

Werk

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it amain o'er all the crowd contending.
As when old Catharine or the careful Joan
doth scatter to the chickens bits of bread
and crumbs fragmented, while rejoic'd
they gobble fast the proffered scraps in
general plenty and fraternal peace, and
hush, she cries, hush ! hush !

CHAPTER XXX.

The Baron arrives in England—The Colossus of Rhodes comes to congratulate him—Great rejoicings on the Baron's return, and a tremendous Concert—The Baron's Discourse with Fragantia, and her opinion of the Tour to the Hebrides.

HAVING arrived in old England once more, the greatest rejoicings were made for my return ; the whole city seemed one general blaze of illumination ; and the Colossus of Rhodes, hearing of my astonishing feats, came on purpose to England to congratulate me on such unparalleled achievements. But above all other rejoicings on my return, the musical oratorio and song of triumph were magnificent in the extreme. Gog and Magog were ordered to take the maiden tower of Windsor and make a tambarine or great drum of it. For this purpose they extended an elephant's hide, tanned and prepared for the design, across the summit of the tower, from parapet to parapet ; so that in proportion this ex-

tended elephant's hide was to the whole of the castle what the parchment is to a drum ; in such a manner that the whole became one great instrument of war.

To correspond with this, Colossus took Guildhall and Westminster Abbey, and turning the foundations towards the heavens, so that the roofs of the edifices were upon the ground, he strung them across with brass and steel wire from side to side ; and thus, when strung, they had the appearance of most noble dulcimers. He then took the great dome of St. Paul's, raising it off the earth with as much facility as you would a decanter of claret. And when once risen up, it had the appearance of a quart bottle. Colossus instantly, with his teeth, cracked off the superior part of the cupola, and then applying his lips to the instrument, began to sound it like a trumpet. 'Twas martial beyond description—tantara !—tara—ta !

During the concert I walked in the park with Lady Fragantia : she was dressed that morning in a *chemise a la reine*. I like, said she, the dew of the morning, 'tis delicate and ethereal, and by thus bespangling me, I think it will more approximate me to the nature of the rose (for her looks were like Aurora) : and to confirm the vermilion I shall go to Spa ;—

and drink the Pouhon spring, added I, gazing at her from top to toe. Yes, replied the lovely *Fragantia*; with all my heart, 'tis the drink of sweetness and delicacy; never were there any creatures like the water-drinkers at Spa; they seem like so many thirsty blossoms on a peach tree, that suck up the shower in the scorching heat. There is a certain something in the waters that gives vigour to the whole frame, and expands every heart with rapture and benevolence. They drink! good gods! how they do drink! and then, how they sleep. Pray, my dear Baron, were you ever at the falls of Niagara? Yes, my lady, replied I, (surprised at such a strange association of ideas) I have been many years ago at the falls of Niagara, and found no more difficulty in swimming up and down the cataract, than I should to move a minuet. At that moment she dropped her nosegay—Ah, said she, as I presented it to her, there is no great variety in these polyanthus: I do assure you, my dear Baron, that there is taste in the selection of flowers as well as every thing else; and were I a girl of sixteen I should wear some rose-buds in my bosom; but at five-and-twenty, I think 'twould be more apropos to wear a full-blown rose, quite ripe, and ready to drop off the stalk for

want of being pulled—heigh ho ! But pray, my lady, said I, how do you like the concert ! Alas ! said she, languishly, while she laid her hand upon my shoulder, what are these bodyless sounds and vibrations to me ? and yet what an exquisite sweetness in the songs of the northern part of our island :—“ *Thou art gone awa from me, Mary !*” How pathetic and divine the little airs of Scotland and the Hebrides. But never, never can I think of that same Doctor Johnson ; that CONSTABLE, as Fergus Mac Leod calls him, but I have an idea of a great brown full-bottomed wig and a hogshead of porter !—O, ’twas base to be every where treated with politeness and hospitality, and in return invidiously to smellfungus them all over ; to go to the country of Kate of Aberdeen, of Auld Robin Gray, ’midst rural innocence and sweetness, take up their plaids, and dance. O ! Doctor, Doctor !

And what would you say, *Fragantia*, if you were to write a *Tour to the Hebrides* ? Peace to the heroes, replied she, in a delicate and theatrical tone—peace to the heroes who sleep in the isle of Jona : the sons of the wave, and the chiefs of the dark brown shield ! The tear of the sympathizing stranger is scattered by the wind over the hoary stones as she meditates

sorrowful on the times of old ! Such could I say, sitting upon some druidical heap or tumulus. The fact is this, there is a right and a wrong to every thing ; and there is more pleasure in thinking with pure nobility of heart, than with the illiberal enmities and carcasm of a blackguard.

CHAPTER XXXI.

A litigated contention between Don Quixote, Gog, Magog, &c.—A grand Court assembled upon it—The appearance of the Company—The Matrons Judges, &c.—The method of Writing, and the use of the fashionable Amusement Quizzes—Wauwau arrives from the Country of Prester John, and leads the whole Assembly a wild-goose chase to the top of Plinlimmon, and thence to Virginia—The Baron meets a floating Island in his Voyage to America—Pursues Wauwau with his whole Company through the Deserts of North America—His curious contrivance to seize Wauwau in a morass.

THE contention between Gog and Magog, and Sphinx, Hilario Frosticos, the Lord Whittington, &c. was productive of infinite litigation. All the lawyers in the kingdom were employed, to render the affair as complex and gloriously uncertain as possible, and, in fine, the whole nation became interested, and were divided on both sides of the question. Colossus took the part of Sphinx, and the affair was at length submitted to the decision of a grand council in a great hall, adorned with seats on