

place of worship, a chapel of ease, &c. Oh! then replied the tar, that is the place I want; for as I am scurvily tired of this load, I mean to ease myself of it directly. He was accordingly proceeding to pitch his burden, but was strenuously opposed by the beadle, who told him, that no such thing could be suffered there on any account. "No!" said the fellow; "why then han't you a pretty lying son of a b—— to say it was a chapel of ease."

## 1647. CANINE EPITAPH.

A gentleman in Kent had two dogs, one very large named Prince, the other very small called Fancy. The housekeeper taking notice of the little dog one evening, raised a jealousy in Prince the great one, so that he flew at poor little Fancy, and demolished him in a moment; the housekeeper, out of respect to his memory, buried him in the garden, and the following monumental inscription was written on the occasion:

Here *Fancy* lies, who, not long since,  
Was murder'd by a tyrant *Prince*;  
The scoundrel did, without a cause,  
Get the poor thing between his jaws,  
And at one gripe did make an end  
Of him who was his bosom friend.  
Oh! reader, here you'll truly find  
The portraiture of human kind;  
The proud, the destitute of sense,  
Blinded by pow'r will take offence  
Where none is giv'n, and use their might,  
Nor question whether wrong or right;  
The weakest to the wall must go,  
As *Fancy's* fate does plainly show.

## 1648. COPY OF A PASSPORT TO HEAVEN.

The Muscovy priests sell passes to the relations of such persons as can purchase them; and which the vulgar of that country imagine sufficient to insert them a seat in heaven. When a person dies, a small piece of

paper is put into his hand, on which is written: "We whose names are hereunto subscribed, the patriarch or metropolitan, and the priest of the city of ———, do make known and certify, by these presents, that the bearer of these our letters hath always lived as a good Christian; and though he has committed some sins, he has confessed the same, received absolution, and taken the communion for the remission of sins, hath honoured God, his saints, his confessor, and said his prayers, and fasted when required; therefore we think him a fit and proper person to be admitted; and St. Peter, upon sight hereof, is ordered to open the gates of everlasting bliss."

1649. LOVE EPISTLE, BY A STONE-CUTTER TO A WIDOW.

Divine Flint,

Were you not harder than porphyry, or agate, the chissel of my love, drove by the mallet of my fidelity, would have made some impression on thee. I that have shaped as I pleased, the most untoward substances, hoped by the compass of reason, the plummet of discretion, the saw of constancy, the soft file of kindness, and the polish of good words, to have modelled you into one of the prettiest statues in the world: but alas; I find you are a flint, that strikes fire and sets my soul in a blaze, though your heart is as cold as marble. Pity my case, pray madam, for I know not what I say or do. If I go to make a dragon, I strike out a cupid; instead of a church font for baptism, I make an apothecary's mortar; and dear pillar of my hopes, pedestal of my comfort, and cornice of my joy, take compassion upon me, for, upon your pity I build all my hope, and will, if fortunate, erect statues, obelisks, and pyramids to your generosity.

1650. MATRIMONIAL ADVERTISEMENT.

Confined in a certain street, the north end of the city, up three pair of stairs backwards, by the cruelty of a most unnatural mother, and the indolence of a father, who doth not want for sense, but spirit to wear the

breeches, a young girl turned of one-and-twenty, not very tall, but thought to be too much so by her mother, who still keeps her in flat-heel'd shoes. The young lady cannot boast of as much beauty as her mamma, but she has the advantage of her in an easy temper, and would be quiet if she would let her. She would be much obliged to any gentleman who could take pity on her sufferings, and relieve her by marriage, from the distresses, bolts, and bars, she labours under. N. B. She is quite easy as to fortune, and will be as well contented with a partner of 1000*l.* per annum, as with a larger sum."

## 1651. REPARTEE.

Marshal Villars, upon the death of the duke de Vendome, in Louis the XIV.th's time, was made governor of Provence in his room; and when the marshal went to take possession of his new government, the deputies of the province made him the usual present of a purse full of louis d'ors; but the person who had the honour to present it, said to him, "Here, my lord, is such another purse as that we gave to the duke de Vendome, when like you, he came to be our governor; but the prince, after accepting of it as a testimony of our regard, very generously returned it."—"Ah," said marshal Villars, putting the purse into his pocket, "M. Vendome was a most surprising man, he has not left his fellow behind him."

## 1652. THE WAGER LOST.

A baker was boasting that he seldom or ever bought any meat for his family on a Sunday, as he generally could take sufficient from his neighbours joints that came to be baked, without their missing it; and declared, that he could take off a rib of beef without being discovered. Mr. Wick, who stood by, betted him one shilling's worth of punch that he could not. The wager being accepted, the tallow-chandler agreed to send him a joint the next day to be baked, and accordingly sent two ribs of beef, weighing ten pounds. The baker, without any hesitation, took one rib, and sent the other home. The tallow-

chandler, as soon as he had dined, ran to the baker, saying, "You have lost, for I sent two ribs of beef, and you returned but one." The baker replied, "Well, I confess I have lost," and readily paid the shilling; which he could well afford to do, as he had five pounds of meat and a share of the punch for his shilling.

1653. TO MY INCREDULOUS MISTRESS.—FROM THE FRENCH.

Dear Lucy, tho' I oft protest,  
That since I saw those rogueish eyes  
I'm every night depriv'd of rest;  
You scorn my vows, my tears, my sighs.

Dear girl, pray cease this idle flouting,  
This night your assignation keep,  
And then beyond the power of doubting,  
You'll find how little I shall sleep.

1654. AN ELEGANT COMPLIMENT.

Garrick once asked Rich, the manager of the theatre, how much he thought Covent Garden would hold. "I could tell you to a shilling," replied the manager, "if you would play Richard in it."

1655. A GALLANT PUN.

A gentleman in company with some very fine and handsome women, was asked by a friend how he relish'd the fashion of short petticoats, of which plenty of example appear'd before his eyes. "Extremely," replied this gallant Lothario, "I care not to what height it is carried."

1656. A SARCASTIC PUN.

When the order of Jesuits was broken, the chateau of Voltaire afforded an asylum to one whose name was Adam, a man of integrity, but little talent. "Give me leave," says Voltaire to his company, "to introduce to you father Adam, but not the first of men."

1657. A BON-MOT OF QUIN.

In a summer, when the month of July was extremely

wet and cold, some person asked Quin whether he ever remembered such a summer. "Yes," replied the wag, very seriously, "last winter."

## 1658. ANOTHER.

A person applied to Quin, as manager, to be admitted on the stage. As a specimen of his dramatic powers, he began the famous soliloquy of Hamlet,

"To be, or not to be, that is the question."

Quin indignant at the man's absurd elocution, exclaimed very decisively, "No question, upon my honour; not to be, most certainly."

## 1659. BON-MOT OF WHISTON, THE PHILOSOPHER.

George the Second, who was fond of this learned man, one day during Whiston's persecution, the king said to him, that however right he might be in his opinions, he had better suppress them. "Had Martin Luther done so," replied the philosopher, "your majesty would not have been on the throne of England."

## 1660. BON-MOT OF HENRY IV. OF FRANCE.

Henry IV. to an excellent wit, added most amiable manners, and a most captivating address. On general Armand de Biron coming into his presence, when he was surrounded by some foreign ambassadors, the king immediately took Biron by the hand and said, "Gentlemen, this is marshal Biron, whom I present with equal pleasure and confidence to my friends as well as my enemies."

## 1661. BON-MOT OF CHARLES II. OF ENGLAND.

A few days after the Rye-house plot, Charles II. was walking in St. James's Park, without guards or attendants of any kind. The duke of York afterwards remonstrated with his royal brother on the imprudence, nay, absurdity of such conduct. Charles, a little nettled to be so reproved, answered quickly, "Brother James, take care of yourself, for no man will kill me to make you king."

## 1662. A SARCASM OF POPE.

The bard of Twickenham, though very short and deformed, was nevertheless very partial to his person. One day he asked dean Swift, what people in Ireland thought of him. "They think," says the dean, "that you are a great poet and a very little man. Pope exclaimed passionately, "And Mr. Dean, the people in England think quite the reverse of you.

## 1663. A BITTER QUESTION.

King James used to say, with more ingenuousness than prudence, that he never knew a modest man make his way in court. As he was repeating this observation one day before his courtiers, David Lloyd, an honest and blunt Welchman, who stood at his majesty's elbow, answered quickly, "Pray, sir, whose fault is that?"

## 1664. SHORT AND SUBLIME.

Donatello was a very eminent statuary, and of course very enthusiastically fond of his art, and not unconscious of his skill. When after the fatigues of shaping a block into life, which he effected by slow and certain efforts, he became enraptured at the conclusion of his labours, and having given to his almost perfected statue the last stroke of his chissel, he exclaim'd, *speak.*"

## 1665. DELAYS ARE DANGEROUS.

How few people are faithful to their engagements. An appointment was made with an astronomer by a genteel party, to see an eclipse. They were as punctual as they usually were at other engagements, that is, half an hour after their time. "Ladies and gentlemen," said the philosopher, "I am sorry that I could not prevail on the sun and moon to stay for you."

## 1666. BON-MOT OF ZIMMERMAN.

During the last illness of the great king of Prussia, Dr. Zimmerman, an eminent physician in Hanover, attended on his majesty. The warlike monarch in merry humour

accosted his physician, "Well, doctor, I suppose you have help'd many into the other world." "Not so many," replied Zimmerman, "as your majesty, nor with so much honour to myself."

## 1667. HENRY IV. OF FRANCE

Having heard his courtiers speak of a man of wit, expressed a wish to see him. He was introduced while the king was at dinner, and placed opposite to him at table. "What is your name, my friend?" demanded Henry. "I am called Gaillard, sire," replied the wit. "Gaillard, a very good name truly. What difference is there between Gaillard and Paillard?"\*—"No great deal," retorted the gentleman, "between the two; the distance is not greater than the length of this table."

## 1668. UTILITY OF A STANDING ARMY.

A Turkish ambassador exaggerated the forces of the sultan his master, and expressed his astonishment that a king, like Henry IV. who was yet scarcely established upon the throne, should have so small an army. "To those who reign by justice," replied this great prince, "force is not necessary."

## 1669. MOHAMMEDAN FORBEARANCE.

A singular instance of forbearance, arising from the powerful influence of religious principles, is recorded in the history of the Caliphs.—A slave one day during a repast, was so unfortunate as to let fall a dish which he was handing to the Caliph Hassan, who was severely scalded by the accident. The trembling wretch instantly fell on his knees, and quoting the koran, exclaimed, "Paradise is promised to those who restrain their anger."—"I am not angry with thee," replied the Caliph, with a meekness as exemplary as it was rare. "And for those who forgive offences," continued the slave. "I forgive thee thine," answered the Caliph. "But above all, for those who return good for evil,"

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\* A libertine, or man of licentious manners.

adds the slave. "I set thee at liberty," rejoins the Caliph, "and give thee ten dinars."

1670. BON-MOT OF TASSO.

The exemplary virtue and chastity of Laura towards Petrarch, drew the following bon-mot from Alex. Tasso: "That Petrarch enjoyed her as rats do the drugs of an apothecary, by licking the outside of the bottles."

1671. A REPARTÉE.

Mr. Pope being at dinner with a noble duke, had his own servant in livery waiting on him: the duke asked him, why he, that eat mostly at other people's tables, should be such a fool as to keep a fellow in livery only to laugh at him?—"Tis true," answered the poet, "I keep but one to laugh at me, but your grace have the honour to keep a dozen."

1672. THE LAWYERS OUTWITTED.

Two country attornies overtaking a waggoner on the road, and thinking to break a joke upon him, asked him, why his fore horse was so fat and the rest so lean? The waggoner knowing them to be limbs of the law, answered them, "That his fore horse was his lawyer and the rest were his clients."

1673. A CONFESSION.

A man and his dog, named Cuckold, going out together in the evening, in returning home, the dog ran in doors first. "Oh mother," says the boy, "Cuckold's come."—"Nay then," says the mother, "your father's not far off I am sure."

1674. PUN UPON NAMES.

Two gentlemen, one named Chambers, and the other Garret, riding by Tyburn, says the first, "This is a very pretty tenement, if it had but a garret."—"You fool," says Garret, "don't you know there must be chambers first."



## 1675. ANOTHER.

Two gentlemen, one named Woodcock, the other Fuller, walking together, happened to see an owl; says the last, "That bird is very much like a woodcock."—"You are very wrong," says the first, "for its fuller in the head, fuller in the eyes, and fuller all over."

## 1676. DRAMATIC HARDSHIP.

A young man being announced for the part of Romeo, and being engaged to perform all that line of acting; a veteran in the same company, declared it was very hard. "For," added he, "I have played Romeo myself these forty years; and here comes a whipper-snapper of a boy and takes it from me at last."

## 1677. EFFECT OF HABIT.

A certain poor unfortunate gentleman was so often pulled by the sleeve by the bailiffs, that he was in continual apprehension of them; and going one day through Tavistock-street, his coat-sleeve, as he was swinging it along in a hurry, happened to catch upon the iron spikes of one of the rails; whereupon he immediately turned about in a great surprise, and cried out, "At whose suit, sir? at whose suit?"

THE END.

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