

ODE FOR THE NEW-YEAR.

WHEN genial zephyr's balmy wing
Fans with soft plume the flow'ry vale,
Each tender scion of the Spring
Expanding owns the soft'ring gale,
And smiles each sunny glade around,
With vegetable beauty crown'd;
But when the whirlwinds of the North
Burst in tempestuous vengeance forth,
Before the thunder of the storm
Each spreading tree of weaker form
Or bends to earth, or lies reclin'd,
Torn by the fury of the wind:
Then proudly, 'mid the quivering shade,
Stands the firm oak, in native strength array'd;
Waves high his giant branches, and defies
The elemental war that rends the skies.

Deep-rooted in this kindred soil,
So Freedom here through many an age
Has mock'd Ambition's fruitless toil,
And Treason's wiles, and Faction's rage:
And as the stormy ruin pass'd,
Which Anarchy's rude breath had blown;
While Europe, bending to the blast,
Beholds her fairest realms o'er-thrown;
Alone Britannia's happy Isle,
Blest by a patriot Monarch's smile,
Amid surrounding storms, uninjur'd stands,
Nor dreads the tempest's force that waxes her neighbour
lands.

But see! along the darkling main,
The gathering clouds malignant lour,
And, spreading o'er our blue domain,
Against our shores their thunders pour;
While treach'rous friends and daring foes
Around in horrid compact close:
Their swarming barks, portentous shade
With crowded sails the wat'ry glade:
When lo! Imperial George commands—
Rush to the waves, Britannia's veteran bands,—
Unnumber'd hosts usurp in vain
Dominion o'er his briny reign:
His Fleets their Monarch's right proclaim
With brazen throat, with breath of flame;
And captive in his ports their squadrons ride,
Or mourn their shatter'd wrecks, deep whelm'd beneath
the tide.

From shore to shore, from pole to pole,
Where'er wide ocean's billows roll,
From holy Ganges' tepid wave
To seas that laves Atlantic leve;
From hoary Greenland's frozen lands,
To burning Libya's golden sands,
Aloft the British ensign flies,
In folds triumphant to the skies;
While to the notes that hail'd the Isle,
Emerging from its parent main,
The sacred Muse, with raptur'd smile,
Responsive pours the exulting strain:
"Rule Britannia! rule the waves,
"Britons never will be slaves."

A MUSEMENT.

A CONJUGAL CAUTION.

Sir George Etherege having run up a score at Lockitt's, absented himself from the ordinary: In consequence of this, Mrs. Lockitt sent to dun him, and threatened him with a prosecution. 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 scarf, and told her husband who interposed, "that she should see if there was any fellow alive that had the impudence!"—"Prithee, my dear, don't be so rash," replied the good old man—"you don't know what a man may do in a passion."

A corporal, who was some time since condemned to death in Dublin, finding that he was to be executed on Friday, wrote to his wife on the Thursday preceding, to inform her of his unfortunate situation. Being aware that the letter, would not reach her till the Saturday, he determined to inform her of the fact itself, and wrote thus: "My dear wife, I hope this will find you in good health, as I am at present. I have to inform you, that I was hanged yesterday at half past eleven—I had, thank God, an easy death—and had the pleasure of seeing every body weep on my account. Remember me, and take care of my poor children, who have no longer a father. Your affectionate husband, until death!"

The ancient inhabitants of the Canary Islands had the following methods of embalming. The dead body was deposited in a cavity, adapted to its size, hewn out of a rock. The stone being of a porous nature the animal juices were absorbed, or filtered through, and the solid parts, with their natural skinny mantle, became indurated by a process of natural embalming, to such a degree as to resist the future assaults of time. They are still exhibited, by the natives of those Islands, to strangers who visit them, with emotions of pride and veneration; as the images of their illustrious ancestors were ostentatiously displayed by the patrician families of Rome.

NOTICE.

ALL Persons having any demands against the Estate of JOSHUA CURREY, late of Queen's County, deceased, are requested to present them properly attested within Eighteen Months from the date hereof, to either of the Subscribers—And all those indebted to the said Estate, are desired to make immediate payment to

RICHARD CURREY, or } Executors.
DAVID CURREY, }
Waterborough, 21st October, 1802.

FROM A LONDON PAPER.

UKASE OF THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA.

I have learned to my extreme sorrow, that on account of the frequent fires in the city of Casan, a citizen of that place, on whom suspicions had fallen, was arrested and examined, and as he did not confess, a confession was extorted from him by the rack, and he was delivered over to justice. During the course of the legal investigation, where it was possible, he retracted the confession so extorted, and asserted his innocence; cruelty and prejudice did not listen to its voice, but condemned him to public punishment.—During the execution of the sentence when he could no longer save himself, by a false declaration, he appealed to God, to witness his innocence, in the presence of all the people, and died in asserting it. So crying an act of cruelty, so oppressive an abuse of confided power, and the violation of the laws in so essential and important an object, induced me to wish to be satisfied of the truth of this occurrence, by a circumstantial examination, on the spot; and for that purpose I dispatched express to Casan, my Adjutant-Colonel Aldeyht, with instructions minutely to examine all the circumstances of the case with his known impartiality. His report grounded on ocular demonstration, has, to my extreme grief, not only confirmed the accounts I had received, but assures me that such inhuman and illegal measures have been frequently adopted by the government.—I lay this report and all the proofs on which it is founded, in the original, before the directing senate, and recommend to them immediately to enter upon the examination of them, and to try, with the utmost severity of the laws, all those who, upon the occasion, shall be found guilty of an abuse of power, either in giving such orders, or in the execution of them, or of manifest partiality; to have no respect to the person of any man, and to proceed to the suspension of the parties from their offices; to propose candidates for the places which depend upon our confirmation, and to fill the remainder according to the established order, with deserving persons of rank.

The directing senate, sensible of the importance and magnitude of this abuse, and to what degree it violates the first principle of the administration of justice, and is subversive of all civil rights, will not neglect to inculcate, generally, in the strictest manner, that no one, in any respect, either among the inferior or superior officers of justice, shall order, permit, or put in execution, punishment, under threats or the terrors of an insupportable and cruel infliction; that the ministers of justice to whom the revision of criminal proceedings lawfully belongs, shall take the personal examinations of the accused, according to legal principles; that there be no partial infliction during the examination; and lastly, that all punishment by torture shall be forever rooted out of the minds of the people as a disgrace and reproach to mankind!

ACCOUNT OF THE ISLAND OF MALTA.

OMITTING the geographical description of Malta, which may be found in any common sketch of geography, we may notice that it was formerly little better than a barren rock, having hardly any depth of earth, scarce capable of producing any other grain except cummin, its chief produce being figs, melons, honey, and cotton, which the inhabitants exchanged for corn: And in this barren state it seems to have continued, till it came into the possession of the knights of Malta. It laboured likewise under great scarcity of water and fuel; upon all which accounts it was till that time but thinly inhabited, there being only about thirty or forty boroughs or villages scattered about, and no city, except the capital of its name, and the town and fort of St. Angelo, which defended the port: The whole number of its inhabitants scarcely amounted to twelve thousand, men, women and children included, and the greater part of them very indigent. In a word, it was so barren, poor, and uninhabited, that when the emperor Charles V. offered it to the knights of Rhodes, after their being driven out of that Island, their commissaries, sent to take an exact view of it, brought back such a discouraging account, that they could hardly be prevailed upon to accept his offer.

The improvements must consequently have been great, for at present Malta has four considerable towns, surrounded with stout walls, and other fortifications, viz. Valetta, Vecchia, St. Angelo, and St. Michael, all of them well inhabited, and in a thriving condition; the poor hamlets have grown into populous villages, the old villages into considerable boroughs or towns, well built and inhabited; and the ground is every where so well cultivated, as to be able to supply the inhabitants with plenty of all necessaries. The ports and havens on the coast have likewise received their respective improvements, as the whole Island every where is so strongly fortified, that it has been able to resist and baffle all the power and efforts of the Ottoman power. Indeed, its having proved such an effectual bulwark to Christianity, or what formerly passed under that name, has been chiefly owing to the singular bravery and zeal of the knights, who spared neither pains nor cost to render this new settlement impregnable. They likewise added not a little to its strength by training up the inhabitants to their martial discipline, so as to be ready to appear in arms upon any invasion. As far back as 1632, they were found to amount to fifty-one thousand seven hundred and fifty, exclusive of the knights of the order. And when Brydone was there in 1770, the land force of Malta was equal to the number of men in the Island fit to bear arms. They had about 500 regulars belonging to the ships of war. Their sea force consisted of four galleys, three gallions, four ships of sixty guns, and a frigate of thirty-six, beside a number of swift-sailing little vessels, called *scampavias*, literally Runaways. Their ships, galleys and fortifications, are not only well supplied with excellent artillery, but they have likewise invented a kind of ordnance of their own, unknown to all the world beside. Not only the rocks are cut into fortifications, but likewise into artillery to defend those fortifications; being hollowed out in many places into the form of immense mortars. The charge is said to be about a barrel of gun-powder, over which they place a large piece of wood made exactly to fit the mouth of the chamber. On this they heap a great quantity of cannon-

balls, shells, and other deadly materials; and when an enemy's ship approaches the harbour, they fire the whole into the air; and they pretend it produces a very great effect, making a shower for two or three hundred yards round that would sink any vessel.

The natives are very robust and healthy, notwithstanding the excessive heat occasioned by the refraction of the sun's rays from such high rocks as cover the Island; but these are so well refreshed by the westerly winds, which commonly blow during the best part of the afternoon, that the inhabitants are little incommoded by them, and even strangers easily accustom themselves to the climate. There are no rivers in the Island, but here and there some excellent springs of fresh water, and when these fail, the people are forced to dig wells in the rock; but their cities are most commonly supplied by rain water, which they preserve in cisterns.

The city of Malta, or the ancient city, has not much in it worthy of notice. Valetta is the principal city, and took its name from John de Valetta, who caused it to be rebuilt immediately after it had been almost ruined by the Turks; it is built upon a rocky ground, high and craggy, so that the streets are very unpleasant and uneven, though otherwise strait and large. The handsomest is that which reaches from Castle St. Elmo, to the royal gate, about a mile in length. It is reckoned a very strong place altogether, not only on account of its advantageous situation, but much more for the stout walls flanked with ballions, and other modern works, added to it occasionally, at different times, by the grand masters of the order. The country about the city abounds with delightful gardens, productive of all manner of fruits, flowers and herbage, and kept in excellent order by dint of labour and industry. One in particular, called *Boscheta*, belonging to the grand master, situate on an eminence on the west side of the city, exhibits a great variety of orange, lemon, citron, pomegranate, olive, peach, nectarine, and other fruit trees. One part of this delicious spot is made into a warren, and breeds a great quantity of hares and rabbits; another, planted with olives, abounds with flags and deer. The whole is finely variegated with springs, cascades, and other water-works, and adorned with a most stately palace, whose apartments are magnificently furnished.

In this city are seven churches, the most considerable of which is the cathedral, dedicated to St. John, the patron of the order, whose right hand they pretend to show as a most valuable relic. Here are likewise, besides the grand master's palace, seven others, commonly called by the knights, *borgia*, and by the French, *auberges*, or inns, as they were at their first institution, but are since styled, more commonly, courts or palaces, designed for the seven nations or tongues, of which their order at present consists; they had formerly an eighth, which was called that of Anglaterra, or England, but this has been abolished since the reformation. The names of the others are Provence, Auvergnia, France, Italy, Arragon, Germany, and Spain or Castile: each has its great hall, where they hold their national councils, before they meet in the great hall, where the grand master is chosen, and every important point relating to the community discussed and determined.

The grand master always resides in this city; his palace is a most sumptuous edifice, by far the largest and most magnificent in the whole Island, and here is held the general chapter or assembly of the knights of the first order, or, as they are styled, the knights of the great cross. Near the castle of St. Elmo, is a very noble hospital, in which every sick person has a separate room, within a spacious hall, thirty yards wide, and ten in breadth. There are twenty-five of these chambers on each side of the hall, divided by a wide gallery, which runs through it from end to end. The sick are lodged in the most commodious manner, and not only attended by physicians and surgeons, but served by the knights themselves, though all of them persons of the greatest rank and quality. All the plates, dishes, and spoons are made of silver; and there are four physicians who regularly visit them every morning and evening; but it must be confessed, that the Maltese knights have greatly degenerated from their first institution, and have given themselves more to luxury, gallantry, and other modish vices, than to the observance of the primitive practice of the canons of their order. With respect to the hospital, though they have quite relaxed from that ancient humility and condescension in performing the lowest offices to those patients, yet they still take care that they shall be attended with the same care and diligence by persons of a lower rank. Near the grand master's palace, is a large market-place, where all manner of provisions are bought and sold in great abundance. This market is kept every day, and in summer, when the heat is excessive, begins several hours before sunrise: but the greater part of the corn and other provisions is brought thither from Sicily, Sardinia and Corsica, beside what is got by the prizes they make upon the Turks, and other enemies at sea.

At the entrance into the bay, are two large rocks, which advance into the sea over against Valetta, like two fingers of a hand: On the point of one of which stands the town and castle of St. Angelo, and on the other that called *Vittoriosa*, both strongly fortified. The former had very strong outworks, arsenals, magazines, a palace, and apartments for the knights, and an hospital for sailors; but was almost totally ruined by the Turks in 1565. Since which period it is inhabited but by a handful of people, mostly belonging to the dock where the galleys are built, and where the commander of them has a house not far from the water-side.—The other, which stands farther in, called *Vittoriosa*, from the siege it maintained against the Turks, was built by one of the grand masters, soon after the order had taken possession of the Island, and is still very well fortified. It is about a mile and a half in compass, and is mostly inhabited by Maltese natives and mariners. The town and harbour of St. Michael, commonly called the *Sangle Island*, from one of the grand masters of the order, who caused it to be built, in 1560, is only parted from the land by a deep ditch, in a league in compass, and well fortified after the modern manner, chiefly inhabited by the corsairs of the order, who are sent to cruise against the Turks. Beside this port and that of St. Angelo is another, to which