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THE TABLET.—No. XLIX.

"The Coxcomb's course is wondrous clever."

THERE is not any person, among all my acquaintance, whose movements I have more narrowly watched, than those of a young coxcomb, who sometimes visits me. If the reader wishes to know why I have so critically inspected the actions of this finical youth, I will explain my motives as concisely as I can. I have often heard that every description of men have some useful and commendable qualifications; and in order to ascertain the truth of this observation, I pitched upon a coxcomb as the most suitable subject to bring the question to a test. If any valuable qualities can be discovered in such a character, I think we may pronounce with some certainty, that no mortal is exempt from a share of good properties. We should distinguish between qualities that are useful to one's self, and those that are so to other people. My present enquiry shall be principally confined to the former.

In the first place then a coxcomb can not be a lazy man. I am sensible many censorious people are often ranking him with the idle and dissolute. The charge has no foundation in truth. Whoever attempts to follow all the fluctuations of the fashions, and suffers no other person to keep a head of him in this respect, will find full employment for his activity and discernment. It is impossible any one can do this and be indolent. The young fribbler, of whom I am now speaking, is engaged in no professed line of business, and yet I know of no person, whose time is more incessantly occupied. He mentioned to me, the other morning, by way of apology for not performing an engagement he was under, that he had not had a leisure moment, for more than a fortnight past. This circumstance induced me to keep a vigilant eye over his actions, and satisfy myself in what manner, he consumed his days. I called at his lodgings two or three mornings successively, so early that I found him at home. He employed nearly three hours in dressing, and I am convinced he could not do it in a shorter time. More than an hour was devoted to the barber, and the reader may be certain it was not a moment too long. The fop had almost as much to do as the barber, for he rose from the chair, ten times in the course of the operation, to see if all the hairs were well adjusted. But the hardest talk was with the boot-maker. My friend had a dozen pair of boots to try, and it took him more than fifteen minutes to draw one boot over his leg. In the course of the experiment, I am confident he went through more fatigue, than a laboring man would have endured, by breaking flax smartly for six hours. It would be endless for me to particularize all the objects, which unavoidably fall in the way, and prevent a coxcomb from wearing away his moments in sloth and inactivity. It must be remembered that he has the process of dressing to pass through, twice in twenty-four hours. The remainder of his time is spent in visiting and in some fashionable amusements, which can by no means be performed by a lazy man. These remarks will, I hope, exculpate my dressy acquaintance from the charge of indolence.

But a more beneficial effect, than that just mentioned, is derived from being a complete coxcomb, in the security it affords a man against the pains and inconveniences of being captivated with female charms. It is well known that one of these butterfly men loves no created being so well as himself. His whole powers of admiration find employment about his own person. Any disgust or inattention, shewn him by a female, is called caprice; and is supposed to result from a want of elegance or purity of taste. This shelter against these frequent impressions, which men of less personal vanity feel, is no inconsiderable advantage. It may fairly be denominated a useful quality to the person who possesses it. Though he extravagantly admires no lady, still he may be the friend and patron of many. Superficial women court his attention because they are pleased with his finery; and sensible women have pleasantry enough to indulge his vanity and self approbation. His forms of politeness and good humour are conspicuous, and he will grant the ladies every thing they ask of him, except his admiration and love.

A still greater utility, in being a devotee to dress and gaiety, proceeds from its being a pretty effectual guard against gross intemperance, and many other vices destructive of health and morals. The life of an abandoned profligate is not compatible with that of a finished coxcomb. Very different passions give rise to these characters, and they have very different objects in view. Scenes of extravagant dissipation are generally attended with rough language, than which no-

thing can be more disagreeable to a man of real foppery. He avoids every situation where he can not be looked at and flattered. His inclination leads him among genteel people, who admit him as an associate for the civility of his deportment, and who are themselves too well bred to call in question his claims to admiration.

Upon the whole, I am induced to believe that most people entertain too mean an opinion of coxcombs. It is a much more unexceptionable character than is usually imagined; and a well-shaped stripling, who has rich friends, and slender talents, may be said to have taken his best destiny: when dress is the object of his care, and personal vanity the motive of his conduct. By this means, he will at least escape being a loungeur, as he must of course be active and busy to keep up the part he assumes.—Nor will he probably become a drunkard, a knave or a blackguard; for he can be neither of these, without essentially interfering with the main wish of his heart, to be complimented as a *sweet pretty fellow*.

The Address of the Representatives of the Freemen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met.

To the PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES.

SIR, THE representatives of a free people can not comply with their duty to their constituents more to their satisfaction, than by paying a just tribute to the merits of one, whose important exertions, unexampled perseverance, and distinguished military talents, have eminently contributed to the establishment of their liberties. Impressed with the most lively sense of your love for your country, invariably evidenced in the course of your past services, and of which you have given a new proof, by sacrificing your predilection for private life to the desires of your fellow citizens, and again appearing on the public stage, we most sincerely congratulate you on your elevation to the high station you now fill.

The citizens of this State, having been among the first to adopt the system of federal government on which they so much depend for their portion of the national prosperity, can not but be highly gratified by the progress which has been made towards its complete organization; and they have a pleasing addition to their satisfaction, by your having been so unanimously placed at the head of it. We are confident that we declare the sense of the people of Pennsylvania, when we assure you of the firm and constant support of this State in all measures, in which its aid shall be necessary, for rendering your administration easy to yourself, and beneficial to your country.

We deem it a circumstance which strongly marks the good sense and virtue of our countrymen, that they peaceably and deliberately concurred in a frame of general government, which, we firmly trust, will, in its operation, dignify our character, entitle us to respect among the nations, and ensure happiness and safety to us and our posterity. With hearts expanded beyond the limits of our own country, we most ardently hope that the influence of this novel but bright example, may be extended, till freedom, under governments of laws, not of men, shall bless the oppressed of every climate and country. The old will then be experimentally taught by the new world, that reason, virtue, union, moderation and patriotism, can, under the smiles of heaven, without the sword, accomplish the happiness of nations by pacific revolutions in their political systems, whensoever they require them.

With the warmest wishes for your personal happiness, we fervently beseech the great Author and Supporter of our existence, that he will, by granting you a continuance of health, long preserve a life so dear to your country, and exemplary to mankind.

The Answer of the President of the United States to the foregoing Address was received and read September 16, as follows—

To the Representatives of the Freemen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met.

GENTLEMEN, WHEN the representatives of a free people, delivering the sense of their constituents, give such marks of affectionate attachment to an individual as are contained in your address to me, it must call forth the warmest acknowledgement of a grateful heart. Under this impression, I beg you to believe that your favorable opinion of my past conduct, and kind congratulations on my elevation to the high station which I now fill, are indelibly marked on my mind.

The early and decided part which the citizens of Pennsylvania took in behalf of the present

system of government, can not be forgotten by the people of these United States;—and, in acknowledging the grateful sense which I have of your assurances of the firm and constant support of your State, in all measures in which its aid shall be necessary, for rendering my administration easy to myself and beneficial to our country, I trust that I meet the concurrence of all good citizens.

The virtue, moderation and patriotism which have marked the steps of the American people, in framing, adopting, and thus far, carrying into effect our present system of government, has excited the admiration of nations, and it now only remains for us to act up to those principles which should characterize a free and enlightened people, that we may gain respect abroad, and ensure happiness to ourselves and to our posterity. It should be the highest ambition of every American to extend his views beyond himself—and to bear in mind that his conduct will not only affect himself, his country, and his immediate posterity; but that its influence and effect, may be co-extensive with the world, and stamp political happiness or misery on ages yet unborn.—To obtain this desirable end—and to establish the government of laws, the union of these States is absolutely necessary; therefore, in every proceeding, this great—this important object should ever be kept in view; so long as our measures tend to this, and are marked with the wisdom of a well-informed, enlightened people, we may reasonably hope, under the smiles of Heaven, to convince the world, that the happiness of nations can be accomplished by pacific revolutions in their political systems, without the destructive intervention of the sword.

Your wishes for my personal happiness, and fervent prayers for the preservation of my existence, have made a grateful impression upon me; and I shall not fail to implore the Divine Author of the Universe to bestow those blessings upon you and your constituents that can make a people happy.

G. WASHINGTON.

EUROPEAN ACCOUNTS, BY THE LAST ARRIVALS.

BERLIN, JULY 27.

Our Sovereign still continues unremittingly to use his good offices for the purpose of bringing about an accommodation between Russia and Sweden, after having succeeded with his Allies, the King of Great-Britain and the States General of the United Provinces, in bringing Denmark to observe a strict neutrality. A Treaty with the King and Republic of Poland is still on the tapis, but not concluded. The opposition which the Poles make to the views of the two Imperial Courts may cause some change in their sentiments, and in the end preserve a more equal balance in the affairs of Europe.

VIENNA, JULY 13.

His Majesty the Emperor has not had any return of the fever some days. Yesterday was the day which was to determine whether the fever was to appear again, or entirely to leave his Majesty. Happily it did not return, which spread universal joy throughout the empire. The Emperor is uncommonly cheerful, and takes a vast deal of exercise in the open air. We now hope our Sovereign will in a short time be perfectly restored to health.

LONDON, JULY 31.

It is probable that the Royal Exiles of France will attempt to raise commotions; but cut off as they are, from communicating with their dependents, they cannot estimate the strength of their friends; and should they, at this juncture, openly attempt to raise forces, or by any means to oppose the people, the life of the Sovereign would be in immediate danger.

It is a fact that a gentleman of Hackney, of reputation and fortune, has just returned from Paris, who during his stay was in the midst of the troubles; and from good authority we inform our readers, he was one of those who first entered the Bastille, and with a party secured the Governor with others, after which they proceeded, and entered a dungeon of immense depth, strongly secured with iron bolts and bars, where they released an English officer, said to be a Major White, who had been confined a prisoner 26 years in that dismal cell. The key of the door the above Gentleman has brought home; it was shewn round the coffee-room at the Antigallican Coffee-house, Threadneedle-street, Wednesday afternoon, among a number of French gentlemen, who with great plaudits, exclaimed, Liberty! Liberty! Liberty!

When the prisoners were liberated from the Bastille, Major White presented a figure the most