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**Miscellany.**

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FOR THE SATURDAY MAGAZINE.

MADAME GEOFFRIN.

No. 7 of this miscellany contained an article from the London Monthly Review on the Letters of Mademoiselle de l'Espinasse, with some severe strictures upon the moral character of the extraordinary society of which that lady was so distinguished a member. The fascination of the brilliant circle to which she belonged, seems to be more durable and memorable than most of the splendours of local and colloquial wit, though the impressions produced by the members of this society upon each other, have not been recorded in letters and other memorials with that fondness and warmth of praise which have celebrated the English literati of the age of Anne. We are all of us greatly interested in the personal history of Swift and of Pope, and the eminence of their genius perhaps commands less of our regard than some of the circumstances of their lives connected with the affections. Martha Blount, and Lady Mary Wortley Montague, Stella and Vanessa, give a charm to the history of these poets which themselves could not have imparted alone; and with whatever diversity of opinion, of indulgence, or of blame, we may regard the individuals thus connected with these eminent persons, there are elements of human nature in their collective history peculiarly engaging even at this distance of time. There are youth and beauty, and passion and reason, the strength of attachment, the weakness of susceptible hearts, the doubts of hope, the patience of unsubdued, and the resentment of rejected love, together with many adverse principles, namely—selfishness, coldness, vanity, and caprice; and besides these, there are a sincerity of confidence, and a constancy of friendship, characteristic of some of the parties, that give dignity to all the circumstances of their mutual intercourse.

ANECDOTE.

The French Journal of the Aube, of the 1st ult. contains the following pleasing anecdote:—The pastor of a commune in this department, informed that the singing-master of the parish had seduced a girl of the village, took upon himself to publish the banns of marriage between them from the pulpit on the next Sunday. This improvisatoire effusion took the young couple by surprise; the singing-master turned pale and the wench red, but the effect produced by the hint in face of the congregation was an immediate and legal union of the parties.

NOBLE EPIGRAMS.

*Supposed to be written by Lord Byron on his Marriage and separation from his Wife.*

How strangely time does run,  
In parting me and you—  
'Tis now six years since we were one,  
And five since we were two.

*On the failure of his Tragedy, and the recovery of Lady Noel, his Wife's Mother.*

Alas! how very cruel is my lot,  
My Play is damned, and Lady NOEL not.

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Science.

Compiled for the Saturday Magazine.

*The Literary Society of Antwerp*, in its session of the 21st of August, 1821, will decide the prize of a gold medal for the first poetical essay in the national language of *Paul Rubens*, and a similar medal for the best essay on the question “whether the maternal language ought to serve as a basis for the study of foreign language and science, and to what extent it ought to be carried.” Lastly, a silver medal to the author of the best piece of 150 to 400 verses, on the reunion in 1814 of the 17 provinces of the Low Countries, and under the form of a kingdom.

*Natural History in France.*—The splendid collection of natural objects in the several Museums of the Garden of Plants in Paris, is almost daily enriched by fresh accessions from naturalists attached to the institution, and who, supported by the government, perform voyages of research and collection in all parts of the world. The following substance of a report presented the 10th of January, 1821, to the interior, by the administration of the museum of natural history, on the collection just brought from the Cape of Good Hope by M. Delalande, is worthy of notice. Notwithstanding the previous researches of Kolbi, Sparman, Levillant, &c. it was believed that the natural history of Southern Africa had not been sufficiently explored.

M. Delalande had given proofs of his capacity in three voyages to Lisbon, to the sea of Provence, and to Brazil, under the direction of government. He again left Paris on the 2d of April 1818, accompanied by his nephew, 12 years of age, who has shared in his fatigues, his labours, and his dangers. Two of the largest animals of Africa were much desired by the directors of the museum, viz.: the double horned Rhinoceros, and the Hippopotamus. In search of them he wandered among the Hottentots and the Africs, the latter of whom were at that time much incensed against Europeans, and carried on a ferocious war when opportunities for it offered. M. Delalande remained a long time in this research, and wandered 800 miles west of the Cape. But his intelligence and perseverance were at length crowned with success. He obtained a Rhinoceros 12 feet in length; and on the Bay of the River he surprised a family of the Hippopotamus, and killed the largest and most formidable of the company. In this enterprise he was generally assisted by Lord Charles Somerset, governor of the Cape, and Col. Bird, his secretary, who in his favour dispensed with a law which forbids the hunting and killing of the Hippopotamus, under a penalty of 1000 Rix dollars. Thanks (says the report) to the enlightened protection of those two chiefs of the colony, who procured for him the greatest facilities, gave him flattering encouragement, and furnished him with instruction to commit, by an authorized exception, an infraction of the law. In the interval of these distant expeditions, M. Delalande employed his time at the Cape upon animals of very different dimensions, from the Giraffe to the Rhinoceros and the Hippopotamus.

There were enormous whales thrown upon the shore by the violent storms of the Cape.

With almost incredible pains and labour, this naturalist and his nephew, though exposed to the heat of the sun, and the excessive putrefaction of those huge masses of flesh, cut to pieces a number of them, and obtained three complete skeletons. All the pieces, even to the small bones of the ear, were faithfully preserved. But these results, in themselves so satisfactory, were not the limits of his labours. During his stay of 2 years at the Cape, he collected the following objects.

	Individuals.	Species.
Of Insects,	10,000	982
Birds,	2,305	280
Mammiferon,	228	59
Reptiles,	322	136
Fish,	263	70
Molluscas,	387	102

And 122 skeletons of his own preparation. In all 13,627 individuals—1,629 species. In the number of Molluscas are seven-