

THE

Gentleman's Magazine:

AND



Historical Chronicle.

From JULY to DECEMBER, 1821.

V O L U M E X C I.

(BEING THE FOURTEENTH OF A NEW SERIES.)

PART THE SECOND.

PRODESSE ET DELECTARE.



E PLURIBUS UNUM.

By SYLVANUS URBAN, *Gent.*

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at the Corner of *St. Paul's Church Yard, Ludgate Street;*

and by PERTHES and BESSER, *Hamburgh.* 1821.

Selection from such parts of that Gentleman's Papers as relate to the War in Italy, and the occupation of Sicily by the British. This work will comprise Letters from many distinguished Characters.

We understand that that part of Mr. Dibdin's "Tour," which relates to the account of Literary Characters, Booksellers, Printers, &c. at Paris, has been translated by Mr. Crapelet, author of the "Souvenirs de Londres," and a printer of great celebrity; who has added notes and anecdotes.

M. Simonde de Sismondi, the well-known author of the History of the Italian Republics, is engaged in a work of the first importance, the want of which has been long and universally acknowledged—A Complete History of the French Nation. The patience and sagacity displayed by the author in his multifarious researches, his perspicuous style and excellent arrangement, and above all the spirit of liberty which never ceases to animate him, afford abundant proof that, if he lives to complete his design, he will raise a literary monument worthy of his own reputation, and of the great nation whose deeds he is about to commemorate.

M. Lartigue has executed a map of France, in relief, on a scale of 18 lines to a degree, with all the details. The basins of the rivers are distinctly shewn, also the chains of mountains, and the heights of their summits, all with scrupulous exactness. The sea-coasts are also laid down according to their elevations. The same person has executed the Gulph of Mexico on the scale of an inch to a degree. 2. The Archipelago of the Mediterranean. 3. Europe, &c. &c. all in relief.

LIVERPOOL ATHENÆUM.

Moses Samuel, esq. of Bold-street, Liverpool, has presented to the Library of the Athenæum a Manuscript Pentateuch, or Sacred Law of the Jews. This singular curiosity is of very great value, and beautifully written on a roll of fine vellum, four inches wide, and upwards of forty-five feet long; it is attached at each end to an ivory roller, and the whole is enclosed in a splendid case of crimson velvet. A special meeting of the committee was summoned for the purpose of receiving this valuable present; and an ark was ordered to be prepared for its preservation, under Mr. Samuel's directions. Rich as this library has always been in literary treasures, it is now indebted to the generosity of Mr. Samuel for its greatest rarity.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF INSCRIPTIONS.

At a late meeting, M. Champollion presented to the Academy a part of his work on Egyptian writings, designed to form

an appendix to the two volumes already published. After noticing the Egyptian modes of writing in hieroglyphics, and in what has been thought alphabetical or *hiératique*, he comes to the conclusion, that the Egyptian MSS. of the second kind are not alphabetical. 2dly. That the second mode of writing is only a simple modification of the hieroglyphic, and differs only in the form of the signs used. 3dly. That the second species is the *hiératique* of Greek authors, and should be regarded as a hieroglyphic tachygraphy. 4thly. That the hieratic characters are signs of *things*, and not of *sounds*. M. Champollion has endeavoured to find the numerical signs in this species of writing; and he was not a little surprised to discover that some of the characters corresponded with the characters of the Hindoos and Arabs, and like them derive a value from position.

EARLY TALENT.

At Copenhagen, is the youngest female writer, probably, now living. Her name is Virgilia Christiana Lund, and she is not above ten years of age. Last year she published a family picture, "Clotilda, or Two for One;" and lately she has published a small dramatic piece, called "Infidelity detected."

THE UNICORN.

Mr. Campbell (the missionary) has kindly favoured us with the following description of the head of a very singular animal which he has just brought from the interior of Africa. We also have had an opportunity of seeing it, and fully agree with Mr. Campbell, that the animal itself must have answered the description of the *Reem* or *Unicorn*, which is frequently mentioned in Scripture.

"The animal," says Mr. Campbell, "was killed by my Hottentots, in the Mashow country, near the city of Mashow, about two hundred miles N. E. of New Lattakoo, to westward of Delago Bay. My Hottentots never having seen or heard of an animal with *one* horn of so great a length, cut off its head, and brought it bleeding to me upon the back of an ox. From its great weight, and being about twelve hundred miles from the Cape of Good Hope, I was obliged to reduce it by cutting off the under-jaw. The Hottentots cut up the rest of the animal for food, which, with the help of the natives, they brought on the backs of oxen to Mashow. The horn, which is nearly black, is exactly three feet long, projecting from the forehead about nine or ten inches above the nose. From the nose to the ears measured three feet. There is a small horny projection of about eight inches immediately behind the great horn, designed for keeping fast or steady whatever is penetrated by

by the great horn. There is neither hair nor wool on the skin, which is the colour of brown snuff. The animal was well known to the natives. It is a species of the rhinoceros; but if I may judge of its bulk from the size of its head, it must have been much larger than any of the seven rhinoceroses which my party shot, one of which measured eleven feet from the tip of the nose to the root of the tail. The skull and horn excited great curiosity at the Cape. Most were of opinion that it was all we should have for the unicorn. An animal, the size of a horse, which the fancied unicorn is supposed to be, would not answer the description of the unicorn given by Job, chap. 39, verse 9 *et seq.*, but every part of that description this animal exactly answers to it."

(Signed) "JOHN CAMPBELL."
Pliny's description of the unicorn is a sort of medium between Mr. Campbell's

account, and the animal depicted on the royal coat of arms. It is as follows:—
"Asperrimam esse feram, reliquo corpore similem equo, capite cervo, pedibus elephanti, cauda apro, migitu gravi, uno cornu nigro mediâ fronte cubitorum dram eminentem."

Our readers are aware that measures have been taken to obtain a complete specimen of the animal supposed to be the unicorn, which is said to exist in considerable numbers in Thibet. The description which has hitherto been furnished us rests entirely on the evidence of natives; but as it differs in several essential points from Mr. Campbell's account of the African unicorn, the scientific world will be anxious to compare the specimens, as soon as they are enabled to do so. Mr. Campbell's demonstration is the best as yet, and will probably never be excelled. (*Asiatic Journal.*)

ARTS AND SCIENCES.

CANOVA.

The celebrated Sculptor Canova is now at Passagno, his native place, superintending the building of a beautiful church (erecting at his own expense) in honour of the Holy Trinity. It is said that it will in form resemble the Pantheon of Rome, and that, like the Parthenon of Athens, it will be ornamented with a portico, the pillars of which will be of the same dimensions as those of the Pantheon. The interior will be decorated with sacred sculptures of this great Artist, and will also contain a picture of his composition, representing a dead Christ. Passagno at this moment is a place of union for all foreigners. Canova is the father and benefactor of his native country, which (thanks to him) appears to have received new life. A short time ago Passagno had no place on the geographical charts, and now this same name owes the honour of being distinguished by particular marks, in the charts of the State of Venice, to the celebrity of the man to whom she gave birth. At a future period the magnificent monument which is now erecting will be celebrated in history, and draw from the most distant countries all that are friends to the Arts and Religion. The population already increases, and people's minds become more cultivated and polished; before the edifice is completed, a crowd of French and English flock from all quarters, struck with the novelty of the enterprise and the grandeur of the monument. They have been obliged to open two hotels here.

The above details are extracted from the *Diario di Roma*. We cannot refrain

from accompanying them with some general reflections on the phenomenon of so considerable a fortune as Canova's, acquired by such noble and such honourable means, and on the pious manner in which he has employed it. It is difficult to conceive that genius, however liberally recompensed, should have procured an Artist a sufficient fortune for the erection of a monument like that of which we have just given some idea. But our astonishment is lessened when we are told that Canova for many years lived at Rome, imposing on himself during that time the most severe privations, and that it is the fruit of the labours of his whole life which he now dedicates to the glory of Religion, of his Country, and of the Arts. But what is still more admirable than this, is, that in an age when so many weak and contemptible spirits make a senseless boast and glory of insulting Religion, her doctrines, and her ministers, that the man who holds the sceptre of the Arts in that classical country fears nothing, but stands forward boldly, and give so striking a testimony of his zeal and devotion. If Canova had been actuated by motives of an ordinary vanity only, he might have immortalized his name by other works which would have attested his zeal and munificence with as much *eclat*. In paying Religion so solemn and so durable a homage, Canova is not only the benefactor of Passagno, he associates himself with all the blessings which that Religion showers on the whole of mankind, and under whose yoke the most powerful Monarchs and the greatest geniuses of all ages have never blushed to humble themselves.