REFLECTIONS

ON SINGULARITY OF MANNERS; BY MR. GRAVES.

"There are few people of ſuch mortified pretenſions, as patiently to acquieſce under the total neglect of mankind; nay, ſo ambitious are moſt men of diſtinction, that they chuſe to be taken notice of, even for their abſurdities, rather than to be entirely overlooked, and loſt in obſcurity; and, if they deſpair of exciting the attention of the world, by any brilliant or uſeful accompliſhment, they will endeavour to gain it by ſome ridiculous peculiarity in their dreſs, their equipage or accoutrements.

"Many perſons may remember a little foreigner, (Des Caſeaux I think, was his name) who appeared daily in the Mall, dreſſed in black, with an hat of an enormous diameter, and a long roll of paper in his hand. His picturesque appearance tempted ſome artiſts to make an etching of him, which was exhibited in every ſhop.—I mention this gentleman, becauſe his profeſſed intention was, he ſaid, "to attract the notice of the king, as he had done that of his ſubjects."

"But we ſee daily inſtances of the ſame kind. One man ſports a paradoxical walking ſtick; another riſes to fame by the ſhortneſs of his coat or the length of his trowſers, or the multiplicity of capes on his ſhoulders, and the like efforts of genius and invention. I remember a young divine ſome years ſince, not otherwiſe eminent either for learning or ingenuity, who wore his own ſhort hair, when every one elſe wore long wigs, "in imitation, as he ſaid of Gregory Nazianzen."

"It would be cruel to deprive theſe gentlemen of their ſlender gratification in theſe harmleſs particulars; but when we aſſume any thing peculiar in our appearance, in order to diſguiſe our real character; when we affect an uncommon ſanctity and ſolemnity of countenance to impoſe upon the world; we then become more than ridiculous, and are highly immoral.

"A Tartuffe indeed, or a pretender to extraordinary devotion, is not a prevailing character in this age; too many are in the contrary extreme; and, like col. Chartres, are guilty of every human vice—except hypocriſy. Even our young divines, though doubtleſs much given to faſting and prayer in private, yet "appear not to men to faſt;" but anoint their hair, and exhibit their roſy faces; and by their dreſs, are not to be diſtinguiſhed from profane ſportſmen or country ſquires. I do not exempt the orators of the tabernacle from this deſcription, who, inſtead of the primitive locks of John Weſley, ſeem now to make female converts by their well dreſſed hair, and dapper appearance.

"Yet, in every profeſſion, there are ſtill pretenders, who by grimace, or affected ſolemnity, endeavour to gain the confidence of the vulgar, and to exalt themſelves above their equals in ſkill, and aſſume more importance than is their due.

"However, if we muſt diſtinguiſh ourſelves from the reſt of mankind, let it be by our intrinſic virtue, our temperance and ſobriety, and a conſcientious regard to every relative duty; but, as we ought "to think with the wiſe, and talk with the vulgar," let us alſo act differently from a great part of the world in matters of importance, but conform to them in trifles. This is what Seneca ſo forcibly inculcates in his fifth epiſtle to his friend Lucilius.

"I both approve of your conduct, and ſincerely rejoice that you reſolutely exert yourſelf; and, laying aſide every other purſuit, make it your whole ſtudy to improve yourſelf in wiſdom and virtue. And I not only exhort, but earneſtly intreat you to perſevere in this courſe.

"Give me leave, however, to caution you not to imitate thoſe pretended philoſophers, who are more ſolicitous to attract the notice of the world, than to make a progreſs in wiſdom; nor to affect any thing ſingular in your dreſs, or in your manner of life. Avoid that prepoſterous ambition of gaining applauſe, by your uncouth appearance, your hair uncombed, and your beard neglected; nor be always declaiming againſt the uſe of plate, of ſoft beds, or any thing of that kind. The very name of a philoſopher is ſufficiently invidious, though managed with the greateſt modeſty and diſcretion.

"Suppoſe we have entered upon our Stoical plan, and begun to ſequeſter ourſelves from the converſation and cuſtoms of the vulgar; let every thing *within* be diſſimilar; but let our *outward* appearance be conformable to the reſt of the world.—Let not our apparel be ſplendid or ſhewy, nor yet mean or ſordid. Let not our plate be emboſſed with gold; but let us not imagine, that the mere want of ſuch expenſive plate is a ſufficient proof of our frugality. Let us endeavour to live a better life, not merely a life contrary to that of the vulgar; otherwiſe, inſtead of conciliating the favour of thoſe whom we wiſh to reform, we ſhall excite their averſion, and drive them from our company; we ſhall alſo deter them from imitating us in any thing, when they are afraid that they are to imitate us in every thing.

"The firſt advantages which philoſophy promiſes, are, a juſt ſenſe of the common rights of mankind, humanity, and a ſociable diſpoſition; from which advantages, ſingularity and diſſimilar manners will entirely ſeclude us. Let us beware, leſt thoſe peculiarities by which we hope to excite the admiration, ſhould expoſe us to the ridicule and averſion of mankind.

"Our object is to live according to nature; but to torture our bodies, to abhor cleanlineſs in our perſons, when attended with no trouble, or to affect a cynical filthineſs in our food; this ſure is living contrary to nature. As it is a mark of luxury to hunt after delicacies, to reject the common unexpenſive comforts of life is a degree of madneſs. Our Stoic philoſophy requires us to be frugal, not to mortify ourſelves; but there is ſuch a thing as an elegant frugality. This moderation is what I would recommend."

ACCOUNT OF

MURAD BEY,—*Governor of Cairo.*

From SONINI's Travels.

Of Murad Bey, the Governor of Cairo, during M. Sonini's reſidence in that city, (A. D. 1778) and who was ſtill in poſſeſſion of that authority when Buonapare invaded Egypt, he gives the following account. For ſuch a prolonged exerciſe of ſovereignty in a country where authority has been ſo tranſient and precarious, he was indebted to his profuſe liberality and his uncommon courage. The former of theſe qualities ſurrounded him with partizans, while the latter made him at once feared and reſpected. Murad ſurpaſſed all his predeceſſors in ſtate and magnificence. His Mamalukes were richly clothed; opulence reigned in his houſehold; his horſes were of the greateſt beauty and ſuperbly capariſoned. He diſperſed his wealth with boundleſs profuſion, but he filled his coffers with equal facility by frequent and odious extortions.

"I viſited the camp of Murad. For the accommodation of him and his principal officers were erected immenſe tents, which were divided into ſeveral apartments.—The floors were covered with the moſt beautiful carpets, and the interior decorations conſiſted of the richeſt gold and ſilver ſtuffs that the manufactories of Lyons could afford. Nothing could equal the magnificence of his cavalry; gold and ſilver ornaments, with the choiceſt embroidery on Morocco leather, glittered with a dazzling luſtre in the rays of a burning ſun; and the houſings of the ſaddles, trimmed with a broad gold lace, were made of thoſe handſome velvets, the ſmall and elegant patterns of which diſplay the elegant taſte that prevails in all the productions of the manufacturers of Lyons.

I was ſometimes admitted into the palace of Murad, by means of a young Frenchman who enjoyed his confidence. The Bey received me with civility, made me ſit by him and ſmoke out of his own pipe, in this country a diſtinguiſhed honour. He aſked me a thouſand queſtions, every one more ſilly than the other, and all betraying the moſt profound ignorance. At length from the account given him by my introducer, and the ſatisfaction he received from my anſwers, he was determined to have me enter into his ſervice, in the double capacity of phyſician and engineer. He offered me a large houſe at Cairo, domeſtics of every kind as ſervants and guards, a daily ſuperabundance of proviſions, and a conſiderable income. His offers might have ſeduced any one unacquainted with the capricious humours of theſe unprincipled beys, who one day will load a man with favours, and the next ſuddenly throw him into irons, or perhaps order him to be put to death.

"Murad, who had the courage to fight the French army, is a very handſome man: he has a martial appearance; his chin is covered with a thick buſhy black beard; his thick eye-brows deſcribe arches of ebony over his large eyes, which are full of vivacity and fire. A long ſcar in one of his cheecks adds to the fierce caſt of his countenance. To great bravery he joins ſingular addreſs and extraordinary ſtrenght. He has been known, when riding paſt an ox, to cut off its head with one ſtroke of his ſcimitar. An intrepid warrior, capable of enduring the greateſt hardſhips; an excellent horſeman, courageous in adverſity, bold in enterprize, cool in action, but terrible in an onſet; Murad, with inſtruction, might have become a great general. His proud deportment and munificent diſpoſition give him the appearance of a ſovereign; but injuſtice, cruelty and ignorance, have rendered him a ferocious tyrant.

LONDON, May 12.

Extract of a letter from Ratisbon, April 29.

On the 27th, the king of Pruſſia made known his wiſhes by his repreſentatives in the two colleges. It is doubtleſs intereſting to know the manner in which the firm agreement of the cabinet of Berlin and Munich has been continued and expreſſed in the Diet.

"The following was declared in the name of the king of Pruſſia, as duke of Magdeburg in the college of the princes.

"Since the memorable deliberation on the ſubject of the ratification of the peace, concluded on the 9th of February laſt by his Imperial majeſty, in the name of the empire, his Pruſſian majeſty has thought that he owed the utmoſt readineſs of conſent to the ſacrifices, which had become neceſſary to end a moſt calamitous war. He thought it his duty to his co-eſtates, whoſe country, ſtill groaning under the oppreſſion of war, muſt deſire to be relieved, and this obligation to put bounds to the evils of humanity. All the co-eſtates of his majeſty have diſcovered determinations to diſcharge it in this deliberation, with a zeal and conſent, which will prove that the antient German union ſtill exiſts. The preſſing circumſtances have been the ſole inducement for his majeſty's ſo eaſy conſent to the ratification of this peace, which contains new articles, infinitely intereſting to the German empire, and which are far beyond thoſe which the unhappy negociations of the Congreſs at Raſtadt and the treaty which preceded, intended to obtain.

But, with theſe ſame diſpoſitions, his majeſty has regarded the deliberation actually held upon the decree of the Imperial commiſſion of the 5th of March, relative to the co-operation of the empire for the completion of the whole work of peace, as an object ſingularly important in its conſequences, deſerving more mature reflection, and requiring indiſpenſibly on his part, that he take proper time to conſult his co-eſtates which have repoſed confidence in him. Beſides, his majeſty, who certainly has never retarded any deliberations of the Diet, has noticed with concern, that this affair, ſo eminently important, ſhould be treated with even leſs time than was employed upon the ratification of the peace of the empire. Many of his co-eſtates have the ſame thoughts and wiſhes. In the conviction that it will be beſt not to preſs this affair too much, though the principal concerns of the peace be delayed; and to leave ſtill time for deliberation on many ſubjects on account intereſting, his majeſty thinks himſelf authoriſed to defer his vote for ſome time longer. Still he is willing to vote under the reſerve inſerted in the Protocol of 6th March, and there renewed in form; namely, that though he gives his full conſent to the ratification of the treaty of peace at Luneville of 9th February, he may nevertheleſs, from his particular relations, and as a member of the empire, reſerve his right and co-operation in all future arrangements which may follow the peace, and may concern the conſtitution and the interior relations of the empire. And, with this vote, his majeſty will accede to what has been expreſſed by the miniſter of Bavaria.

"In conſequence, on the 29th April, the Imperial court withdrew the vote it had given, and which in ſubſtance was, that a deputation of the electors of Saxony and Mentz ſhould have in charge all farther arrangements concerning the peace of the empire. The declaration by the Pruſſian miniſter was in theſe terms:

"The miniſter of Auſtria, has received from his Imperial majeſty, an order to accede to the opinion of the majority, though their voice has not been in agreement with the propoſition of his majeſty. In conſequence, as the manner of conſent of the Eſtates of the Empire to the finiſhing of the work of peace, adviſed by his Imperial majeſty, has been ſupported only by a minority of votes, among which moſt of them are but eventual, and ſince, on the contrary, almoſt all the other voices give the preference to this kind of co-operation of the Eſtates of the Empire, which ſhould be employed in their name by the Supreme Chief of the Empire duly authoriſed for this purpoſe, he wiſhes on the part of Auſtria, to accord with this decided plurality of members, upon condition that they ſhall be granted to his Imperial majeſty, on the part of the Empire, full power without any reſtriction, to terminate, and finally adjuſt all affairs, relying, the French government will conſent to ſuch limited powers for the time, as were contemplated in the Congreſs for peace at Raſtadt.

LONDON, May 28.

The following intereſting particulars are extracted from a letter, dated Cork, the 14th inſt.

"A few days ago a man alone in a ſkiff was ſeen upon the coaſt, near Oyſterhaven, who, upon being challenged, ſaid he had come from Portſmouth to ſee his brother in Cork, but miſſed the harbour by the ſtrong eaſterly winds that then prevailed. The ſkiff had on her ſtern, "*Owen Sullivan, Portsmouth.*" Intimation of this circumſtance being given to Admiral Gardner, an inveſtigation in conſequence took place, when there were found on board ſeveral charts of that part of the coaſt, and a particular account of the ſoundings. The ſkiff was well fitted out, having two or three ſuits of new ſails in her."

It will be recollected, that Oyſterhaven was reported to the French by the executive directory of the United Iriſhmen as a favorable place to carry into effect an invaſion of that country.

May 29.

Neutral veſſels that have lately arrived, ſtate that Admiral Villaret Joyeuſe, who was ſo completely beaten by the late Earl Howe, on the 1ſt of June, 1794, is again appointed to the command of the combined fleets in Breſt.

The advantage to G. Britain of her connection with Portugal conſiſts, not only in the trade with Portugal itſelf, but in that which is carried on under the denomination of a Portugueſe intereſt with the Brazils. Portugal, in a commercial view, is little more than the channel through which Brazilian wealth and Britiſh commodities paſs to and from Great Britain. The luxurious conſumption, and ready payments of the South-American conſumer, are the wealth of the Britiſh manufacturer and merchant. Even the ſhipping employed in the traffic between Liſbon and Rio de Janeiro, though nominally Portugueſe, are ſaid to be chiefly Britiſh property.

Texier, chief ſurgeon of the military hoſpital at Verſailles, and Alibert, a phyſician at Paris, have inoculated ſome ſheep with vaccine matter, in order to diſcover whether any analogy ſubſiſts between the cow pox and the rot.

PARIS, May 15.

A letter from Stockholm, (Sweden) dated April 28th, ſays, "It is this day officially announced to the merchants here, that their veſſels may put to ſea without any fear of being captured by the Engliſh." [*Journal du Commerce, May* 17.]

RATISBON, April 28.

The King of Pruſſia has declared officially the diſſolution of the army of demarkation.

HAGUE, May 19.

The committee appointed for the reviſion of the conſtitution has this day given in its report to the firſt chambers.

It is aſſerted, that according to the new conſtitution, the directory of five members will continue; the two chambers which compoſe the legiſlative body will likewiſe remain, but will conſiſt of a much ſmaller number of members than before. A council of elders will likewiſe be introduced to chuſe the members of the legiſlative body. The members of the departmental adminiſtration will be endowed with conſiderable authority, and have a great reſemblance to the late ſtates of the provinces. It is alſo ſaid, that theſe ſtates will be reſtored to the ſame footing as at the commencement of the revolution, inſtead of the eight departments, which now form the territorial diviſion.

HAGUE, April 28.

French troops are arriving in our republic in ſuch numbers, that the corps of 25,000 men which was diſtined for us is now more than completed. General Augereau will have the command in chief of theſe troops; and in caſe a peace ſhould not be concluded between France and England, they will be ſent on an expedition againſt the latter country.

MILAN, May 11.

Letters from Rome, of the 13th of May mention, that the permanent ſitting of the Papal Government was to have taken place in that month; but it is ſuſpended till September. That the harveſt was promiſing and that the Pope was making exertions to relieve the diſtreſſes of his ſubjects.

Italy is exceſſively diſtreſſed from very ſevere drowth, which has occaſioned diſeaſes of a dangerous nature.