed earnestly that they might have a boy; at last they had a boy, who, when he grew up, proved but simple. "Thou pray'dst so long for a boy," said sir Thomas to his wife, "that at last thou hast got one who will be a boy as long as he lives."

## 183. EXTRAVAGANCE.

A writer in one of the reviews, was boasting, that he was in the habit of distributing literary reputation. "Yes," replied his friend, "and you have done it so profusely that you have left none for yourself."

## 184. PERSEVERANCE.

A gentleman, resolved to have satisfaction of another

for an insult, followed him to Bath; but finding, on his arrival there, that the other was gone over to Ireland, he wrote to his friend in London: "Dear Tom, colonel ——— I find has gone over to Dublin; but though it is so far, I'll follow him till I meet him."

## 185. AN ACUTE APPRAISER.

An appraiser having been employed to make an inventory and appraisal of the goods of a person deceased, set down one of the articles as follows: "Item, an empty box full of old wigs, worth *nothing at all*, 5s." And a Hebrew bible he thus particularised, "Item, a book *beginning at the end*."

## 186. UNEXPECTED MEETINGS.

A young author was reading a tragedy to monsieur Piron, who soon discovered that he was a great plagiarist. The poet, perceiving Piron very often pull off his hat at the end of a line, asked him the reason. "I cannot pass a very old acquaintance," replied the critic, "without that civility."

## 187. THE EXPLANATION.

Some persons were abusing a preacher for a bad sermon he had delivered on Good Friday before M. Santreuil, the poet. "He did better the preceding year," observed the bard. "He did not preach at all," replied the critic. "That is what I mean," replied the bard.

## 188. POLITICAL ILLUSTRATION.

After the septennial act was passed, a member who had voted for that measure, on the next dissolution waited on a quaker, one of his late constituents, to solicit his vote. "No," quoth Aminidab, "thou hast proved thyself an unworthy servant; for I sent thee on an errand of *three years*, and thou hast staid *seven*."

## 189. A CONSOLATION.

A lady was complaining that she was *near thirty*. A

person who knew she was much older, replied, "Madam, every day removes you *further* from your complaint."

## 190. NEGATIVE SUCCESS OF A PLAY.

A person who was present at a conversation in which a very dull play was talked of, and its ill success in acting, attempted a defence of it by saying, "It was not hissed."—"True," says another, "I grant you that; but no one can hiss and gape at the same time."

## 191. TRIVIAL WAGER.

"I will forfeit my head if you are not wrong," exclaimed a dull and warm orator, to the president Montesquieu in an argument. "I accept it," replied the philosopher; "any *trifle* among friends has a value."

## 192. JUDICIAL ETIQUETTE.

A country fellow being examined as a witness in a trial on an action for defamation, the judge bade him repeat the very words he had heard spoken. The fellow was loth to speak, and hemm'd and haw'd for a good space; but being urged by the judge, he at last spoke. "My lord," said he, "*you are a cuckold.*" The judge, seeing the people begin to laugh, called to him, and bade him *address himself to the jury.*

## 193. A PAINTER'S BULL.

A Neapolitan artist, in an altar-piece of the Crucifixion, allows the good thief a *confessor*, with a crucifix in his hand.

## 194. A NATURAL STEP.

At the Hampstead assembly, an Irish gentleman, who danced with great spirit, though not perhaps with all the grace of a Vestris, was observed by a fop, who immediately began mimicking him in the most extravagant manner. The Irishman took no notice for some time; but, seeing himself the general object of laughter, came very deliberately up to the mimick, and asked why he

presumed to take him off. "Sir," says the other, "you mistake the matter, it is my natural way of dancing."—"Is it?" said the Hibernian, seemingly accepting the excuse: "well, to be sure, nobody can help what is natural; but hark ye, my friend, be sure you continue in that natural step all night; for if you once attempt any other, I will break every bone in your skin."

## 195. A DOUBLE BULL.

Two gentlemen passing a blackberry-bush when the fruit was unripe, one said it was ridiculous to call them *black-berries* when they were *red*.—"Don't you know," said his friend, "that blackberries are always *red* when they are *green*?"

## 196. ANOTHER.

There appeared in Faulkner's Journal the following *erratum*: "For *her* grace the *duke* of Dorset, read *his* grace the *duchess* of Dorset."

## 197. PUN NOMINAL.

Mr. Andrew Cherry, the performer, was written to, a few years ago, with an offer for a very capital engagement from a manager, who, on a former occasion, had not behaved altogether well to him. Cherry sent him word, that he had been bit by him once, and he was resolved that he should not make *two bites of A. Cherry*.

## 198. ANOTHER.

*Manners*, who was himself but lately made earl of Rutland, told sir Thomas *More*, when that great man was made chancellor, "he was too much elated with his preferment; and that he verified the old proverb,

"Honores mutant mores."

"No, my lord," said sir Thomas, "the pun will do much better in English,

"Honours change *Manners*."

## 199. EMPLOYMENT OF TIME.

Boileau had a brother, an abbé, but very idle, lit-



tle attached to study, and very talkative. A person asked the poet how his brother employed his time. "In the morning," says the satirist, "my brother says *mass*; in the afternoon, he *does not know what he says.*"

## 200. NO SCANDAL.

A lady suspected of popery was brought before a justice, a rigid puritan, who told her, nothing could do away her suspicious conduct but calling the pope a knave. "I know nothing of his holiness," replied the lady; "but if I knew him as well as I do your worship, I could very readily call him a knave."

## 201. SUMMER-FRIENDS.

Guloso, when I gave a treat,  
Was sure my other friends to meet,  
Acknowledg'd that I was the most  
Amusing man and gen'rous host;  
But since, for many a weighty reason,  
I scarcely treat but once a season,  
Guloso's friendship somehow sleeps,  
Whilst he due distance ever keeps.  
Tully no more I think a hummer,  
Who calls such friends mere birds of summer;  
By which the orator intends  
To note them as mere *swallow* friends.

## 202. PERSONALITIES.

Mr. serjeant Gardiner being lame of one leg, and pleading before the late judge Fortescue, who had little or no nose, the judge told him, "he was afraid he had but a *lame* cause of it."—"Oh! my lord," said the serjeant, "have but a little patience, and I'll warrant I prove every thing as *plain* as the nose on your face."

## 203. INFLUENCE OF CLIMATE.

Sir Richard Steele, being asked why the Irish were