

pose could not be remedied, as the extremities of this bird are very small in proportion. Besides, Columbine by this means discovers him; and, after having made the whole house ring with applause by playing several tricks, (such as kissing Columbine, biting the servant, and the like,) they morrice off both together.

We are then carried to a back-part of the farm-house, which turns into a shed, where in an instant you have the view of a copper with a fire burning under it. Harlequin changes himself into an old washerwoman, and on striking a mound raised of flints mixed with earth, it is immediately turned into a washing-tub and stand; then opening a door, he shews us an horse with real linen upon it, which is drawn out in many folds to a considerable length upon the stage. Pantaloon and servant come in, and after being soured with the soap-suds, are driven off by the supposed washer-woman with a bowl of boiling-water from the copper, to the no small diversion of both galleries. Columbine then comes forth from her retreat, and goes off with her sweetheart.

But the constable at last catches him; he tumbles down amidst his guards, and so slips away from 'em.—We then see a fence of boards, as before a building, (excellently well painted,) which in a moment is converted to a gilt Equestrian statue. Harlequin is discovered to bestride the horse, as I remember by his sneezing: Pantaloon's servant goes to climb up by the head, which directly bends its neck and bites him: he next tries to get up by the hind-leg, which in springing back gives him a most terrible kick, and the poor dog is carried off with his face all over blood and beaten to pieces.

After this, a scene drops, and gives us a prospect of ruinous rugged cliffs, with two trees hanging over them, beautifully executed. The same witches come in again, and, after singing a little while, retire. Then Harlequin appears disconsolate and prostrate upon a couch in an elegant apartment: lightning flashes; and four devils, in flame-coloured stockings, mount through trap-doors, surround him with double-tongued forks, and the whole stage with the scenery and all upon it, rises up gradually, and is carried all together into the air.

Here the Pantomime ends; and the scrupulous critic must not nicely enquire into the reasons, why Harlequin is car-

ried upwards into the infernal regions; nor why Pluto with his fair Proserpine descends in a magnificent throne afterwards, into a fine pavillion.—After a song or two, an imp brings him word, that poor Harly is trapped at last; but the black-bearded monarch says, every thing shall be jolly.—Then the stage is extended to a prodigious depth, closing with a prospect of fine gardens and a temple. We are entertained a while with the agility of Mess. Cook, Grand-champs, Mademoiselles Camargo, Hilliard, and others; then with a grand chorus; lastly, with a low bow from the performers.—And so down drops the curtain.

Literary News continued from p. 36.

COVENT-GARDEN JOURNAL No. 6, contains an humorous invective against booksellers, trunkmakers, and pastrycooks, as enemies to authors and destroyers of learning. "The booksellers," says the author, have concurred in perverting the use of paper to the abolition of those very works which it was calculated to perpetuate, and advertise books printed on a *superfine delicate soft paper*, and again *very proper to be had in all families*; a plain information of the use for which they are intended, according to these lines,

Lintot's for general use are fit,

For some folks read, but all folks—

No. 7. among other things contains a letter from *Dorothy Single*, in which she expresses great indignation at reading in news papers *beauty, sense, merit, &c.* at the end of every married woman's name; while a profound silence is preserved with regard to the merits of the husband; and enquires, whether by this we are to understand that all men are possessed of qualifications which render the married state happy; that no such qualifications are necessary in man; or that his happiness alone is to be considered.—At the court of criticism *Amelia* is set to the bar, and after many things have been alledged against her by counsellor *Town*, and lady *Dilly Dally* examined to support the charge, just as *Dr Dojewell* and a great number of beaux, rakes, fine ladies, and formal grave persons with bushy wigs, and canes at their noses, rush in to give evidence, a grave man, being at his request permitted to speak, relates that he is her father, that she was his favourite child; that he had taken great pains in her education; and tho' he does not think

her free from faults, he yet thinks she does not deserve the rancour with which she has been treated by the public; that he does not attempt a defence, but, as a compromise, declares that he will trouble the world no more with any children of his by the same muse.

No. 8. contains a transcript of a fragment which the author says he receiv'd wrapped by his baker over two hot rolls, initialed

Impertinent Questions concerning Religion and Government bandyled by the Robin-Hoodians.

It contains the speeches of James Scotchum, barber, Mr Mac Florish, Scotch student, Mr O Curry, Irish solicitor, Mr Giles Shuttle, weaver, and many others; in which there is much true humour and just satire, but to abridge would be to mangle, if not to destroy both.—The proceedings in the court of criticism are a continuation of *Amelia's* trial begun in No. 7. which, to preserve the connexion, is, in this account, thrown together.

No. 9. an humorous enquiry concerning the nature and time in which the *Robinhoodians* flourished: of whom two things may be averred; first that the society was held in some country where the people were extremely free; and, secondly, where that part of the community which the French call *la canaille* was at the head of public affairs. After the examination of several hypotheses it appears most probable, that they were part of the people that soon after the building of *Babel* were dispersed over the whole world; the word *Robinhood* being clearly derived from the tower of *Babel*; for *Robin* and *Bobin* are allowed to be the same word; the first syllable then is *bob*, change *b* into *a*, which is only a metathesis of one vowel for another, and you have *bab*, then supply the termination *el* instead of *ing* (for both are only terminations) and you have clearly the word *Babel*. As for the *b* in *hood*, it is known to be no letter at all, and therefore an etymologist may there place what letter he pleases, and why not a T as well as any other. Then change the final *d* into an *r*, and you have *toor*, which has a better pretence, than the known word *tor* to signify tower.—Thus, by a few inconsiderable changes, the *Robin-Hood* and *Babel-Tower*, appear to be one and the same word.—At the court

The tryal of *B—T*— [*supposed Betsy Thoughtless*] was brought on; but she pleading to the jurisdiction of the court, as being a subject of *Grubstreet*, there was a demurrer, for the argument of which a day was given.

No. 10. contains an essay on the use of humour in writing, condemning all that is not (as the ingenious author of *Clarissa* says a story should be) the vehicle of instruction. At the court of criticism Mr *Mossop* appears, and alleges in his defence, that he doth not presume in the character of *Macbeth* to emulate the perfections of Mr *Garrick*; that Mr *Garrick* was not immortal, and that if no care was taken to bring those forward into the principal parts who shall discover the greatest theatrical talents, the stage will fall with him; and for these reasons, counsellor *Town* consenting, the rule was discharged.

No. 11. contains a proposal to provide for the poor by restoring paganism, and offering them in sacrifice to the gods; which will not only be an advantage to the rich, but, compared with their present circumstances, to the poor themselves. In the court of criticism a motion was made against an advertisement of Miss *Molly Blandy's* picture, published as a memento to youth; to which are said to be annexed lines proper to her wicked crime. And the court was of opinion that the advertisement was base and infamous, because it tended to prepossess the minds of men, and might take away that indifference with which jurymen ought to come to the trial of a prisoner, she being here stigmatized and hung up as an example of the blackest iniquity to others, when her trial is approaching, though, by our laws, all persons are presumed innocent till found guilty by their country.

No. 12. contains the following account of the casualties in the present reign, as they may probably be written many hundreds of years hence by some future Sir *Richard Baker*.

Towards the beginning of this reign, flourished in some part of *Wales* a woman who brought forth at one birth 19 couple of rabbits, one of which having been eaten and commended by the Royal Society, the breed was propagated all over *England*; they were called *Welch Rabbits*, and were a long time in request. About the same time a set of infernal spirits met in *London* under the name of the *Hell-fire Club*, and among other pranks carried *Lincoln's-Inn fields* playhouse into *Covent-Garden* on their shoulders.

shoulders. But the most extraordinary miracle of all that happened about this time, and which would not have been mentioned if it was not well attested, was a jagler's going into a quart bottle. About this time likewise we are assured that a set of attorneys clerks, apprentices, players, fiddlers, taylors, shoemakers, and other mechanics met together to enquire into the truth of religion in a place called *Robin's Wood*. — With some reflexions on this mixture of truth and falsehood, in which the real fact is no more to be discovered than the seed in the plant that is produced from it, the author introduces the following story, which was communicated to him by a noble duke lately dead :

‘ A certain nobleman taking the air one day on the downs near *Salisbury*, saw among the *Baras* * there, one of a larger size than the rest ; This, said a gentleman present, is, I suppose, the dormitory of some giant. The nobleman, who was a great lover of a jest, took the hint, and, when they returned home, immediately dispatched a paragraph to be inserted in a particular news-paper, which he knew was constantly taken in by a certain virtuoso in that country ; in which paragraph it was affirmed, “ That the bones of a certain giant, supposed to have been, when alive, near ten foot high, were found in a bara near *Salisbury*, and were then in the possession of a certain clergyman, who was mentioned by name.” The joke had its effect with the virtuoso, who immediately dispatched a man and horse for the bones to the clergyman, whose patron he was ; nor did it cease there, but the same silly story was literally translated into *French*, and on the authority of the news-paper, transmitted to posterity as a real fact, in a very voluminous work in folio, soon after published in *France*. — At the court of criticism all obscene pictures were condemned.

N^o 13. Contains several trifling letters to the author ; and the court of criticism is adjourned.

N^o 14. is a parallel between slander and murder, through the several degrees of both. The court is not mentioned.

N^o 15. An account of the government of the stage considered as a state, and said to be the only one in which the talents of men are considered and applied to that for which they are most fit. The plan of policy pursued by Mr *Garrick* and his coadjutor is recommended as a pattern to all cotemporary princes.

At the court, the censor gave it as his opinion, in the case of *B—T*— that the court had no jurisdiction over the subjects of *Grubstreet*, unless in the cases of blasphemy, sedition, scurrility, and indecency.

N^o 16, a defence of the *English* against the slander of an eminent *French* writer, who says that the present *English* no more resemble their ancestors in the days of *Oliver Cromwell*, than the modern *Italians* resemble the ancient *Romans*. There is also in this paper a letter signed *Axylus*; in which are these extraordinary paragraphs :

‘ I often express great gratitude to the almighty, that I was born in a country where I can reflect with constant pleasure on the freedom, the wealth, and indeed every political happiness of the people. I again exult that I live in that very age when they enjoy all these blessings in the purest manner. I look up with unfeigned gratitude to the authors, under heaven, of these blessings to us. With these views I frequent the court, and a certain levee in *Arlington-street*, with more devotion than any of the candidates for preferment.

‘ Of all my life, I think, I never enjoyed so happy a winter as this last, in which there hath been such perfect unanimity among all parties, and the sole attention of all our great men seems to have been the good of the public.

‘ Within this last fortnight too I have been extremely delighted. The happiness which within that time hath accrued to a private family, hath almost intoxicated me with joy. That noble, generous, duke ! How worthy of the highest blessings of life ! In my opinion, how sure of them !’ — At the court of criticism a complaint is exhibited against a scoundrel dressed like an officer, who, in order to make room in the two-shilling gallery at *Coxont Garden* play-house, cried out fire.

MR URBAN,

UPON reading a paragraph in the papers sometime ago, relating to the bringing up wines from *Rochester*, I was astonish'd that the capital city of *England* should pay 4*l.* per ton duty more than the out ports ; by which means *London* has lost its trade, and the government as great an income as would (*communibus annis*) pay the corn debentures, which of late have been much neglected. If the legislature will turn a deaf ear the consequence must be

— Greater