

found a person who was willing to take his draft for five guineas on the President of the Royal Society.

With this assistance he arrived in England, and immediately waited on Sir Joseph Banks, who told him, knowing his temper, that he believed he could recommend him to an adventure almost as perilous as the one from which he had returned; and then communicated to him the wishes of the association for discovering the inland countries of Africa.

Mr. Ledyard replied, that he had always determined to traverse the continent of Africa, as soon as he had explored the interior parts of North America; and as Sir Joseph had offered him a letter of introduction, he came direct to the writer of these memoirs. Before I had learnt from the note the name and business of my visitor, I was struck with the manliness of his person, the breadth of his chest, the openness of his countenance, and the inquietude of his eye. I opened the map of Africa before him, and tracing a line from Cairo to Sennar, and from thence westward in the latitude and supposed direction of the Niger, I told him that was the route by which I was anxious that Africa might, if possible, be explored. He said he should think himself singularly fortunate to be entrusted with the adventure. I asked him when he would set out? — To-morrow morning was his answer.

On this grand Adventure Mr. Ledyard left London on June 30th, 1788, and reached Cairo, in Egypt, on the 19th of August, from whence he transmitted such accounts to his employers as plainly shewed he was a traveller of observation and reflection, endowed with a soul for discovery, and formed for achievements of hardihood and peril. He had promised his next communication for Sennar, about 600 miles south of Cairo; but death put an end to the hopes that were entertained of his projected journey.

We shall conclude this short sketch with Mr. Ledyard's character of the female sex: "I have always remarked that women, in all countries, are civil, obliging, tender and humane; that they are ever inclined to be gay and cheerful, timorous and modest; and that they do not hesitate, like men, to perform a generous action. Not haughty, arrogant, nor supercilious, they are full of courtesy, and fond of society; more liable in general to err than man, but generally more virtuous, and performing more good actions than he. To a woman, either civilized or savage, I never addressed myself in the language of decorum and friendship, without receiving a decent and friendly answer—with men it has been otherwise.

"In wandering over the barren plains, of inhospitable Denmark, through honest Sweden, and frozen Lapland, rude and churlish Finland, unprincipled Russia, and the wide spreading regions of the wandering Tartar:—If hungry, dry, cold, wet, or sick, the women have ever been friendly to me and uniformly so; and to add to this virtue (so worthy of the appellation of benevolence) these actions have been performed in so free and so kind a manner, that if I was dry, I drank the sweetest draught—and if hungry, I eat the coarsest morsel with a double relish."

[It may not be unacceptable to those who feel the pride of enterprise, to know, that Mr. John Ledyard was an American, born at Groton, in Connecticut; his grand father was a native of Bristol, in England, his father, Mr. John Ledyard died when his children were young, who were John, Thomas, George and Fanny—our bold traveller was the eldest, who was taken by his grandfather, John Ledyard, Esq. to Hartford, and received a Latin and English school education—his patron died, and left him at 18 years old, at sea to follow the bent of his own inclination. Possessed of a vigorous imagination, and a heart susceptible of benevolent impressions, he embraced the study of religion, that breathes good will to man, to give full scope to those affections. I, who was acquainted with his mind's-eye, am clear that no wayward thought hostile to the peace of any individual, ever found a welcome there—his whole life evinces it, as it may be truly said, to have been spent to benefit mankind, from which, he could not be diverted by hunger, cold or peril. To have the advantage of books and instruction, he went to Dartmouth College; and here it was, he learned the manners of the Aborigines, and those means of recommending himself to their favor, which rendered him so serviceable to Capt. Cook in his voyages of discovery. He quitted this Academy after finding that his means would not enable him to go through the usual course of Academic studies; he left Dartmouth without a shilling in his pocket, and from that moment, seemed to have devoted himself to those objects, in which his life has been spent. Not having money for the journey to Hartford, by land, he built a canoe 50 feet long, by 3 feet breadth—after raising a booth of willow bushes over her stern, and receiving some dried venison and a few bear skins on board, which made up all his sea stores, he embarked for Hartford, where he arrived safe, to the astonishment of those who rested upon the fatigue and hazard of navigating in an open boat, a rapid river, upwards of 140 miles, with which he was totally unacquainted.

After a short stay at Hartford, he worked his passage to New-York, and shipped before the mast for London, in 1771, when quitting that employ, he entered a corporal of Marines to Capt. Cook, for the voyage, to the N. W. coast of America; he was present at the tragical death of Capt. Cook, at Owhyhee, by which accident Mr. Ledyard often said, he lost his best friend. After an absence of ten years, and supposed dead, by his friends, he returned in 1781, to America in a British frigate, which being ordered into Huntington harbor, Long-Island, to refit. Mr. Ledyard embraced this opportunity to join his friends, and crossed the sound in a boat. During this visit, he published the principal facts of Capt. Cook's voyage, before that splendid relation of it came out in England, though many occurrences were omitted for want of his journal, which he was obliged to give up to the board of admiralty—he likewise offered his services to several mercantile companies to conduct a commercial voyage to the N. W. coast of America; but failing of success, he embarked in 1782, for Europe, since which time, to his death, at grand Cairo in Egypt, the London accounts of him are corroborated by letters to his friends.

He was bold as a lion, and gentle as he was bold. The most formidable discouragements seemed but to add fresh vigour to his mind, and fit him for harder enterprise.]

[The following beautiful LINES were written by Mr. CUMBERLAND, on the Marriage of Miss Sackville to Mr. Herbert.]

YE solemn pedagogues, who teach
A language by eight parts of speech,
Can any of you all impart
A rule to conjugate the heart?
Grammarians did you ever try
To construe and expound the eye?
And from the Syntax of the face
Decline its gender and its case?
What said the nuptial tear that fell
From fair Eliza, can you tell?
And yet it spoke upon her cheek
As eloquent as tear could speak.—
"Here, at God's altar as I stand,
To plight my vows, and yield my hand,
With faltering tongue whilst I proclaim
The cession of my virgin name;
Whilst in my ear is read at large
The Rubrick's stern unsoften'd charge,
Spare me (the silent pleader cries,)
Ah spare me, ye surrounding eyes!
Usher'd amidst a blaze of light,
Whilst here I pass in public sight,
Or kneeling by a father's side,
Renounce the daughter for the bride;
Ye sisters, to my soul so dear,
Say, can I check the rising tear?
When at this awful hour I cast
My memory back on time that's past,
Ungrateful were I to forbear
This tribute to a father's care;
For all he suffer'd, all he taught,
Is there not due some tender thought?
And may not one fond tear be given
To a dear faint that rests in heaven?
And you to whom I now betroth,
In sight of heaven, my nuptial oath;
Who to nobility of birth
True honour join, and native worth,
If my according bosom draws
One sigh, misconstrue not the cause;
Trust me, though weeping, I rejoice,
And, blushing, glory in my choice."

FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS MAGAZINE.
FOR SEPTEMBER, 1790.

A TALE,

In imitation of PETER PINDAR.

SOME people have a taste that's something strange,
And think it must be pleas'd at any rate,
Nature in others, they suppose may change,
Its whims in them, on no such reasonings wait.

Of this plain principle, the following story,
For illustration's sake, I'll lay before ye.

A YANKEE and a FRENCHMAN once at table met,
Midst roots and vegetables in chequer'd state,
A platter furnish'd with fat pork appear'd,
And eke a monstrous jug, for what—the Frenchman never heard.

The Yankee took the jug, sans ceremony,
And having drawn the gluey corn-cob cork,
He pour'd and trail'd the lasses o'er the pork,
And then sat down to eat.
The Frenchman stretch'd his wond'ring eyes and rose,
Lugg'd out his box of best rappee,
He did not want it for his nose,
But pepper'd well the meat.

While with sarcastic shrug, he gave this huff,
"You love de lasses far, me love de snuff."

MORAL.
De gustibus, non est disputandum.

THE TABLET.

No. CXLVI.

"The strongest tint, in the complexion of the human character, may be sometimes formed by a circumstance, or event apparently casual."

HOW much of the difference of character, we behold in men, is to be attributed to accident, and how much to original cast of disposition, is a question that cannot, in any given instance, be accurately solved. A combination of circumstances, merely adventitious, operate in forming the propensities which characterize every individual. Perhaps the mind of every person is predisposed to cherish certain impressions more readily than others, and when an accident occurs that coincides with the natural bent of temper, it heightens its strength and permanency. On the other hand, events purely accidental may produce a change in our original bias, and raise associations that turn the current of our affections from the point to which they were aiming. It is observed of Dean Swift that he had so irritable a temper, as gave to the slightest disappointment a most excruciating sting. In a letter to Lord Bolingbroke he expresses himself in the following terms. "I remember when I was a boy, I felt a great sigh at the end of my line, which I drew up almost on the ground, but it dropt in, and the disappointment vexes me to this very day, and I believe it was the type of all my future disappointments." Had the Dean succeeded in taking the fish, and had he met with several lucky incidents soon after, it probably had changed his propensity to gloom and peevishness, by exciting such feelings of good humor and serenity as would gradually have acquired the force of habit, and

given quite a different complexion to his character. An elegant writer speaking of that affair, makes the following remarks, after mentioning the disappointment relative to the fish.

"This little incident, perhaps, gave the first wrong exercise to a mind, predisposed to such impressions; and by operating so long and so forcibly, might possibly lay the foundation of the Dean's subsequent peevishness, passion, misanthropy and final infamy."

The same author mentions many instances of the lasting associations that are produced by accidental circumstances, and which may have a very forcible impression in directing the efforts of the understanding and the feelings of the heart, differently from the course they had taken, previous to such accidents. Among other instances the following is a pertinent one. "Dr. Conyers Middleton, one of the most learned, various and elegant writers of the present age, is said to have been much more addicted, in the early part of life, to music, than to science. But he was roused from his favorite amusement, and stimulated to the closest application to study, by a sarcasm of his rival and enemy, the celebrated Dr. Bentley who stigmatized him with the name of fiddler. And indignation made him eager to convince the Doctor and the world, that he could write as well as fiddle; a conviction, of which his opponent had, afterwards, the most painful experience.

The death of a friend, and other heavy afflictions sometimes give a gloomy cast to the mind, and lead it into a train of melancholy reflections; which, if not counteracted by incidents that promote cheerfulness, may become habitual. It is of the highest importance that people guard themselves against that association of ideas which particular events may create. By indulging a train of feelings that are excited accidentally, they diffuse themselves through the whole life and character. One man is thus rendered passionate and peevish; another gloomy and discontented, and a third capricious and inconstant. Had either of them carefully watched over the impressions when they were first raised, they could easily have escaped the habits which became so durable and pernicious.

Latest European Intelligence.

LONDON, August 23.

YESTERDAY afternoon the signal for all Captains was displayed on board the Queen Charlotte, Lord Howe's flag ship which was instantly obeyed.

This morning his Lordship threw out the signal for sailing—Preparations were immediately made by every ship in the fleet. By ten o'clock, A. M. many of them were unmoored; and at three P. M. the whole fleet was clear of the bay.

Never were orders obeyed with greater alacrity, or with more universal good will; for no sooner were the directions given to man the caplans, than the exulting shouts of the sailors bespoke a ready concurrence; and never before, perhaps had the boatswains less to do in the weighing of an anchor.

An officer, from a vessel arrived in the offing, went yesterday on board the Queen Charlotte, with intelligence that they had seen the Spanish fleet a few days before, in the bay of Biscay, and that it consisted of upwards of thirty sail of the line, besides frigates, &c. &c.

We know not whether this circumstance hastened the motions which immediately followed, but it had not taken place an hour before the signal was made for all the captains.

Six o'clock, P. M.—The whole fleet have now doubled the start; the wind has veered considerable to the Northward, and they are now standing down channel with a fine breeze.

Each Captain has sealed orders, and from their course, when they passed Bury-head, they seemed bound westward. It is believed their destination is to cruise between Brest and Cadiz.

Our fleet having sailed from Torbay, the conjectures respecting their destination are various. Among other reports it has been currently said, that administration were apprehensive of a junction of the French and Spanish fleets, and ordered out our fleet to prevent it. Some letters received in town this morning assert, that the Spanish fleet is already in Brest water.

The following information was brought by the French mail of yesterday, and is part of a letter from Genoa.

"From the day the new created Emperor of Morocco ascended the throne, he manifested the most violent despotism, though it was said he assured all the different powers of his intention to keep up that harmony which his father established. Yet notwithstanding such profession, this monster, from some misunderstanding or false report, took umbrage at the Spanish Consul, and to be revenged, had him put into a large cask, and ordered that he should be rolled about the streets of Sallee in this manner until he expired.

PARIS, August 1.

LIBERTY OF THE PRESS.

The decree of yesterday, relative to the prosecution of the two defamers of the Legislative body, had too precipitately passed without observation upon its generality, as inclusive of every offence of that nature.

M. Rabaud de St. Etienne rose with much warmth, to deprecate the evils of a decree so fatal to all liberty of sentiment.—"Let us not," "I conjure ye, plunge the Nation into the perils of "Constructive Libels:—I insist upon the immediate reversal of the decree, or if, notwithstanding its manifold mischiefs, it must subsist, the Assembly should moderate the measure by the establishment of a Trial by Jury, as the only mode of preserving the people from iniquitous decision, and freedom from a fatal wound."