

this invention the world is indebted to Mr. Simesen, a Dane. This Gentleman may rank with the philosopher, who proposed to extract sunbeams from cucumbers.

Amongst the numerous inventions of the present day, we have to record the manufacture of medical blank labels by machinery as one of great practical convenience, though applied to a subject of comparatively ordinary importance. Its merit consists in furnishing an article in universal use, in which it saves both labour and expense; indeed, as friends to the arts, we confidently anticipate their universal adoption; for the paper of those we have seen is excellent, the manner of cutting them curious, the embossed impression perfect, and the *tout-ensemble* uncommonly pretty and unique.

JANUARY 16.

Official accounts, addressed to his Grace the Duke of Manchester and Rear-Admiral Sir Home Popham, were received by the Confiance brig, of 18 guns, from Barbados, of the decease of her Most Gracious Queen Charlotte. This intelligence was communicated at that island by the Stanmer middle packet, with instructions that it should be transmitted immediately to the different British Colonies. The orders issued by the Admiralty, to be observed on the occasion, were for the men of war in the harbour to fire 30 minute-guns in succession at stated periods, and that the last firing should finish before sun-set, their ensigns, jacks, and pendants, to be kept half-mast for seven days, and on that day the minute-guns to be fired in equal succession by the forts and men of war.

In compliance with the above instructions, the minute guns were discharged early on Sunday morning, and the colours, &c. affixed half-mast to the different vessels in port. Every demonstration of respect was also evinced at the Government-House in Spanish Town and at the Admiral's Pen.

His Royal Highness the Prince Regent has been pleased, in the name and on the behalf of His Majesty, to direct letters patent to be passed under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom of Great-Britain and Ireland, for granting the dignity of a Baronet of the said United Kingdom to Sir Edward Hamilton, of Trebimshun-House, in the County of Brecon, Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Military Order of the Bath, and Captain in the Royal Navy, whose heirs male of his body lawfully descending, Sir Edward Hamilton, it will be remembered, is the Officer who so gallantly commanded the *Argentine* in the year 1789, boarded and cut out of her the *Argentine*, which had been previously run away with by her crew and delivered up to the Spanish Government.

FROM THE EUROPEAN MAGAZINE.
JULY, 1818.

On the EDUCATION of the MIDDLE CLASS of SOCIETY.

INDISCRIMINATE censure, like undistinguishing praise, will ever be considered of little importance, and secure but trivial attention: and for obvious reasons; since it is scarcely possible that any individual can be so completely destitute of good qualities, as to require an illimitable censoriousness to be exercised towards him, or that any character can be so faultless, as to deserve the encomiums of universal admiration and praise. With a conviction of this truth firmly fixed in his mind, a wise man would not feel disposed to arraign every refinement in language or manners at the bar of public opinion, or to denounce, as an unnecessary innovation, every attempt at improvement in our settled habits and pursuits. Folly and prejudice might aim at such an object, but he who has lived long enough to make his observations on the world, with justice and propriety, must know that its present state has been acquired by frequent changes in the established order of things, and that since the last century a complete, and perhaps in many respects, a permanent, revolution has taken place in the whole composition of society.

The authors of the present age no longer assemble, like their predecessors, in the coffee houses, to hear the approbation or condemnation of their labors, and listen with anxiety the reception of their last production. Nor do our wits congregate together, to gather fresh bon-mots, or acquire new repartees, which they may afterwards retail, at

their own convenience and fit opportunity, as their own. The ladies have discarded the powder and pomatum which once disfigured their hands, and the hoop and stonacher have given way to the graceful and natural shape of the female frame. Our own fire sides are now rendered more attractive and cheerful; for the old-established clubs which drew away the master from his home seem to be declining, and the husband enjoys the company of his consort and participates with her in the pleasures of domestic life, with a delight he cannot sufficiently appreciate.

In these and many other important respects, the present age is infinitely superior to the last; but to praise indiscreetly would be forfeiting all claims to impartiality; and to remonstrate against the follies of the fashionable world (for which vengeance is already threatened by "A Lever of the New School,") and leave those of the *Middle Class* of Society unnoticed, would be an act of evident injustice, and unworthy of one who professes to admire propriety, and prize integrity so highly.

It becomes, then, the duty of an Essayist to trace erroneous conduct, in all its multifarious ramifications, and expose its insinuating but dangerous effects. To no subject then, need an observer of mankind look with greater anxiety, especially, if he be a father, than to the refinements which have been progressively introduced into the education of the children of the middle class of society. The evil is but too apparent to a reflecting mind; and although but now beginning to develop itself, a few years will soon shew the folly and absurdity, nay, the indiscretion and imprudence, of qualifying youth for stations they are never destined to occupy, and thus unfitting them for those they ought to fill. The evil of a system so pernicious will be best apprehended, and more easily discovered, if the natural tendency of its consequences be exemplified in the character of two of the victims of this false paternal kindness—ambition and love of display.

CATULLUS was the only son of a respectable tradesman west of Temple Bar: his early shrewdness in discovering the manoeuvres by which his father's servants contrived to plunder his property, and converting it to their own use; and some other traits in his disposition and pursuits, led his fond father to presume he was a boy of astonishing sagacity and uncommon abilities: and with a laudable desire to stimulate and encourage his talents, determined to give him such an education as would foster and promote his designs. Already had he painted to himself his son ascending to eminence in the profession to which his inclination might lead him. Sometimes he would hear him captivating the court with his eloquence at the bar, or delivering his judgments with solemn gravity from the bench: at other times, parental fondness would discover him adorned with the mitre and the apron; or anticipating the day when arrived at the summit of his profession as a physician, his mansion should be crowded with patients, bringing this offerings for his experience and advice. He was accordingly sent to an expensive school, renowned for turning out distinguished characters, and here Catullus proved, that although his abilities were not of that pre-eminent quality his father supposed, he was not deficient in mental energies:—He sat down to his studies with alacrity, and mastered them with delight; he soon became a proficient in the languages, and could talk of Xenophon and the retreat of the Ten Thousand with the same ease with which a boy in a charity school will talk of the passage of the Red Sea and the journeys of the Israelites.

Time passed on, and the period approached when it was rendered necessary for him to quit the school, and enter on a new state of existence—a College Life. Catullus was naturally of a warm and sanguine temper—quick and enterprising in his disposition, impetuous and ardent in his pursuits; but at the same time deficient in steadiness and inflexibility of mind;—wanting that coolness and intrepidity of disposition, and that firmness and determination of character, which is indispensable to excellence. His father had made many sacrifices for the accomplishment of his favorite project; and he now found that he must be prepared to make still greater, if he would eventually succeed: Catullus had expressed his choice of the law, and his father thought nothing too much to give up for the attainment of his purpose. But a youth at college is

widely different from a lad at school; Catullus united with some worthless but pleasing associates, and soon felt a disinclination and disrelish for his studies: his *chums* led him into company, and it became necessary to make repeated calls on his father, for cash to supply the expenditure, which he informed him was needful to enable him to appear with credit at the university. Indulgent to a fault, every request was granted;—The readiness of the supplies, produced the lavishness of the spend-thrift, and laid the foundation of an improvident disposition:—plentifully furnished with money, he always possessed friends, who contrived to profit by his good-natured affability and liberality. But his studies were neglected; and though he passed his examinations, yet so little had he acquired, that he was as far from his object in point of qualification as when he entered the university. The period came when he should quit college, and his father, with all the anxiety of a parent, placed him as a student in the Temple. Here he too late found out his error;—his son possessed abilities, but they were not of that superior description he had supposed; Catullus soon felt disgusted with the application necessary to the perusal of the Statutes at Large, and the dry study of Coke and Blackstone;—the theatre, the ball room and Bond-street, afforded him more pleasure than the law; and the unhappy father soon found that he had given his Catullus an education, which had unfitted him for every station of usefulness; he was too well informed (at least in his own estimation) to undertake the fatigues of business, and succeed him in his shop, and possessed of too little mind, and deficient in talent, to enter into the profession which his choice had selected. Catullus made continual applications to his father to supply his extravagances, who soon found it necessary to curtail his own expenditure, to supply the profuseness of his son. Catullus gave himself completely up to the illusory schemes of happiness he was pursuing, and the arguments and exhortations of his parent were of no avail: his reply to all these was, that he had received the education of a Gentleman, and he would be one, and his father must enable him to support the title. In this course he proceeded, till eventually he fell a victim to his own imprudence. Broken hearted for the loss of his son, and disappointed in his hopes and anxious expectations, his father neglected his business, his affairs became embarrassed, he preyed upon his spirits, and he died—of grief!

Let it not be supposed, that this is an overcharged description of the evils resulting from the education of young men for stations which they have neither the ability to fill, or the fortune to sustain.

Incalculable evil has already been effected by this system; and many a young man whose life has expiated his offence for *forgery*, may trace the primary cause of his misfortune to the education with which he was furnished, so far beyond what his pecuniary means would allow; this naturally led him into expences he had neither the prudence or fortune to withstand, and having once entered on them, it became requisite to support them; which ultimately led to that dereliction from the path of integrity which effected his ruin. By the false notions of education many parents imbibe, they deceive themselves; and when the evil is remediless, awake to all the dangers of the situation to which they have exposed their sons, find that their pecuniary means are inadequate to supply those wants they have prevented them from satisfying by their own honourable exertions. Many a father has had to behold, with sorrow, that property he had acquired during years of toil, squandered by his son, in the haunts of vice and dissipation, only because he had given him the education of a gentleman, instead of furnishing him with one calculated for a man of business.

The character of Lucilla is another proof of the evils and sorrowful results attendant on the desire evinced among the middle class of society to qualify their children for gentlemen and ladies, instead of bringing them up as men of business and good housewives: but the present paper has already trespassed too far on the indulgence of the reader, and Lucilla must be deferred to a future opportunity. Till then, I leave any additional arguments in support of the opinion, that to give an education corresponding to the circle in which they are destined to move, is a greater proof of wisdom, and a stronger mark of kindness to our offspring, than to give

them one which will lead into connexions of society they can never maintain, and into stations they will never be able permanently to occupy.

ONE OF THE OLD SCHOOL.
London. 23d June, 1818.

LONDON, DECEMBER 27.

The metropolis was on Tuesday enveloped in a fog, the most dense that has been witnessed for several years. The darkness in the early part of the day was not so very great as to be attended with extraordinary inconvenience; but it gradually increased, and about four o'clock it became impossible to discern an object at the distance of a few paces. The carriages and waggons moving along the streets were not discernible from the flag-ways, and the passengers on the latter derived very little aid from the lights in the windows in the lamps, as most of the shops, from fear of accidents, were shut, and several of the latter were extinguished by the fog; even those which did burn afforded but a very feeble twinkling light, not visible until a near approach. The coachmen alighted from their boxes to lead the horses, and the link boys were in great numbers to offer their assistance; but, with every possible care and precaution, the passengers, both on foot and in carriages, seldom succeeded in making their way without mistakes, and horses and carriages frequently deviated from the street to the flag ways, to the imminent danger of the passengers. The noises made by the people in the streets, were frightful; some shrieking from terror when surprised by the sudden approach of a horse or a carriage, and others calling out to their fellow travellers to warn them of danger, or anxiously inquiring their way. In many cases the company deserted their carriages, which remained stationary, the coachmen not knowing where they were. Various sums, from half a crown to ten shillings, were obtained by link-boys for conducting a carriage through a single street. In the theatres, the actors on the stage were scarcely visible to the audience; and even private houses, though closed and well furnished with fires, were filled and darkened by this unwelcome visitor.

DECEMBER 28.

Great numbers of thefts and robberies were committed during the thick fog which enveloped the City on Tuesday last. The pick pockets easily eluded the officers of justice; and the cries of stop thief were repeated most vociferously by the fellows who had just before occasioned the hue and cry.

The *Leven*, 24 guns, Captain Bartholomew, sailed on Wednesday, with sealed orders. One of the services to which she is destined is to make a survey of the Western Islands.

The *Rose*, reported to have Lord Cochrane on board, has been spoken near Cape Horn.

JANUARY 4.

Five vessels, the *Blenheim*, *Duchess* of Bedford, *Anne*, *George Canning*, and *Monarch*, ostensibly bound for Cayenne, have arrived in the Downs, from the river—each of these ships has 200 passengers on board, consisting of officers, &c. bound to the coast of Guiana, with the intention of joining the Insurgents in South America.

JANUARY 5.

Yesterday the horses and carriages of the late Queen were sold, 55 of the former for £4563, and 18 of the latter for £1077.

JANUARY 11.

Since the disastrous era of 1810, we do not recollect to have witnessed so many failures as have lately taken place. On Monday, we were acquainted with those of seven French houses; the next day a leading house of this city, having as principal a Bank Director and Member of Parliament, stopped payment. On Wednesday and Thursday, other failures were announced, and on Friday one of the first houses in London, whose credit had never been doubted, were obliged to suspend payment. This concern is said to have failed for £900,000 sterling; being the greatest failure since that of Fordyce in 1792.—No failure ever excited more interest than this; the high reputation of this house for probity, has drawn forth much commiseration for its misfortunes. To close, two other houses stopped payment on Saturday.—*Statesman*.

A letter from Ceylon of the 18th August, informs that the unfortunate war, carrying on near Candy, is far from being terminated.