



John Witherspoon was President of Princeton
and was elected to represent New Jersey
in the Convention for framing the first constitution
of the U.S. He also signed the Declaration of
Independence on the 4th July. He was a
member of the Secret executive committee

15

This pamphlet is the first

Index of classes in Sabbath Church

T H E
H I S T O R Y

O F A

C O R P O R A T I O N

S E R V A N T S.

Discovered a few Years ago in the Interior
Parts of SOUTH AMERICA.

Containing some very Surprising EVENTS and
Extraordinary CHARACTERS.

G L A S G O W :

Printed for JOHN GILMOUR, and sold by him
and the other Bookfellers in Town and Country.

M D C C L X V .

A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

The Reader will find himself obliged to the Author of the following History, for the pains he hath taken to render it as entertaining, and sentimental as possible. With this view he hath entirely avoided the use of foreign names, often hard to pronounce, and when pronounced wholly without meaning. Instead of this, when he had occasion to mention particular ranks of men, offices, or customs, he chose to express them by what did most exactly correspond with them in our own country. By this means the narrative, disencumbered of definitions or circumlocutions, is rendered quite easy and intelligible.

THE
 HISTORY
 OF A
 CORPORATION
 OF
 SERVANTS.

INTRODUCTION.

THE skill of an author, like that of a merchant, lies chiefly in judging with readiness and certainty, what kind of commodities, and in what quantity, any particular age or place is able and willing to receive. This I have, of late, made very much my study, with regard to our own age and country, and the result of my enquiry is as follows. There are two sorts of subjects for which there is a general demand in Great Britain at this time, *viz.* (1.) Biography, if any thing may be fo
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called that gives an account of the lives of persons that never existed, but in the imagination of the authors. This is, indeed, a most fruitful subject, and under the various titles of Histories, Lives, Adventures, Memoirs, &c. teaches people how to live after any imaginable plan. (2.) The other is the formation of schemes and projects, to be carried on by subscription, for the good of mankind, which never were so favourably received as at present, the abortion or mismanagement of nine in ten of them not having in the least abated the ardor of the publick. If any be of opinion, that new discoveries in the science of morals, for the support of infidelity, are as favourably received as any of these, such must be told, that they are but superficial observers, or under the prejudice of religious enthusiasm. The discoveries here pointed at, have been of late years so various, so contradictory and so short-lived, that they really raise very little curiosity. As an instance of this, the reader is desired to recollect if he can, the most extraordinary thing of the kind that ever was attempted. A great living author, David Hume esqr. not long ago, made health, cleanliness, and broad shoulders capital virtues, and a running fore an unpardonable crime; yet was it but little taken notice of when first published, and is now almost wholly forgotten.

Therefore, an author is undoubtedly happy who hath hit upon, or happens to be furnished with a subject suited to the taste of the age. This I humbly

bly presume to be my own case. I have had the good fortune, lately, to obtain distinct information of a most extraordinary history, which also may perhaps lay a foundation for some new scheme, or, at least, for mending and cobbling those which are now cracked and old. The only misfortune that it labours under is that it is true; for I remember the lofty and sonorous earl of Shaftesbury, whose memory I greatly revere, tells us there is much more truth in fiction than in fact. The meaning of this is, that authors of taste and genius like himself, employing their fancy in delineating feigned characters, give ordinarily a juster view of nature than tedious relations of what really happened.

This loss however, I trust, will be abundantly made up by the extraordinary and wonderful nature of the passages I am to relate, which, it is to be hoped, will have the effect of fiction in enlivening the imagination of the writer, and, indeed, very possibly, may be mistaken for fiction by many readers. The truth is, I hope there is a singular felicity in my subject in every respect. If the excellency of history, according to lord Shaftesbury, lies in its being like fiction, and the excellency of fiction in its being like to real facts, according to all other men, the subject in hand must needs excel, as it partakes of both these characters. It will be like truth, because it is true; and it will be like fiction, because the same train of events, perhaps, never happened in any other place or nation.

To introduce myself to my subject, and inform the reader how I came by the knowledge of it, he may be pleased to recollect, That in the year 1741, when commodore (afterwards lord) Anson made a voyage round the world; one of the ships of his squadron, called the *Wager*, was cast away upon a desert island in the South Seas. The greatest part of the crew who were saved lengthened the long-boat, and made a long and dangerous voyage thro' the streights of Magellan, to Brazil. As they were often obliged to swim ashore for provisions and water, it happened that, at one time, there were to the number of fourteen of them ashore upon a part of the coast very far South, near the mouth of the streights. Having stayed all night, unfortunately next morning the wind blew so hard in shore, that only six of the fourteen were able to get aboard, and the vessel was obliged to go away and leave the other eight.

It is needless here to insist upon the various accidents they met with in this perilous situation. The difficulty of obtaining food, without which they must very soon have died: the mean and scanty provision with which nature will be sustained, when there is no more or better to be had: the inventive faculty of man for supplying his wants when reduced to absolute extremity, and a hundred other things which have been represented in all possible lights by other writers of adventures. Let it suffice, therefore, to say that, in process of time, four of them were killed

led by the inhabitants of the country, and the remaining four taken prisoners. After changing their masters several times, they came at last into the hands of one who carried them a great way off to the capital of an empire, and the court of a powerful prince. There they lived many years, learned the language, and had occasion to see the manners of the country. Two of them, at last, acquired such a degree of favour, that, in compliance with their earnest request, they were sent to the Portuguese settlements, and came from thence to Great Britain.

One of these persons, who was a man of tolerable education, at well as good sense and comprehension, coming to live in my neighbourhood, communicated to me what follows of this history. In general he told me the conduct and characters of men, bating some little differences of fashion and modes of address, which are ever changing in every country, were much like what they are among ourselves. Court favour was precarious and changeable. Interest and ambition prevailed more in obtaining places of power and profit, than modest and peaceable merit. Cold and sober men gathered wealth, and crept up, by slow but sure steps, to station and dignity; while the lively sprightly fellows threw away all that they had, and soon became contemptible to others and useless to themselves. The knowledge of the world was of very little benefit; for tho' every class of men could clearly discern the errors that adhered to those of a different rank, they could

could scarcely observe, and never would imitate their commendable qualities. For example, says he, a profuse, diseased, needy Lord would speak with infinite contempt of the meanness of soul, and hardness of heart frequently to be found in traders and men of business, but never once thought of following their example in sobriety, application, and regularity in the distribution of their time, to which they manifestly owed all their success. So that, upon the whole, he concluded that human nature in all ages and in all places was the same. A sage remark the reader will say, but I can easily remember to have heard it before.

There was however one class of men in that nation, whose constitution as a body, and many of whose characters and practices were of the most extraordinary kind, *viz.* the SERVANTS. Their state and conduct, at the time which fell under his own observation, were so singular that they excited his curiosity; and induced him to inquire with great care into their condition, as far back as history could trace them. This is what I am now to communicate to the publick, being willing that my book should be buried in oblivion, or buried with disgrace, if a story can be produced equal or even similar to it in any other age or country.

CHAP,

C H A P. I.

*Of the original State of the Servants, and their
Erection into a Corporation.*

IN very early times, of which there are still some accounts handed down by tradition, the Servants were in a state not much different from what they are at present among us. It does not appear that ever they were slaves, or were treated with excessive rigour or severity. They were trained up in some acquaintance with, and applied themselves to such work as they seemed to be fitted for by the turn of their minds, and the strength or agility of their bodies. They were chosen or hired by every family as they pleased, made a voluntary agreement, and were employed in doing what was necessary of every kind. They were paid as they and the family could agree, eating of their own labours, and were cherished and caressed in proportion as they deserved it. In cases of remarkable neglect, disobedience or misbehaviour they were turned away. This, indeed, happened but seldom, for they were in general honest, sober and industrious. They had the interest of their masters at heart, nay, so remarkable were some of them in these times for fidelity, that (it is reported) they seemed to have as much or more pleasure in doing their work, as in receiving their wages.

But

But it happened, some ages ago, that one of their princes was saved from a formidable conspiracy against his life and crown, just upon the point of execution, by the fidelity and courage of a servant. The prince was a man of a warm heart, and an uncommonly generous disposition. Not content with bountifully rewarding his benefactor by kindness to himself and family, he conceived a design of perpetuating the memory of the fact, and shewing his gratitude by doing something in favour of the whole order or body of men. For this purpose, being possessed of absolute power, after consulting upon it for some time, he established the following regulations, not doubting that they would be highly beneficial to his subjects in general, as well as the servants in particular:

1. It was ordered that the wages of servants should be considerably augmented, and fixed to a certain rate in all the king's dominions. This was evidently dictated by compassion. He observed that it was very hard and unequal, that those who were constantly employed in labour, who promoted the interest of their masters so much, should notwithstanding live so poorly; that they should have nothing but the coarsest diet, and no more money than was barely necessary to purchase the meanest cloathing. He used, when the matter was under deliberation, to reason thus: ' For my part, I think a
' king ought to have the heart of a man; I confi-
' der the servants as my fellow creatures, and am
' desirous

' desirous that they should taste some of those pleasures and delicacies of life, which they contribute so largely to procure for the accommodation of others'.

He also observed that interest as well as compassion dictated the same thing; that keeping them poor would entirely dispirit them, and make them do their duty in the most careless and slothful manner, by which their masters must receive manifest prejudice. On the other hand, a good and secure provision would give them great vigour and alacrity. He ventured to foretel, that a third part increase of their salary would increase their work in a far greater proportion, so that the publick would be gainers by this seeming burden. Besides that such a fixed provision would free them from all temptation to pilfering and stealing, and so be an improvement upon their honesty as well as activity.

Another advantage he proposed to reap by this measure was, increasing the number of servants. It was well enough remembered that, at no very distant period, the kingdom had suffered not a little from the scarcity of servants; so that the land lay uncultivated, and many branches of business neglected. Now it was impossible to avoid seeing that this measure must increase the number of servants, by inducing them to come into the kingdom from the most distant places, as well as encouraging them to marry and propagate, and bless their country with a multitude of useful hands.

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Nay, he even called in the aid of luxury to enforce his argument, alledging, that keeping the servants poor, must make them fordid and nasty, so that it would be odious to people of taste and elegance to have them about their persons, or even to see them in their houses. But by carrying the proposed design into execution, he said, he hoped to see the servants in general genteel, well dressed, well behaved, and conversible men. That this must be an advantage in particular to families in the country, who were considerably distant from one another, and, in certain seasons of the year, could have very little intercourse: nay even, that in cities and places of greater resort, it would be better, in many respects, to have opportunities of conversation within doors, than to be always obliged to seek society abroad.

In short, he supposed that the regulation now established would put an entire period to all the murmurings and complaints of servants, and their desires of shifting from one family to another, which was a source of daily inconveniencies. They must be touched, says he, with a sense of gratitude for so unexpected and so happy a change in their situation, and will therefore be thoroughly content and *never ask for more.*

2. Having the publick good all along at heart, as much as the advantage of the servants, he ordered schools and places of exercise to be built, and masters appointed to train up servants and fit them for their several

several trusts. There were different tracts of education chalked out for all different sorts of employments. It was particularly expected of the directors of these academies, that they would select the servants fit for every branch, and both educate and dispose of them according as their genius should intimate they were most capable. As for example, for cooks, waiting men, and other domestick servants, and grooms, gardeners, and labouring men of all sorts without doors.

The advantage of this regulation, in both its parts, seemed very evident. Education, it was said, is all in all. Education makes the man, and makes the servant. It will therefore prepare them for their work. They will enter upon it expert and proven, very much to the publick emolument; instead of being aukward and unhandy for some time, till experience has given them facility, or, perhaps, retaining some measure of rusticity and inactivity through their whole lives.

It seemed also a matter of great moment, that no man should be suffered to profess what he could not do, but that he should be confined to that only which he could best do. Neither was it proper that this should be left to the caprice of families, or the ambition and presumption of the servants themselves. And it was never once imagined the masters of academies would be defective in *judgment* and *impartiality* on their part.

3. The third and last regulation he established,

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was ordering the servants to be created by charter into a large corporation, containing many smaller bodies and societies within it. To this corporation he gave authority over the several members of which it was composed, and established a complete subordination. This was thought a piece of admirable wisdom and policy. They were to be strictly watchful over one another, and it was supposed they would get all the advantage in this shape, which men united in society have over those in a state of nature. The several classes and divisions of the corporation were to try the sufficiency of all servants before they were admitted, and had power to turn them off when they misbehaved or neglected their work. That this might proceed with the greater regularity, they were every one secured by law in their employments. They were not left in a vague dependent state: a servant once hired by any family could not be turned away but by an order of his fellow-servants, to whom all complaints of his conduct were to be made, and by whom they were to be judged.

The whole was founded upon the most excellent reasons. Who so proper to judge of the capacity and diligence of servants as those who are servants themselves? who can be supposed so attentive to their conduct, or so jealous of their behaviour, since the character of particulars must evidently reflect either disgrace or credit on the whole collective body.

C H A P.

C H A P. II.

Of the Effects produced by these Regulations.

AT first, and indeed for a considerable time after these regulations were established, experience seemed to confirm the wisdom as well as generosity of the prince, and to discover their happy consequences every day. Servants were trained up and instructed in every branch of business, and were very expert in their work. They understood the cause, the reason and the end of every thing, and could talk upon it in a most intelligent and consistent manner. They did every thing with much exactness, and had plainly a far greater air of neatness and elegance than formerly. The fields were dressed and trimmed to great perfection; the utensils of the houses were all brightned and put in order; the outsides of the houses and avenues to them were all adorned in a very pretty and fanciful manner. They were not content with what was barely profitable to their masters, but paid also a due regard to show and appearance. Persons who travelled were exceedingly delighted, and the proprietors were not a little proud of the change; for every house was like a little palace, and every country-seat like a little paradise. Thus far the servants seemed to be much upon their honour, and, from a sense of gratitude to the emperor, endeavoured to behave themselves
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with great care and diligence; so that every body, as well as themselves, sincerely rejoiced in the change of their state.

But alas! how short-sighted are human creatures? this universal satisfaction did not last long. It was quickly seen, notwithstanding so good a beginning, that the regulations laid down would but ill answer the end proposed. The change to the worse took its rise from the enlargement of their wages, which yet seemed, at first, to be the chief and most reasonable article of the regulations: for, after they had obtained good wages, and the best of food and accommodation, some of them began to grow fat, and consequently lazy. When they were suddenly called, sometimes by dozing and sleeping they did not hear at all; and when they did hear were very slow in their motions, and always ready furnished with an excuse for their neglect; or, perhaps, raised some very strong objections to what they were desired to do. When they were sent of an errand, they took a long time before they returned; and yet would positively stand to it, that it was impossible to return sooner. If this was not satisfying, they would, in a great rage, before they delivered their message, return and measure the ground they had traversed in order to determine the dispute.

Having now more to eat and drink than formerly, they behaved to take more time to it; and so the hours of their work were very much diminished. This seemed to them not only reasonable but necessary;

necessary; and great disputes arose upon it with the families in which they served. The families in general gave them to understand, that they expected greater diligence and activity, as they were now better paid than before; whereas the servants counted that highly ridiculous; for with them it was a fixed point, that the more liberally they were paid, they ought to do the less for it. It is needless to enlarge upon this part of the subject; let it suffice to say, that, in general, having now got so good provision made for them, they began not to serve but to live. The delicacies of the world began to captivate their hearts, and instead of satisfying themselves with necessaries, and being useful in their generation, they bethought themselves of enjoying what had thus so luckily fallen to their share.

Changes in all respects came on insensibly. It was before observed that one advantage proposed by the regulations was the increase of the number of servants. This effect indeed did follow with a witness. Whereas before the country was not overstocked with servants, and families were at great pains in looking out for proper ones, now they increased to an almost incredible number. Not only was there a great confluence of strangers from distant places, but many of the inhabitants, not inconsiderable in point of station found it their interest to become servants. Now you would every where see them going about and soliciting employment, and very wonderful were the arts they sometimes used

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to obtain it. Of these I shall say nothing in this preliminary part of the history, because I shall probably have afterwards a better opportunity to introduce them.

As the state of things and the way of thinking began to alter, the language and manner of speaking altered also at the same time. In former times they used to speak of getting a master, or being hired, or getting an employment, now they spake of getting into bread, of getting a salary, a settlement, or a living. I know nothing that resembles this difference so much as the difference between our way of speaking in Scotland, and what is usual in our neighbour country of England about servants. Here we speak of a servant's getting into service; in England they call it getting a place, and a footman turned away, they term with the highest propriety a footman out of place.

Things having once come into this situation, it happened with these servants as it happens with all men when once they begin to gratify their desires: they become inordinate, excessive and insatiable. Instead of being content with what they had obtained, they began to fall upon all imaginable methods of increasing their revenues. They contrived an infinite number of perquisites besides their ordinary wages. When a family had of their own free motion bestowed any mark of favour upon a good servant, the thing was immediately spread abroad, and all other families were harrassed with complaints, and

and teased to death by their servants till the same was bestowed upon them. They would often, in a clandestine manner, lay hold of some of the goods of the family and appropriate them to their own use; and, when it came at last to be discovered, they would take the advantage of their own covetousness, and prove clearly, that by immemorial custom it belonged to them as their due. Where families were ignorant, they would affirm with the greatest boldness, that such and such were the privileges of servants in all other places, and by that means procure their consent. When they were not only ignorant but timid and cowardly, they would go a short way to work, and threaten to burn their houses to the ground if they did not comply with every demand.

But, what they excelled most in were the arts of flattery and deceit in rich families. Such as got near great men would stand as it were in perpetual admiration of the beauty of their persons, the gracefulness of their manners, and the excellence of their understandings. The servants of some persons of great rank had a custom of making up a long list, every day, of the virtues which such persons had that day put in practice, and reading it over to them next morning before they got out of bed, which was observed to render them quite facile and tractable for a long time after.

They persuaded the credulous, that the publick good was inseparably connected with their thriving.

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and opulence. 'Industry,' said they, 'is the source of wealth to a nation. Servants, every body must acknowledge, are the means of industry: thence it follows undeniably, that the more servants the better.' By the help of this argument they obtained, that many new establishments were made for servants. And such was the fascination that prevailed, that frequently there were settlements made for the provision of menial servants in a wilderness, where there was hardly a single creature to serve; and of husbandmen upon a sea shore, where there was not an inch of ground to cultivate. They also got about sick and dying persons, and by their officious services, by tending them with apparent care, and by frequently and readily giving them cordials, they prevailed, that many left great legacies to them in their wills.

C H A P. III.

Continues the same subject. And particularly gives an account of a very remarkable step taken by the Servants.

WHEN their possessions, privileges and immunities were thus enlarged, they began to claim greater respect than formerly, and to assume additional titles and designations. Some of them would be no longer servants properly speaking, but overseers. They affirmed that it was essential to the nature

nature of servants that some of them should be overseers, and that there could be neither order nor economy in a family without some such. To this they added suboverseers, and several other officers for their assistance. They then proceeded to arch-overseers, who had all the other overseers, as well as servants, under their jurisdiction. At a great meeting of the whole corporation, this was determined and decreed to be, and to have been, a part of the original institution of servitude, without which it could not possibly subsist.

These encroachments were very patiently submitted to, and, one would think, had been carried as far as the nature of the thing would admit. Yet there remained one step more which exceeded every thing that had been formerly seen, and happened as follows. An overseer of the capital city gathered a great many of his cotemporaries about him, and after begging their most serious attention to a proposal he had to lay before them, made a speech to the following purpose. 'Honoured and 'very dear Brethren, You know that the life of society is order, and the soul of order is subordination. The greatest service, therefore, that we can 'do to our corporation, is to keep up the subordination of officers among us with as much strictness, 'and to make it as compleat and extensive as possible. There are no structures which stand so securely, as those that are built in the form of a

‘ cone or a pyramid, because they have a broad base,
 ‘ and gradually lessen towards the top. Neither of
 ‘ these, however, is compleat, but maimed or im-
 ‘ perfect, unless it be carried on till it terminate in
 ‘ a point. Therefore, the subordination of our so-
 ‘ ciety can never be entire and perfect, till it end in
 ‘ a single person, who may unite the whole, and
 ‘ enjoy absolute uncontrollable dominion. And, as
 ‘ the person who is on the top of a pyramid must ne-
 ‘ cessarily see farther than those who stand upon any
 ‘ of the lower steps of it, so the person who is at the
 ‘ head of the whole society of servants must, in
 ‘ virtue of his office, surpass them all in wisdom and
 ‘ sagacity. Nay, as this order is of the institution
 ‘ of nature, and as a last resort or supreme judge is
 ‘ necessary to determine controversies in any society,
 ‘ so I do think it may be proved that nature, to be
 ‘ uniform and consistent in her operations, must im-
 ‘ mediately inspire the person so exalted with infal-
 ‘ lible knowledge and a sort of infinite mind. Now
 ‘ I hope it is very plain, that I myself am the per-
 ‘ son to whom, and to my successors in office, this
 ‘ power and authority do of right belong.’

One of the assembly then rises up and says, ‘ I
 ‘ greatly suspect this will be attended with no good
 ‘ effects upon the interest of the servants in general,
 ‘ not to mention the interest of the families, which,
 ‘ from a sense of duty to the corporation, I intirely
 ‘ give up. At any rate, it ought not to be gone in-
 ‘ to precipitately; for it is a prodigious innovation.’

‘ Quite

‘Quite otherwise,’ says the former speaker; ‘for
 ‘tho’ I have condescended to reason with you, and
 ‘show you that in the nature of things there must
 ‘be one who, like the top stone of a pyramid, is in-
 ‘cumbent on the whole body; as also, that this can
 ‘be no other than myself, who dwell in the centre
 ‘of this vast empire; yet I can give undeniable evi-
 ‘dence that it hath been always so in fact, since
 ‘there was an empire here, and since there were
 ‘servants.’ The objector then shook his head, as
 who should say that is far from being a clear point,
 and seemed to wonder from whence this evidence
 was to proceed. The other immediately goes on,
 ‘It is as clear as the sun; for, tho’ all the records
 ‘that contained this regulation are lost, yet I very
 ‘well remember, that my nurse told me before I
 ‘was two years of age, that her grandmother’s si-
 ‘ster’s cousin-german assured her it was fact.’

However unwilling, one would think, men should
 be to give up their natural rights, and submit to u-
 surped authority, yet so it was that they soon agreed
 to this scheme; and, indeed, it appeared to have
 been not ill projected for their own ends. It is not
 to be conceived at how speedy a pace they advan-
 ced, in acquiring and extending their dominion.
 They quite inverted the use of language; for when
 they spoke of the family they always meant the ser-
 vants; or, if they said any thing would tend to the
 good of the family, it was to be understood, that
 it would promote the increase of the wages, privi-
 leges

leges and immunities of the servants. In many places the servants grew upon the families, and turned them out altogether. In some of the most delicious spots of the country, you would have seen fine seats and inclosures wholly possessed by servants, who absolutely refused to do any work, but gave themselves up to lazy contemplation. If any body had presumed to ask them the meaning of this, they said they were employed in studying the theory of service, and wishing that all servants might be good, and all families well supplied.

It has been observed above, that they began their scheme by flattering the rich and great men, and endeavouring to insinuate themselves into their favour. But as soon as their power was sufficiently established, they changed their note, and treated the most considerable men of the country with great haughtiness and contempt. They affirmed it to be absolutely necessary for the publick good, that they should have much honour and respect paid them. That, as they were undeniably the most useful rank of men, by consequence they were the most honourable. Instead of being humble and submissive, they insisted, that all the people, from the highest to the lowest, should pay a profound respect to the overseers, archoverseers, and other dignitaries, whose names I have forgot, because they had neither sense nor meaning. Nay, the emperor of the servants arrived in time at such power, that he made the richest men in the country, even the governors

vernors of provinces to tremble. He ordered them sometimes to wipe his shoes; and, when they misbehaved or shewed the least backwardness, commanded them to be whipt.

When my informer mentioned this circumstance, I could not help discovering much amazement at the pusillanimity of these people, and even modestly hinted some suspicion as to the truth of the fact. He insisted, however, in the most positive manner, on the truth of his account, and added, that he had many things still more wonderful to communicate; as an instance of which he affirmed, that it was not only usual for the emperor to order great men to be whipt, but even to command them to whip themselves. All this they were obliged to submit to, for he had the lower servants, and the whole kingdom absolutely under his influence. If any person or family had disputed his will in the least article, they would either, without more ado, burn the house and them in it, or they would wholly give over work, and neither provide them with food nor fuel, so that they behaved immediately to starve.

What contributed not a little to establish this usurpation, was a very singular scheme which they fell upon while they were flattering great men, and persuading them to make new establishments for servants. This was, that families should not be permitted to choose servants for themselves, but that a lord, or any other great man, should have the power of nominating the servants within a certain district.

strict. They never failed to invent plausible reasons for all their schemes. In support of this it was alleged, that families were often whimsical in their choice. That some would prefer a servant because he was tall, and others because he was short; some because his hair was red, others because it was black. That they did not know when they were well served, and when they were not. That they were apt to be imposed on by such as had smooth tongues and could flatter them. That, if families and servants were in a good understanding, they would raise sedition and subvert the constitution.

On the other hand it was thought exceeding clear, that great men would understand the interest of the country, and the capacity of servants, much better than the vulgar. As also, that they were above all suspicion of partiality, and would be sure always to send fit and accomplished servants to every house. But alas, the contrary of all this was soon found by experience. They learned speedily to sell every place to the highest bidder, unless when they had a favourite or dependent to gratify, which indeed, at bottom, was the same thing. However, they were soon made dupes to the servants, for when the profit of this sale was found out, the overseers and archoverseers gradually usurped the nomination to themselves, and at last, it came to be made an addition to the great and overgrown power of the emperor.

It may easily be supposed, things were now in a
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sad situation, and they continued so, as tradition and written records assure us, for many ages. The lands lay uncultivated; the people were reduced to the greatest misery imaginable; they were sordidly cloathed and worse fed. No body prospered but the servants, or rather, only the upper ranks of them, the noble and honourable servants, the overseers and archoverseers. To these indeed may be added the idle and speculative sort, who were settled in hives, in the most pleasant and fruitful vallies, in every province. As for the poorer or lowest class of servants, who actually did any work for the families, they were as much oppressed, by this time, as their masters. Their wages were mostly taken up by lazy overseers, or exhausted by heavy taxes which they were obliged to pay to the emperor, and his court.

C H A P. IV.

A terrible Blow given to the Domination of the Servants; and particularly to the Power of the Emperor.

IT appears to be a fact, tho' not very well accounted for by philosophers, that, when men have been long accustomed to slavery, they hug their chains, and become so blinded, as to pride themselves in their misery itself. A poor peasant, in a neighbouring country, whose face is pale with
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hunger,

hunger, and his family scarce covered with rags, through the oppression of his prince, yet will be very ready to venture his life in vindication of the tyrant's honour, and count himself extremely happy to lay it down in defence of his person. So it happened with the people under consideration. They were so deluded by these servants, that, as their condition, so their reason itself was turned upside down. They gloried in the usurpation of the servants over them, worshipped them often as they passed, and stoutly defended all their rights and privileges.

If by chance it happened, (as there were always some in every age) that one thought fit to complain of the sloth, debauchery, avarice and tyranny of the servants; his brethren immediately raised a hideous accusation against him, and the stupid people generally joined in the cry. They immediately assisted his fellow-servants to seize him, to imprison him, and, according to the degree of his offence, to punish him. They first, indeed, took the most charitable pains to convince him of his error. If, upon this, he was willing to recant, and solemnly to declare that the conduct of the servants was admirable, and the character of them all unblameable, he was dismissed only with a good beating. But, if he was obstinate, and insisted on telling the truth, he was carried to a dreadful subterraneous palace, and, there, put to the most horrid and shocking tortures, which at length ended in death.

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However, at last, this mystery of iniquity got a terrible blow. One of the lower servants, of an honest heart, and a determined resolute temper, being filled with indignation at the oppression which the rest were guilty of, set himself to open the eyes of the publick, and expose their wickedness. He made a full discovery of all the frauds he had any how been acquainted with, and spared not the corruption of the emperor's court. Laying down only this plain principle, that servants were obliged to promote, at all times, the real interest of their masters, he set the abominable conduct of the covetous blood-suckers in the most odious light. Whenever he went to a fair, or other place of publick concourse, he would get upon an eminence, and, in a long discourse, endeavour to rouse the people from their lethargy; and inflame them with resentment against their oppressors.

This furnished his brethren with an opportunity of representing him as a disturber of the peace, and loading him with innumerable calumnies. Many tumults were raised against him, and he was often in imminent danger of his life. When he had narrowly escaped being stoned in publick, they would often hire desperadoes to assassinate him in private; and, sometimes, attempted to bribe his intimate friends to take him off by poison. However, by a mixture of bravery and caution in himself, together with the assistance of some faithful friends, who saw how much he was promoting their interest, or ra-

ther, by a most singular providence, he was always brought off safe. At last, a few of the other servants joined him, and they together opened the eyes of several provinces of the empire. These came to a formal resolution of casting off the yoke of the emperor, and settling the servants upon a quite new, or rather bringing them back to the old, reasonable and natural foundation.

This was not brought about without a most violent and pertinacious opposition. The emperor immediately sounded the alarm, and set the servants in motion throughout all his dominions. He could not be supposed, indeed, to look upon such a scheme with indifference; for it plainly tended to strip him of a great part of his revenue and power: nor was it easy to see where it would stop. He therefore cried out against it with all his might. He sent out a proclamation, in which he affirmed, that it struck against the very being of servants, and that the design was no less than to exterminate them from the face of the earth. He represented it as the most unnatural thing that ever was heard of. That there had been sometimes conspiracies of servants against their masters, but a joint conspiracy of masters against their own servants, and of servants against their fellow-servants, was absolutely without precedent. He concluded with a solemn execration, devoting all who should continue in this rebellion to compleat and irretrievable ruin.

The consequence of this was a civil war in the kingdom.

kingdom. Many battles were fought, in which there was a dreadful slaughter on both sides, and multitudes taken prisoners, who were none of them used very well. The emperor indeed, and his court had a manifest advantage, by long practice, in devising the most exquisite methods of revenge and cruelty. But, to shorten my narrative, after many violent and bloody disputes, as well as useless conferences, at last some provinces agreed to keep the old way, and some established the new. Particularly, in one Northern province there was, at the time of the change, a most excellent method and order established with regard to the servants. They not only renounced the authority of the emperor; but all overseers, archoverseers, auditors, controllers, accountants, keepers of records and other unnecessary officers were banished at once: and none suffered to continue but useful working servants. The speculative drones were expelled, and their lands given to persons of rank and worth in the province. That regulation was abolished, as extremely pernicious, which permitted lords or great men to name servants to others, so that every family chose such as best pleased themselves, and such as were well qualified for the business for which they were hired. The exorbitant increase of their wages was reduced, as well as all extravagant perquisites, and only a moderate provision continued and settled.

C H A P.

C H A P. V.

Some account of the Reformed Establishment, in a Northern Province; and the happy effects that followed upon it for a time. It begins however again to degenerate.

THE people of this province were now so fully convinced of the terrible consequences of the late usurpation, that they resolved to use all possible precautions, to prevent the return of corruption for the future. In this the servants themselves seemed to concur very heartily, and were, apparently, animated with a warm zeal against the worthless part of their own order. Many excellent rules were laid down in the meetings of the corporation. They were ordered under the severest penalties to apply themselves diligently to their business; to live sober, grave and mortified lives; to forbear all ranting, junketing and gaming. They were forbid all travelling abroad, or wandering from their families, but upon urgent occasions, and with leave asked and given. If any were convicted of dishonesty, laziness, or disobedience, they were not only dismissed, but stript of their clothes, branded in their foreheads, and declared utterly incapable of ever being again employed.

The greatest strictness imaginable was used in trying them, as to their sufficiency in every branch
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of business for which they were hired; and very diligent enquiry made into their character for honesty and sincerity. When they were introduced to any family, they were taken solemnly bound by a tremendous oath, to have the good of the family always at heart, and that they should never do any thing, directly or indirectly, that might tend to its prejudice. But above all, there was a strict law made, and declared to be unalterable, that no servant should be forced upon any family against their will. In order to secure, in the most effectual manner, the execution of these laws, it was resolved, that, in the government of the corporation, there should be joined with the servants certain persons of the most prudent sort from the families. These were called helpers, they had no salaries, but being naturally a sort of representatives of the people, it was expected they would universally support their interest.

For a long time this province was exceeding happy in their reformed constitution. The most perfect harmony subsisted between masters and servants. The work of the servants seemed to be a pleasure to them, and, on the other hand, the members of every family seemed to vie with one another who should treat their servants with the greatest tenderness and humanity. Once or twice there was an attempt made to introduce overseers and archoverseers among them, from a neighbouring province which had retained these officers, tho' they would
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not suffer them to be subject to the emperor. However, the people showing a proper spirit, they were still thrown out. All this time matters went on exceeding well, the fields were assiduously cultivated, and brought every year immense crops; and plenty as well as well as harmony was every where to be seen.

But alas, after a long season of peace and quiet, things began to alter for the worse. Ambition, avarice and luxury, would not be kept out by the banishment of the old titles. They found a way of introducing themselves, under cover of the form that then prevailed, without any apparent change. The most important step towards bringing this about, was re-establishing the law which impowered great men to nominate servants to inferior families. This was submitted to the more easily, because they only nominated them to the salary, provided that the corporation should think proper to introduce them to the family. For this purpose, the most sacred laws required an invitation from the family itself. But the young servants soon began to find, that it was far easier for many of them to play the parasite or sycophant about great mens houses, than they might procure a writ of nomination, than to acquire a good reputation for diligence in their work. That was the road, therefore, in which the greatest part of them travelled to preferment.

Many and fierce were the struggles, for several years, in the meetings of the corporation about introducing

roducing servants to families. As all the laws required an invitation from the family, when any person was nominated, a neighbouring court would send a deputation to the family, to ask them whether they would take such a one for their servant or not. Sometimes they wheedled and flattered, and sometimes threatened them, if they would not comply. If any consented, their names were set down three or four times, to swell the number; if any were angry and spoke impertinently, they were supposed to be out of their senses, and incapable of judging. After these arts were used they would sit down gravely to determine the matter, and FIND, that there was in this instance a most agreeable and harmonious invitation.

It is impossible to help smiling, when one reflects upon the various methods used in conducting this business. Sometimes they could not get a single person in a house to accept of the servant who had been nominated. When this happened, they used to send for all the relations of the family, even the most distant cousins, and ask their consent, which was easily obtained, because it was nothing to them whether the family were well served or ill. When they had obtained it, if a complaint was made, they endeavoured to prove by very ingenious reasonings that these distant relations had as good a title to invite a servant as any person whatever. Matters however drove on very heavily for a while; but in order to facilitate them, many gentlemen of estates,

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who knew not much either about service or servants, procured themselves to be chosen to the office of helpers. Not that they helped to do any thing; but, getting in to be members of the courts of the corporation, they contributed to provide servants in places. By this means many were provided with a piece of bread, who had been poor sneaking fellows, and had followed them in their youth, in hunting, fishing, and other diversions.

Such was the situation of affairs when my informer went into the country, and, as the case was very singular, the reader may easily guess how much it engaged his attention. He resided chiefly in this Northern province, and, therefore, his remarks were mostly confined to what happened among them. It would be endless to mention all that he told me, but the principal observations shall be communicated to the world in the following chapters.

C H A P. VI.

Of the great impropriety often seen in the appointment of servants; and the sentiments of the inhabitants on that subject.

THERE is commonly, in every society, some radical principle which governs and modifies the rest, and gives a tincture to all the measures that are carried on, whatever be their particular subject, or seeming intention. In the case before us,

us, the fundamental error appears to have been the power of nomination which was given to great men. The consequence of this was, an excessive impropriety in the appointment of servants to different families. If a poor ordinary family wanted a household servant, sometimes a lord would send them a foreign cook out of his own kitchen. This fellow would speak such minced broken language, that they could not understand him; and the meat he dressed for them they could not endure to look upon. When they desired him to provide plain solid food, such as they had been in use to eat, and in sufficient quantity to fill their bellies, he would serve them up a course of flimsy dishes, finely garnished, but entirely disguised, so that the poor people could not imagine what they contained. If at any time they made complaint of this, he triumphed over their clownish ignorance and unrefined taste, and would offer to prove, to the satisfaction of all men of sense, that he perfectly understood his art.

In innumerable such instances they went intirely in the face of common sense, in the choice and appointment of servants. Sometimes, if a family wanted a plowman or a gardiner, they would send them a huntsman, or a running footman. If a considerable merchant wanted a book-keeper, they would send him a stupid ignorant fellow who could neither write nor read. For this preposterous conduct there was no remedy. The great men counted the right of

nomination as a precious jewel, which no consideration could induce them to part with. And as the power of determination, in all disputed cases, lay in courts composed of servants, they strenuously supported the most unreasonable appointments. This was naturally to be expected, because a contrary conduct would have been a silent impeachment of many of themselves, as unfit for their present stations.

Besides, it happened in this case, as I observed had happened in a former age, many loved to have it so. The people of better rank, and those who would be thought to be of better rank, by an unaccountable fascination, not only approved but admired these measures. To allow families, they said, to choose servants for themselves, would be a source of endless confusion, but that the present was plainly a simple, rational, uniform and peaceable method of proceeding. It was a common and fashionable topic of conversation to despise the folly and impudence of the common people, who had always a strong inclination to choose their own servants, and looked with a very evil eye upon those who were thus billeted upon them against their wills. If any person, in a company, had but signified that he thought this conduct inconsistent with equity or good policy, he was not thought fit to be reasoned with, but a great and loud laugh was immediately raised against him, so that he was not only put to silence, but to confusion. Nay, there were not

not wanting many who affirmed, that no body could be sincerely of that opinion, but that it was only pretended, from base and sinister views.

I must observe here, that when my informer was on this part of the subject, which indeed he often resumed, as what had made a great impression upon his own mind, I could not help again discovering marks of astonishment. I told him, I very well knew the absurdities of which the human mind is capable, yet this seemed to be the most incredible of any thing that I had ever read or heard of; that it should be laughed down as a ridiculous notion, that families ought to be at liberty to choose their own servants. On this he was not a little offended, and speaking with some acrimony, says, 'It was to gratify your curiosity, sir, that, in this and former conversations, I have given an account of my observations in foreign countries. If you desire to hear no more, I shall be wholly silent; but give me leave to say, that the treatment which we travellers meet with when we return home, is at once unreasonable and ungrateful. If we tell you things that are common, you look upon them as insipid and trifling; and, if we tell you things that are quite new and surprising, you let us know, with great good manners, that you do not believe us.'

Then after a little pause, 'pray sir,' says he, 'how many nations are there in Europe, Asia or Africa, who think themselves at liberty to choose their

' their own prince, or to bring him to an account
' for oppression or bad government.' Truly, said
I, I believe not above five or six. ' Well then,'
says he, ' If, perhaps, fifty to one of mankind have
' thought it a sin or folly for them to choose their
' own masters, is it modest in you to suspect my vera-
' city, when I tell you of one nation, where it be-
' came fashionable to think that they ought not to
' chuse their own servants.'

' But, to come a little closer to the point,' says
he, ' are you not a member of the select society in
E-----h?' I am, and glory in it as a most honour-
able distinction. ' Have you not taken agriculture
' under your patronage?' Undoubtedly; and by
what means can we better promote the interest of
the public? ' By none, I admit. But suffer me to
' proceed with my interrogatories. Have you
' bought any land with the profits of your improve-
' ments?' Not yet. They are but in their infancy,
and have cost me a great deal of expence. ' Are
' the crops of improvers generally better than those
' of other people?' I cannot say they are. ' You
' ought,' says he, ' to have confessed that they are
' commonly worse; for, according to my observa-
' tion, the mark of an improver is not to have a
' good crop, but to be able to give a rational and
' philosophical account how he came to have a bad
' one. But have you not also encouraged a man to
' write books and read lectures upon agriculture,
' who made himself a beggar by putting it in prac-
' tice?'

'tice?' Perhaps it may be so, but he understood the theory. 'How came you to believe that he understood the theory? Alas! alas! sir, absurdities coming into fashion is not so rare a thing at home, as to entitle you to doubt the truth of my narrative, when I told you of the mistakes and delusion of a certain people abroad.'

I confess I was never more nettled at any thing, than at this unexpected attack upon the laudable attempts among us, of late, to improve our native country. To compare them with the monstrous conduct of the unpolished American people described in this book, was unsufferable. I could not, therefore, let the matter drop, but told him, all that you have said, sir, might easily be answered; however, not to spend time upon it at present, what do you think of, or what have you to say against the excellent and rational tracts which have been published by private gentlemen of fortune among us, upon agriculture? Do they not contain the clearest arithmetical calculations; of the profit to arise from the method laid down? 'I say,' answered he, 'they are all what the lawyers call *felo de se*, and totally inadmissible.' Your reason, pray. 'My reason! why, truly, I have more reasons than one. In the first place, they always put me in mind of a quack doctor with his *catholicon*. They have but one remedy for all diseases. A gentleman happens to be struck with some new theoretical principle; and immediately falls to work, runs down every thing else,

' else, and applies this wonderful discovery to all
 ' purposes, all soils, and all seasons, You know what
 ' enthusiasts the horse hoers and pulverisers are.
 ' Many of them are clearly of opinion, that dung is
 ' prejudicial to ground, as serving only to engender
 ' weeds. I was once quite of this opinion myself,
 ' and found no other difficulty in it, than how gentle-
 ' men and farmers would get quit of their dung,
 ' which, not being returned to the ground in the
 ' way of manure, must soon grow up to an enor-
 ' mous, and at the same time, most nauseous and of-
 ' fensive heap. When under these apprehensions, I
 ' remember to have projected a scheme to be car-
 ' ried on by subscription, which would have proved
 ' an effectual remedy. The method was, to have
 ' plans taken of every county, in which the level
 ' should be marked, then canals to be carried thro'
 ' all the low grounds, and smaller ducts drawn from
 ' every gentleman and farmer's house, terminating in
 ' these canals, which, by the help of a collection of
 ' rain water at every house, would, at certain seasons
 ' of the year, carry away the whole dung, and at last
 ' empty it into the sea. The expence of this scheme
 ' would, indeed, have been very considerable; but
 ' the great advantages to be reaped from it, I appre-
 ' hended, would soon convince every body of its uti-
 ' lity. Now, however ridiculous such a scheme may
 ' be, I am fully convinced it would have been put in
 ' practice in a certain county, if it had not been for
 ' the incorrigible obstinacy of the common people.
 ' I am

‘ I am also of opinion, that it would have succeed-
 ‘ ed, and that dung would have been wholly banish-
 ‘ ed in a short time. This would have happened,
 ‘ not only by the help of the canals, but the crops
 ‘ would have been so thin and spiritual, that the
 ‘ cattle who fed upon them would have passed very
 ‘ little of a gross or excremental nature.

‘ I shall not trouble you, continued he, at this
 ‘ time, with any more of my reasons but one. It
 ‘ seems highly incredible that, if the new schemes
 ‘ of agriculture were so profitable as their authors
 ‘ give out, they would be so generous as to discover
 ‘ them gratis to the publick, and even press the said
 ‘ publick to accept of them. It is more probable
 ‘ they would keep them as a secret in their own fa-
 ‘ milies, till their excellence were discovered by
 ‘ their visible effects. I know a manufacturing town,
 ‘ where, if any man falls upon a method of working,
 ‘ or a fabrick of goods, that is likely to bring a good
 ‘ profit, he is so far from pressing it upon his neigh-
 ‘ bours, that he uses every possible precaution to
 ‘ keep it to himself. On the other hand, his neigh-
 ‘ bours are as inquisitive as he is secret; and com-
 ‘ monly both discover and imitate it in a very little
 ‘ time. There is a disposition in mankind to resist
 ‘ what is forced upon them, and to leave no method
 ‘ unessayed to come at what is industriously placed
 ‘ out of their reach.

‘ I would, therefore, humbly recommend it to all
 ‘ improvers, to give over talking upon the subject,

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‘ and

'and to fall heartily about putting their rules in
 'practice; and, I can promise them, that, if they
 'be successful, it will not be long before they will
 'be quite common. Or, let every person who dis-
 'covers a nostrum in agriculture, apply to the go-
 'vernment for a patent that no body may be suffer-
 'ed to use it except himself, and those who shall pay
 'him sufficiently for the ingenuity of his invention.
 'I can assure you, sir, that if I had said to the peo-
 'ple whom I left a few years ago, that I knew a
 'nation, where it was common for benevolent per-
 'sons to point out to them plain, easy, cheap and
 'certain methods of growing rich, but they would
 'not be persuaded to use them, I would have had
 'the same compliment paid me, which you were
 'pleased to pay me some time ago, that I was tak-
 'ing the privilege of a traveller.'

I shall not trouble the reader with saying how
 far I was convinced by this reasoning, only it made
 me resolve to be entirely silent, as to any further
 particulars I should learn concerning the corporation
 of servants, how strange and unaccountable soever
 they might be. Having, therefore, brought this
 unavoidable digression to a close, we proceed with
 the history.

CHAP.

C H A P. VII.

Great partiality in the trial of Servants, and uncertainty in the characters given of them.

IF the reader recollects what was said in the preceding chapter, it is probable he will be surprised, that the corporation, with the powers given them, did not, for their own credit, look better into the qualifications of servants. Since it was in their power to license them or not, it may be supposed they would take effectual care, that no insufficient person should be admitted. But it is to be observed, that so soon as the method of fixing servants, upon the nomination of lords or great men, came to be again in use, the trial of their sufficiency turned to a mere farce. There might be some degree of integrity found in one court; but, in such a case, the candidate had nothing to do but apply to another, where he would find, perhaps, a set of rascally fellows who were ashamed of nothing. To what a degree of boldness they ventured to proceed, may be seen from the following account of what literally happened.

A certain court was going upon the examination of a young man, who desired to have a certificate that he was fully accomplished as a servant, and particularly well skilled in the cultivation of land. A grave and antient member asked him, Pray, sir, what is

the best way of plowing hard stiff land? *Ans.* By running a wheel-barrow over it. The examiner was highly offended with the absurdity of the answer, and shewed plainly in his countenance a mixture of surprize and indignation. But another member of court, being of a meek and gentle temper, and a great enemy to severity, thought proper to interpose. He says to his brother, My dear sir, the young man is modest and bashful, which in itself is a most amiable disposition, tho' it hinders him from answering so distinctly, as were to be wished. Then, turning to the candidate, he says, I dare say, sir, you know well enough that a wheel-barrow cannot plow land, because it will not enter into the soil, nor open it sufficiently. Must not hard stiff land be broken and pulverised, in order to make it fruitful? *Ans.* Yes, sir.

Then the first resumed his examination. Now, pray sir, Can you tell me how deep land ought to be plowed when it is well done? He, tho' quite ignorant of the subject, being naturally a man of mettle and acuteness, imagined, from what he had heard, that the deeper the better, and immediately answered, six yards. On this his examiner fell into a violent passion, and said, How have you the impudence, sir, to ask us to instal you as a plowman, when you know nothing of the matter? Was there ever such a thing heard or seen, since the beginning of the world, as plowing land six yards deep? or what conception could you have, in your own mind,
of

of the possibility of the thing? You ought to have a sentence passed against you, wholly incapacitating you for any place in this country.

The noble and generous spirit of the candidate was roused by this severe treatment, so, he replied; Pray sir, do you imagine that, in this improved age, the servants of the established corporation are brought up to a thorough knowledge of the several branches of business, for which the salaries are appointed? For my own particular, you ought not to be surprized that I could not tell you how land should be plowed, for I never saw a plough in my life. How, when, where and by whom were you educated then? says the other in amaze. *Ans.* I served an apprenticeship in a toy shop. Very well; says the examiner, blessed, precious, happy, improved times! I have no more to add, I give up the examination to any body that pleases.

When this discontented zealot had dropt the discourse, some other moderate men asked him a few polite and fashionable questions, such as, what is the genteelest lining for a red coat? in what manner should you present a glass of wine to a lord, and how to a farmer? whether is hunting or fishing the pleafantest diversion? whether should the servants or the children of a family have the best lodging, diet, &c.? after a few minutes had been spent in this manner, it was carried by a great majority that he had answered extremely well, and was, in every respect, a most accomplished servant.

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It was usual for the servants to carry certificates with them, from the inferior courts of the corporation, wherever they went; but if any man had trusted to these certificates, he would have found himself miserably mistaken. They had taken up a principle, that a man might attest any thing to be true, which he did not know to be false. On this principle, for a proper consideration, a vagrant fellow, of whom they knew little or nothing, would easily obtain a certificate, declaring him to be a compleat servant for every branch of business, and in particular, an admirable cook, gardiner, or whatever else he himself desired to be specified. If, upon trial, he was found totally deficient in any of the branches mentioned, and complaint was made to the court who certified for him, they thought they were fully excused if they could say that, upon their honour, they knew nothing about him, and were wholly ignorant whether he was a good servant or a bad. On all such occasions they used to launch out in praise of charity, and alledge, that every man had a right to another's good word, as far as it would go, unless he had forfeited it by some particular and known misdemeanor.

C H A P.

C H A P. VIII.

Servants of different characters. A sketch of the good and bad. The inveterate hatred of the bad against the good.

HOWEVER general the corruption was, the reader is not to imagine that all servants were of the same character, or behaved in the same manner. There were still some, here and there, who acted in a manner suitable to their station, who minded their business, who loved their masters, and were beloved by them. These made as great a struggle as they could to keep matters right in the meetings of the corporation, tho', commonly, with very indifferent success. The opposite principles and conduct of the two sorts may be learned from the following particulars.

They differed, *toto calo*, in their very profession and manner of speaking. The modern fashionable party affirmed, that courage and self-sufficiency ought to be the leading character of a servant. That he ought always to be speaking in praise of his own deeds. That he ought never to allow of any error or mistake in his behaviour; but, on the contrary, to insist that he deserved the highest approbation. Who is obliged, said they, to speak well of a man who speaks ill of himself? can there be any thing more pusillanimous, than for a servant to be always
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confessing that he can do very little to any purpose.

On the other hand, the honest sort of servants declared, that they thought pride and confidence were in themselves hateful, and quite intolerable in servants. That they should not make high pretensions, lest they should be brought but to the greater shame; that they should acknowledge the great imperfection of every thing they did, and expect to be rewarded, not for the worth or value of their service, but from the goodness and indulgence of their masters.

It was curious to observe the different effects of these principles. Those who spoke in the highest terms of their own qualifications, were always the most negligent and the most unfaithful. They grudged every thing they did, and laid hold of innumerable pretences for shortening their hours of labour, and procuring days of relaxation. If, at any time, one of them had done a piece of work in a tolerable manner, he could hardly be brought to do any more for two days; but was wholly taken up in admiring his own ingenuity, and commending it to all who would take the pains to listen to him. On the contrary, the humble and self-denied were always busy, applied themselves to their duty with the utmost care and assiduity, and thought they could never do enough. They never once called in question the hours of labour, but considered the necessity of the family, or the importance of the work they were engaged in. When any body happened to commend

commend one of them for his diligence, he intreated them to forbear such discourse, for he was very sensible he had not done the thousandth part of what he ought to have done.

Men came to be so sensible of the different effects of these principles, that almost every family earnestly wished to have servants of the self-denying character, and perfectly hated the other. If they entered into conversation with an unknown servant, they were particularly attentive to the strain of his discourse, and, though he were upon his guard, would, with great sagacity penetrate his sentiments. But, alas! this served very little purpose; for, if he had interest to procure a writ of nomination, they were obliged to receive him, and then being fixed in the saddle, he made a full discovery both of his principles and practice.

Nothing was more remarkable than the rancorous hatred which the self-sufficient bore to the humble servants; especially such as showed the most remarkable diligence in their work. They spread slanders against them without number. They used to go about with indefatigable diligence, among the great men, and nominators to the established salaries, to exasperate their minds against them, and prevent their settlement or promotion. They represented them as a set of poor, silly, sneaking, spiritless fellows, who, for no other end than to throw an odium on the more free and generous liveries, would work longer than usual. For the same

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reason

reason, it was pretended, that, when the rest were at their pastime, running, jumping, or cudgel playing, then to be sure, these hypocrites would be driving a stake, or pruning a tree about a farm, or picking weeds from a garden or field of corn. They represented them, also, (which was indeed partly true,) as acquiring a stiff rustick air, by often stooping, and habitual application to their work.

Neither were they wanting in executing their revenge against their enemies themselves, whenever an opportunity offered. If two or three of the looser sort met, by chance, one of the industrious in a solitary place, or going of an errand, they cunningly solicited him to join with them in some diversion, for example, blind-man's-buff, or any other. If he complied, they all conspired against him, and drubbed him heartily; and, after they had done so, one was immediately dispatched to inform against him, and let the family he belonged to know how he had been spending his time, so that he was no better than his neighbours. Whenever they discovered a servant in a field after the usual time of labour, they would get behind the hedges and pelt him unmercifully with stones, so that he returned home, not only fatigued with his work, but severely smarting with the wounds he had received.

Such was not only the conduct of individuals, but the very same spirit prevailed in the meetings of the corporation, from the lowest to the highest. None met with so severe treatment from them as honest

honest industrious servants, who were beloved in the families where they were placed; neither was there any crime so heinous as being more diligent than the generality of other servants. If any family accused a servant of pilfering, negligence, drunkenness, or wantonness among the maids, these were all human infirmities, no way atrocious in their nature. They were also hard to be ascertained; so that it was almost impossible to bring a proof of the facts to the satisfaction of the court. But, if one happened to be accused of doing any uncommon service to the family at their desire, or working when others were allowed to play, this was high treason against the constitution; and he was condemned without mercy, and sometimes without hearing.

But, of all the crimes of this sort, the most unpardonable was whatever tended to impeach the wisdom, or weaken the authority of the annual meetings of the corporation. When an inferior court was ordered to introduce a servant into a family who had refused to receive him, sometimes a member or two would humbly represent, that the terms of the oath appeared to them absurd and profane, in that instance, and beg to be excused. Whenever this happened, they were dragged as delinquents to the bar, rated and abused, stript and branded, declared infamous, and incapable even of repentance. It was many times affirmed in the general meeting, that no man could be guilty of a crime which, so much as, approached in guilt to

that of disparaging the authority of the corporation of servants.

I must take this opportunity of acquainting the reader with a story that happened a few years before my informer left the country. One of the servants, who was a great opposer of the prevailing measures, finding his brethren to be deaf to serious reasoning, fell upon a singular device. Being possess'd of a vein of humour, and knowing a little of the art of painting, he drew a picture of the droll or ludicrous kind, in which, by ænigmatical characters, he represented the various impositions of the servants in general. He also took off the likenesses of the principal and most active leaders of the corporation, and put them in the most comical postures imaginable. Here was to be seen a fellow capering and dancing in a garden all full of weeds, and his instruments lying beside him, quite grown over with rust-----Another carrying a basket over his arm, with the sign of a pine apple in his hand, and a passenger, on examining the contents, finds nothing but stinking fish, and stops his nose-----A great bloated fellow, swelled like a tun, challenging the whole country to run a race with him-----Another hurrying away a girl into a corner, and covering her with his frock.-----These, and many others, he drew in such a manner, as clearly to expose their knavery and ostentation.

This picture was stuck up, in the night-time, near a publick road leading to a great town. As the

the persons were all very well known, it is not to be imagined what entertainment it afforded to the people. No body could look upon it without laughing: and, when ever any of the servants, honoured with a place in it, were seen upon the streets, the boys gathered about them in crowds, and, to their unspeakable mortification, mimicked the postures in which they had been represented. Copies in miniature were taken of this performance, and kept in many families; so that, whenever the servants were in ill humour, they would pull out the draught, and hold it in their eye.

The fury and resentment of the servants, on the publication of this piece, is not to be conceived. The author had done it with so much caution and secrecy, that they could not get him legally convicted. However, they either discovered, or at least thought they had discovered who he was, and employed themselves night and day, in devising methods of revenge. Above all, that unlucky fellow, who had been represented following the girl, was so transported with rage, that he scarce ever returned to his right senses. He had been something of a draughtsman himself, so he set about making a picture in ridicule of the industrious servants; but, either the thing itself was so difficult, or he proceeded with so much rage and trepidation, that it was a perfect caricatura, and his friends prevailed with him to suppress it.

The poor author, in the mean time, was obliged
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to be constantly upon his guard, as there was always a set of desperadoes lying in wait for him, armed with clubs, and fully determined to beat his brains out, if they could catch him in a proper place. In the mean time, they all agreed in telling lies upon him without ceasing. They affirmed, that no body but a compleat rascal could be capable of such a performance; that to betray servants to their masters was, at any rate, a malicious trick; but, that for a servant to laugh at his fellow servants, and set other people a laughing at them too, was the clearest demonstration of a depraved heart. It was ten years after the fact was committed, that my informer left the country; and he declared that their resentment had not abated in the least degree: a circumstance which, I observed, had made a deep impression upon his mind; so that he would often say, From the fury of an enraged servant, good Lord deliver me. He also told me, that he was convinced by this example, that wit and humour was a talent unspeakably prejudicial to the possessor; and therefore, if ever he had a child, and observed in him the least turn that way, he would apply himself with the utmost assiduity to eradicate it as a vice.

C H A P.

C H A P. IX.

The carelessness of Servants in their work. A curious debate in a certain family, which issued in nothing.

IT will be easily perceived, from what has been said above, that the greatest part the servants were excessively negligent. They seemed to have two great objects constantly in view, and to carry them on hand in hand; the increase of their wages, and the diminution of their labour. The truth is, however strange it may seem, these always bore an exact proportion to one another. Whenever a servant got more wages settled upon him, he looked upon it as a consequence, that he should be more slothful than before. In the mean time, it was remarkable what ingenious and plausible reasonings they always fell upon to justify their conduct. On this subject particularly they would say, What is well done is soon done. A small piece of work, executed as it ought to be, is better than marring a great deal, which is worse than idleness.

Instead of any other general remarks, I shall entertain the reader with a curious example of their ingenuity, in devising excuses for their own neglect. This happened in the family of a great man, about three years after the publication of the ænigmatical picture, and plainly showed that, tho' the reproof had

had enraged them, it had contributed nothing to reform them. One morning, almost the whole servants of this family were gathered together in a large hall, to consider what work it would be proper for them to fall about that day. A servant who, indeed, was not very well looked upon, as inclining a little to the sober industrious kind, complained, that there had been for a long time an intolerable negligence in keeping the fences, and excluding straying or strange cattle from their masters grounds. He therefore proposed, that they should immediately go in a body, drive out all the strange cattle, without exception, that were in the inclosures, and mend up the fences, which were now in so sorry a condition. He told them, that there were many strange cattle pasturing where they ought not to be; particularly, that he himself, not an hour before, had seen a large bull, with a thick neck, and dull heavy eyes, but *broad shoulders, firm joints, and a tank belly*, which made him fit for jumping. On this a dispute arose, of which the reader may take the following just and faithful account.

One observed, that he could not agree to the motion, which proceeded from a person no way remarkable for a good temper. ' If our brother would look a little more at home, says he, perhaps he would find less reason for these snarling complaints of the negligence of others. The proposal is unkind and unbenevolent. There should be great
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‘forbearance used in every family toward their
 ‘neighbours. No doubt there have been, and
 ‘there will be, trespasses upon both sides; and there-
 ‘fore, I am humbly of opinion, that no notice should
 ‘be taken of it at all.’

A second then rises up, and speaks to the follow-
 ing effect. ‘If I thought that any good would fol-
 ‘low upon what is now proposed, I should readily
 ‘agree to it. I am perhaps as much attached to my
 ‘master’s interest as the person who made this mo-
 ‘tion, notwithstanding all his fine professions; but
 ‘I am persuaded it would be altogether in vain.
 ‘There is a strange disposition, in beasts of all
 ‘kinds, to break into those places from which there
 ‘is any attempt to keep them out; it would there-
 ‘fore only increase the evil it pretends to remedy.
 ‘All persecution, we know, helps the cause of the
 ‘persecuted; so that, supposing one has made an
 ‘encroachment at this time, if he were driven out,
 ‘we may depend upon it, he would immediately re-
 ‘turn with twenty more at his heels.’

A third made a very sage and learned observati-
 on. ‘Take notice, says he, what you are about to
 ‘do. There is more difficulty in it than you ap-
 ‘prehend. Is there not a very great similarity in
 ‘colour, shape and size, between our master’s cattle
 ‘and his neighbours? It would oblige us to a very
 ‘strict and particular examination before we could
 ‘determine the point. This would create such
 ‘difference of opinion, such zeal and keenness in e-

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' very one to support his own sentiments, that we
 ' might spend the whole time of our service before
 ' we could come to any conclusion. I acknowledge
 ' it is a fixed principle, that every beast should be
 ' kept only on his own master's grounds; but, I
 ' hope you will be sensible, it is only a speculative
 ' point which beast belongs to one master, and
 ' which to another. On this subject, wise and good
 ' servants have differed in all ages, and will differ
 ' to the end of the world.'

A fourth delivered the following opinion. ' I
 ' cannot help being against the motion, for a reason
 ' that no body has yet taken notice of. I can as-
 ' sure you, from my certain knowledge, it would
 ' give great pleasure to the strange cattle them-
 ' selves, and, in particular to the bull who seems to
 ' have given occasion to the present debate. He
 ' has a vast satisfaction in being gazed upon and
 ' wondered at, which would be the certain conse-
 ' quence of this attempt. Besides, he is infected
 ' with an inveterate itch, which gives him an infi-
 ' nite pleasure in being driven through the gaps of
 ' hedges, and being scrubbed and clawed by the
 ' thorns in the passage.'

A fifth said, ' I am surprized to see so much time
 ' spent upon this ridiculous proposal. The author
 ' of it seems to have forgot a fundamental law of the
 ' corporation, that no servant should meddle with
 ' the affairs of another family, or pretend to take
 ' the inspection or government of any beasts but
 ' such

‘such as belong to his own master. Now, says he,
 ‘this is manifestly the case in the present instance;
 ‘may, it is even implied in the proposal itself,
 ‘which is, therefore, quite irregular and incompe-
 ‘tent. If that bull does not belong to us, let his
 ‘own master send for him when he pleases; we
 ‘have nothing to do with him. Let us mind our
 ‘own affairs.’

Then rose a servant of ancient standing, several
 of his teeth having been lost by old age, who
 bore a particular mark of his master’s favour. He
 was remarkable for making long speeches, of which
 it was difficult to comprehend the meaning. After
 speaking about half an hour, quite unintelligibly,
 he concluded thus. ‘Brethren, I do not deny,
 ‘that such a proposal as this might have done
 ‘very well in former times, when the fences were
 ‘almost entire, and the offending strangers very few;
 ‘but, at present, it is quite romantick and impos-
 ‘sible. Will any man seriously pretend, at this
 ‘time of day, when the hedges are almost wholly
 ‘broke down, and so many encroachments on eve-
 ‘ry hand, to affirm, that none ought to continue
 ‘in the inclosures but such as truly belong to our
 ‘master. I am afraid his fields would make a
 ‘very desolate appearance, for there would be few
 ‘left behind.’

Last of all, one tells them in a few words, that
 the debate was altogether idle; that there was a
 mistake at the very bottom of the affair: for, by the

best information he could procure, the beast in question was not a bull, but an ox.

To sum up the matter, one or other of these various and contradictory reasons prevailed upon a great majority, to come to this resolution, That it was not prudent or expedient, at this time, to agree to the proposal; and, therefore, the intruders in general should be winked at, and that beast in particular, whether he were bull or ox, should continue where he was.

C H A P. X.

Of the ambition and covetousness of the Servants, and the various methods they fell upon to gratify their desires.

I Have observed before, that the constitution in this province was framed with great care, and seemed particularly calculated to prevent ambition and love of pre-eminence. For this reason, they established a parity among the servants, and took every measure they could think of, to prevent the introduction of overseers and archoverseers. By this time, however, the servants had not only degenerated in point of fidelity and diligence; but had made great encroachments upon the constitution itself. They had a prodigious hankering after the high-sounding titles, and immense revenues, which were given to servants in the neighbouring province.

vince. It grieved them to hear, and sometimes, when sent upon business to that country, to see, that some of the overseers lived in splendid palaces, and were carried about in chariots, while they themselves were still obliged to wear the dress of servants, and generally to walk a-foot.

Gladly would they have introduced these offices in their own province; but the great men, who had hitherto assisted them, dreaded the expence, and would not agree to it. They were, therefore, obliged to proceed cautiously and gradually. In some few instances, they made it appear, that one servant might be introduced to two different families, and enjoy both the salaries. As to the work, they might be sometimes in the one, and sometimes in the other; or, if one of them was a family of small consequence, they might do well enough without any servant at all. They begged, in the most abject manner, of the governor of the province, that a small number of salaries might be appointed, without any office annexed to them, by way of gratuities, for the encouragement of good servants. This was done; and there followed a terrible competition for obtaining them, which produced a most malignant hatred between those who were successful and those who were not.

The reader may perhaps imagine, that the hope of meriting these salaries would excite them to vie with one another, in doing the business of the families where they served. It was quite the contrary.

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They tried every method of advancement but that only; or, if any did try it in that way, they were sure to be disappointed. Some of them used the old way of flattery, which had always a very great effect. Some became political tools, spies, and informers to the prevailing party at court. Some were not ashamed to become pimps and pandars to great men, and even sometimes to attend them in their nocturnal expeditions. Some endeavoured to make themselves remarkable for feats and achievements quite out of the way of their own business. One of them, for example, would make a windmill, of curious structure, and put it upon the top of the house where he lived. The consequence of this was, that passengers going that way, after standing still and admiring it a little, would ask any person they saw near, who had done it. The answer immediately followed, *The servant who lives here, he is a most ingenious fellow, as ever was seen.* Thus was his fame spread abroad, and sometimes came to the ears of the people above.

I cannot help particularly mentioning one, who was the most successful of all that had gone before him, who was alive when my informer left the country, and probably may be alive at this very time. The method he fell upon, was telling wonderful stories of the heroic actions of that people's predecessors, a subject of which they were enthusiastically fond. He had acquired a very great knack of story-telling, and could describe things so to the life,

life, both by word and gesture, that every body was delighted to hear him. He immediately gave over all work in the family to which he belonged; and when they civilly put him in mind of his neglect, he told them they might go about their business, for they were a pack of feditious scoundrels, altogether below his notice. He was a fellow of uncommon ability; and no less remarkable for enterprize and resolution. He carried on his schemes; procured for himself one salary after another; and did not fail to laugh at the simplicity of those who bestowed them, saying among his intimate companions, *He blessed God that mankind were so easily deceived, by the formal countenance of a servant.*

The supernumerary salaries, however, were so few, that they were soon exhausted, and did little else, indeed, than excite a hungry and thirsting after more. To remedy this, they fell upon a method of gratifying the vanity of those whose pockets they could not fill. A title was invented, which, (like the honorary rewards of the ancients in this part of the world) they said, would serve to distinguish illustrious merit, and raise a happy emulation. The title was, Master of Service; and the directors of the schools or places of exercise were appointed to bestow it, according to the skill and proficiency of the candidates. Immediately applications came in from all quarters, and it was dealt about very liberally, and, if possible, even more absurdly than the salaries had been before. There was hardly

ly an instance of its being bestowed for real knowledge or useful industry; but for some whimsical qualification of a different kind. If a man had invented a new dance or song, or collected a whole barrel of salted butterflies in one summer, or made a gold chain for binding a flea to a post, he was instantly created a Master of Service.

C H A P. XI.

Of the sentiments of the People concerning the Servants, and their manner of treating them.

THE reader may probably be wondering in himself, how the people behaved in these circumstances, and what became of their affairs. He may be ready to think, that their patience must be by this time nearly exhausted, and some terrible revolution at hand. The truth is, the patience of many of them had been at an end for many years; but, being divided among themselves, their influence was not sufficient to produce a general change. It is impossible to mention all the effects which the conduct of the servants had upon the people; but it will be worth while to take particular notice of two classes of men, and their behaviour upon the subject.

One set of people rose among them, whose sentiments and conduct were as singular and extraordinary, as any thing recorded in this book. They were

were men who made high pretensions to reason and penetration, and gave themselves much to abstract reflections upon the nature of things. They were of opinion, that all the wisdom of the nation centered in themselves; and that all the rest were downright fools or madmen. However, entering upon their speculations with such an overweening conceit of themselves, their boasted reason first led them into many mistakes, and at last fairly turned their heads.

It was their custom to search into history, and particularly into the history of the servants. There they found, that, in every age, there had been a great deal of knavery among the servants. All the instances of this sort they used to collect, publish, and compare with the conduct of the servants in their own times; which they exposed with the greatest severity. At last, by long dwelling upon this subject, they came to be of opinion, that there ought to be no such thing in nature as a servant; that they never had done any thing but harm; and that the world would be much better without them. Sometimes sober-minded people attempted to set them to rights, and alledged, that, tho' the dishonest had always been too numerous as well as noisy, yet still there were some of great worth and usefulness; nay, that society, in the nature of things, could not subsist without persons in lower stations, to serve and accommodate those in higher. This was so far from having an effect upon them, that they became always more positive

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upon contradiction; and scarce ever failed to advance opinions still more wild and romantic than before. Instead of yielding that servants were necessary in society, they affirmed, that it was not only desirable, but extremely possible, to have a whole nation of lords, without one person among them of inferior degree.

They affirmed, that excepting servants, all other men were by nature wise, honest, and active; fully sufficient for their own happiness; and that they would have been quite virtuous and happy, without any exception, if they had not been blindfolded and deceived by the servants. To this race, whom they used often in a fit of raving, to curse in a most dreadful manner, they imputed all the envy, malice, oppression, covetousness, fraud, rapine, and bloodshed that ever had happened since the beginning of the world. In support of their scheme, they made learned disquisitions on nature, and the first cause of all things. They shewed that nature was, and must be wise and good in all her productions; and, therefore, that man must needs be free from every thing that is evil, and his original constitution perfectly just and sound. All the disorders that were to be seen in society were easily accounted for, from the hellish machinations of the servants. In the mean time, it was obvious, that the servants were the product of nature too; and according to the same reasoning, must have been of as gentle and tractable dispositions, and in all respects

spects as faultless as their masters. This manifest difficulty in their own scheme, however unaccountable it may appear, they never once reflected upon, nor by consequence attempted to resolve.

Sometimes they were pressed with the necessity of servants to cultivate the ground, which, if neglected, it was plain, would grow over with briars and thorns, and every noxious weed. Here they immediately recurred to their old argument, the excellency of nature's productions; and, upon the strength of it, presumed absolutely to deny the fact. They said, were the earth only left to itself, it would produce nothing but what was useful and salutary, and that in great abundance, for the support of its inhabitants; that all the pretended cultivation of it by the servants was but spoiling it; and that they themselves had sowed the seeds of every hurtful or unnecessary plant. It was to no purpose to mention to them, either the vast tracts of uncultivated ground, or the desolate condition of a neglected field; all this, they pretended, arose from a certain sympathy in the several parts of the earth one with another, and from poisonous vapours easily carried by the wind, from the places where servants had been at work. In short, they sometimes projected a scheme for a new settlement where no servants should be admitted; and where they hoped, in a little time, every man would be as wise as a philosopher, as rich as a merchant, and as magnificent as a king.

After all, the perfection of their absurdity appeared in the following circumstance. Though it was plain, to any person of reflexion, that their delirium took its rise from the tricks and misbehaviour of bad servants, yet they had the most rooted and inveterate antipathy at those that were good. The reason, probably was, that the diligence and usefulness of this last sort stood directly in the way of their scheme, and prevented the rest of the nation from being of their opinion. All seemingly good servants they affirmed to be at bottom arrant knaves; and in one respect, unspeakably worse than any of the rest, because they appeared to be better. The idle, slothful, worthless servants, were frequently their companions; and it was one of their highest entertainments to lead such fellows into frolicks, mischief, or debauchery, and then point them out to their fellow citizens, and use words to this purpose, ‘ You poor hood-winked fools, do you see these rascals? why will you any longer harbour them in your houses? they are all of one complexion, and will infallibly bring you to misery and speedy destruction.

CHAP.

C H A P. XII.

Continuation of the same subject. The sentiments and conduct of others, in consequence of the behaviour of the servants.

WE are not to suppose that the whole nation lost their senses. No: by far the greater number acted as prudently and rationally as men could do in their circumstances. According to plain common sense, in proportion as corruption and degeneracy increased among the servants, they set the higher value on such as were honest and faithful. They used every mean in their power to procure such for their own families, agreeably to the laws of the corporation. When this could not be brought about, or when a good-for-nothing-fellow was buckled to the salary; they put themselves to the additional expence of hiring one according to their own mind; paid the former his wages duly, and only desired the favour of him to give them no trouble, but spend his time according to his own fancy.

It was pleasant enough to observe the different conduct of the established servants, according to their different tempers, when they fell under this predicament. Some of them were greatly enraged to see the service of another preferred to theirs, used many artful methods to prevent it where they could,
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and took every opportunity of venting their malice, or glutting their revenge when they could not. Where they could get any body to believe them, they asserted that all skill and power of doing good was confined to the corporation; that it was inherent in them, and descended in their blood from one generation to another, like courage in the race of game cocks. The others, they pretended, were a spurious brood, and that it was impossible to train them so as to make them fit for service.

If this did not gain credit, all possible pains were taken to disparage the conduct of the additional servants. Their work was examined with the greatest strictness, every flaw in it pointed out, and many faults imputed to it merely through envy. If any piece of work appeared to be substantial, they pretended it wanted neatness, and was altogether inelegant. This charge, however, made little impression upon the people. They had been so long plagued with servants who minded nothing but ornament, both in their persons and their work, that they were rather pleased than disgusted with one of a more homely carriage.

When nothing else would do, the grossest lies and calumnies were spread, both of the new servants and those who employed them. It was pretended, that they sowed the seeds of sedition and disaffection, in the families where they got admittance. Sometimes this accusation, tho' utterly groundless, obtained such credit with the governors, that, if they had a com-

complaint to make, or a cause to try, they could scarcely expect justice. It was also alledged, that they terrified the children out of their wits, by telling frightful stories in the winter evenings. You might meet with many of the established servants who asserted, and even seemed to believe, that all who employed any other than themselves, were idiots or crack-brained, and destitute of common sense.

On the other hand, not a few of the established servants were altogether indifferent how many others were hired, and how little work was left to themselves. They knew that their wages were well secured to them, which was the main chance; and they found rather more time and liberty to follow the bent of their inclinations. Perhaps they would have been better satisfied if the people had been content with what kind and quality of work they thought proper to do. But, as this was not to be expected, the hiring of others rendered all matters perfectly easy, and their lives were one continued scene of indolence or pleasure.

In the mean time, it was highly diverting to hear how they expressed themselves upon this subject, and with how much art and cunning they made a virtue of necessity. They used to extol their own candour and benevolence. ‘Gentlemen,’ one of them would say, ‘you see with what discretion I use you. I am always glad to see liberty prevail, and every man suffered to do what seems proper to himself. I am well pleased, that you should hire

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' as many servants as you incline. I ask no more,
 ' than that I may have a clean neat bed-chamber, in
 ' a convenient part of the house, my wages well and
 ' regularly paid, and a small bit of ground in the
 ' garden to bring up a few delicious herbs and fruits
 ' for my own use. If these things are properly at-
 ' tended to, you shall find me a good man to live
 ' with; I shall never interfere with your work in
 ' the least, or give you any manner of trouble, even
 ' by making remarks upon it.' In such a case, it
 would happen now and then, that one of the fa-
 mily, touched a little with the absurdity of this
 phlegmatick speech, would answer, ' That very well
 ' he might make himself easy, since, all the while,
 ' he was well fed and clothed at their expence.'
 This he would receive with silent contempt, and
 display the greatest satisfaction in his own composure
 of spirit, and meekness of temper.

As for the remaining part of the nation, they
 reflected very little upon their condition, but took
 such servants as were sent to them, and rubbed on
 as well as could. Such quiet and passive people
 were highly extolled by the servants, who took all
 opportunities of declaring, that they were the only
 solid and rational persons in the whole kingdom.
 These praises delighted them greatly; so that they
 lived as poor and as merry as beggars, who have no-
 thing to hope, and nothing to fear.

C O N-

C O N C L U S I O N.

THUS I have given the reader an account of this extraordinary class of men; and, I am certain, he must confess, there is something in their characters and conduct, proper to excite a mixture of laughter and indignation. It is also probable, that he feels a considerable degree of sympathy with the deluded and oppressed people, and is anxious to know, whether there appeared any prospect of deliverance. This was a question I often asked at my informer, who assured me that, from what he had heard and seen, there was not the most distant prospect of reformation by the servants themselves. The honestest sort were always borne down, traduced and slandered; and those of an opposite character had so long kept the management of the corporation in their hands, that they reckoned themselves secure in their authority, and openly set at defiance both the people in general, and their fellow servants.

There remained just a glimpse of hope from one quarter, *viz.* the gentlemen who had been chosen to the office of ~~helpers~~. They had at first contributed as much as any to the introduction of wrong measures; but, not being under the temptation of interest, they began to open their eyes at last. For some years they had been a considerable restraint upon the violence of the servants, and had prevent-

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ed them in several instances from degrading, stripping, and branding those who had incurred their displeasure, by doing business at unreasonable hours. They had also contributed to the disgrace and dismissal of some drunken fops, and lascivious wretches, whom several of the leading servants had a strong inclination to spare. From these circumstances, some flattered themselves that a change might be brought about; and that, though the servants would never think of any reformation themselves, it would soon be forced upon them by a foreign hand.

After all, it was but very uncertain whether any material change would soon take place; and therefore, while we can only send that unhappy people our good wishes, we have reason to rejoice in our own good fortune, that we are perfectly free from impositions of the same or any similar kind.

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