

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY JONAS GREEN. Church-Street, Annapolis. THREE DOLLARS PER ANNUM.

Maryland, Anne-Arundel County, BRIBERY, that Thomas H. Maber, of said county, brought before me, as a straggler, respassing on his enclosures, a bright bay

HORSE COLT. a white blaze on his face, the white run down on his upper lip, and his right hind eye white, appearing as if he would be two years old next spring, with a long tail. Given under the hand of me, one of the justices of the peace in and for said county, this 21 day of January 1831.

THE owner of the above described Stray, requested to come forward, prove property, charges and take him away. THOMAS H. MABER, near Leesville, Md. on 19, 1832.

Anne-Arundel County, to wit: HEREBY certify that Richard Cowman, Eq. of the city of Annapolis, brought before me, as a stray, a small

RED COW. six years old, having a young calf, and no marks except a piece apparent on the left ear by the bite of a dog under my hand, one of the justices of the peace of the state of Maryland, in and for the county of Anne-Arundel, this 21 day of January 1832.

ROBERT WELCH, of Ben. The owner of the above described Cow, requested to come forward, prove property, charges, and take her away. RICHARD J. COWMAN. Dec. 26.

ANNUALS AND NOVELS.

THOMPSON, has on hand, and offers for sale the following: Annuals and Novels. THE ATLANTIC SOUVENIR, for 1832. THE AMERICAN ALMANACK, for 1833. THE BRAVO (Coopers New Novel) CLUB BOOK. PHILIP AUGUSTUS. THE YOUNG DUKE. DUTCHMAN'S RESIDENCE. THE PERSIAN ADVENTURER. ROXBELL, by Sherwood. SOUTHERN TOLERA. DESTINY. THE MUSLIMAN. HAYWELL. MAXWELL. WEST OF WISH-TON-WISH. WATER WITCH. Also Visiting Cards, &c. &c.

RAGS! RAGS! RAGS! ASH will be given for clean Linen and Cotton Rags, at this Office. Dec 1.

HOG'S HEAD CHEESE.

A NEW SONG. Air, "Love's Young Dream." Let Yankee Poets strike the Lyre, To sing of Buckwheat Cakes, (A theme which many do admire, Unless there be mistakes). Of such a thing As cannot fail to please; Means that most delightful dish Called hog's head cheese! Oh, there's nothing half so sweet in life, As hog's head cheese! Compared to this, "Pigs' feet" and "tripe," "Beef dummies" and "turtle soup," Are things to which no appetite Should condescend to stoop! These may allure The Epicure, But any one of these, However sweet, cannot compete With hog's head cheese! "Oh, there's nothing half so sweet in life," As hog's head cheese! And when the joints are cut and hashed, The marrow and the brains, With cloves and sage, and allspice smask'd, You're paid for all your pains! For such a dish, Of fish or fowl, Philosophers must own, Which from the little to the big is evidently shown; And in their pate They concentrate Their better qualities, So "there's nothing half so sweet in life," As hog's head cheese! And when the joints are cut and hashed, The marrow and the brains, With cloves and sage, and allspice smask'd, You're paid for all your pains!

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Writing Paper, Cards, and Ink Powder.

GEORGE WAITS, MERCHANT TAILOR.

Has just received a large and handsome assortment of FINE and choice GOODS, all of the latest importation, which he is prepared to make to order. Patent Finished Cloths of various qualities and colors, with GARMENTS AND VESTINGS, of the latest style, suitable for the present and approaching seasons. He requests his friends and the public to call at the shortest notice, and in the most judicious style, for cloth, or to purchase on any.

STATE OF MARYLAND, Anne-Arundel County, Orphan's Court, December, 15th 1831.

ON application by petition of James Adams, Adm'r of James Shaw, late of Anne- Arundel County, deceased, it is ordered that he give notice required by law for creditors to exhibit their claims against the said deceased, and that the same be published once in each week, for the space of six consecutive weeks, in one of the newspapers printed in the City of Annapolis.

THOMAS T. SIMMONS, Reg. Wils. A. A. County.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN. THAT the subscriber of Anne- Arundel County, hath obtained from the Orphan's Court of Anne- Arundel County, in Maryland, letters of administration, on the personal estate of James Shaw, late of Anne- Arundel County, deceased. All persons having claims against the said deceased, are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the vouchers thereunto attached, to the subscriber, at or before the 20th day of June next, they may otherwise be excluded from all benefit of the said estate. Given under my hand this 15th day of December, 1831.

SOMERVILLE PINKNEY, Adm'r.

ANNE-ARUNDEL COUNTY, Se. application to me the subscriber, in the name of the court, as Chief Justice of the third Judicial District of the State of Maryland, and in relation to the estate of John Gallagher, now in and for said county, for debt, praying the benefit of the Act for the relief of sundry insolvent debtors, and the assignment of property thereon, a schedule of his property and a list of his creditors, on oath, as far as he can ascertain them, being annexed to said petition, and the said John Gallagher having appeared and taken the oath, and the said John Gallagher, having executed a deed to his trustee, I do, therefore, order and adjudge that the said John Gallagher be discharged from his confinement, aforesaid, and that by causing a copy of this order to be inserted in one of the public newspapers printed and published in Anne- Arundel County, once a week for three months, he give notice to creditors to appear before said county court, in the City of Annapolis, at 10 o'clock, in the forenoon of the third Monday of April next, to show cause, if any they have, why the said John Gallagher should not have the benefit of the said Act, and the said supplements thereto, and that he proceed in law, given under my hand this seventh day of September, 1831.

THOMAS B. DORSETT, Se.

FOR ANAPOLIS, CASTLE HAVEN AND EASTON.

THE Steam Boat Maryland, leaves Baltimore every Tuesday and Friday Mornings at seven o'clock, for Annapolis, leaving Annapolis for Castle Haven and Easton, at 11 o'clock. Returning leaves Annapolis for Baltimore, at one o'clock. LEMEL G. TAYLOR, Cap.

CASH FOR NEGROES. WE WISH TO PURCHASE 100 LIKELY NEGROES.

Of both sexes, from 12 to 25 years of age, field hands, also, mechanics of every description. Persons wishing to sell, will do well to give us a call, as we are determined to give HIGHER PRICES for SLAVES, than any purchaser who is now or may hereafter be in the market. Any communication in Writing, will be promptly attended to. We can at all times be found at Williamson's Hotel, Annapolis. LEWIS & WILLIAMS, Decemher 15, 1831.

REMOVAL. WILLIAM BRYAN, MERCHANT TAILOR.

HAS recently taken the Shop that he formerly occupied, nearly opposite Messrs William & Swan's Hotel; where he intends keeping a very Superior Assortment of Cloths, Cassimeres, & VESTINGS, All of which he will sell very low, and make up at the shortest notice and in the BEST MANNER. Sept. 29.

LADIES SHOES FOR SALE.

The subscriber begs leave to inform the Ladies of Annapolis, and its vicinity, that he has just received an assortment of ladies best quality of LASTING, Kid, Morocco, and Satin Slippers, from celebrated and faithful workmen, Mr. Vaché White, South Gay st. Baltimore.

G. I. GRAMMER, JR. RESPECTFULLY notifies his friends and the public, that he has just opened, at the residence of his father, nearly opposite the Boarding House by Mrs. Robinson, A choice and well selected assortment of GROCERIES, which he will be happy to dispose of on reasonable terms, for Cash. Dec 15.

IN CHANCERY December 29th, 1831.

William Owens and Benjamin M-Ceney vs. Joseph Owens and Isaac Owens, admr's of Benjamin Owens.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN.

THAT the subscribers have obtained from the Orphan's Court of Anne- Arundel County, letters testamentary on the personal estate of Elijah Redman, late of Anne- Arundel County, deceased. All persons indebted to the said estate are requested to make immediate payment, and those having claims are desired to present them, legally authenticated.

JOHN ARNOLD, Exr.

Dec. 12.

REMOVAL. WILLIAM BRYAN, MERCHANT TAILOR.

HAS recently taken the Shop that he formerly occupied, nearly opposite Messrs William & Swan's Hotel; where he intends keeping a very Superior Assortment of Cloths, Cassimeres, & VESTINGS, All of which he will sell very low, and make up at the shortest notice and in the BEST MANNER. Sept. 29.

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ORDERED, That the sale made and reported by Somerville Pinkney, the trustee, be ratified and confirmed, unless cause to the contrary be shown on or before the 30th day of February next, provided a copy of this order be published once in each of three successive weeks before the 29th day of January next, in one of the newspapers published in the City of Annapolis. The report states that the parcel of land decreed to be sold, called Bear Ridge, was sold for \$335.

True copy - Test. RAMSAY WATERS, Reg. Cur. Can. Jan. 12.

Notice is Hereby Given, THAT the subscribers have obtained from the Orphan's Court of Saint-Mary's county in Maryland, letters testamentary on the personal estate of Vereau Stone, late of said county, deceased.

All persons having claims against the said deceased, are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the vouchers thereunto attached, to the subscribers, at or before the 15th day of December next, they may otherwise be excluded from all benefit of the said estate. Given under my hand and seal, this 13th day of January, 1832.

CLEMEN V. STONE, J. MATHEW A. STONE, Exrs. Dec. 29.

Notice is Hereby Given, THAT the subscriber has obtained from the Orphan's Court of Saint-Mary's county in Maryland, letters of Administration, on the personal estate of James Leach, late of St. Mary's county, deceased.

All persons having claims against the said deceased, are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the vouchers thereof, to the subscriber, at or before the 10th day of January next, they may otherwise, by law, be excluded from all benefit of the said estate. Given under my hand and seal, this 13th day of January, 1832.

CATHARINE LEACH, Adm'r. of James Leach. Jan. 19.

J. THOMPSON Has just received and For Sale at this Office, THE YOUNG DUKE, 2 vols. THE PERSIAN ADVENTURER, 2 vols. HAYWELL, 2 vols. MACKINTOSH'S CABINET, 2 vols. MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS; 2 vols. MASSINGER'S PLAYS, 2 vols. TEACHER'S GUIDE. ANNUAL RETROSPECT. MACKENZIE'S 5,000 RECEIPTS. THE CHRISTIAN ALTAR, or Offices of Devotion, for the use of Persons receiving the Lord's Supper; together with treatise relating to that Sacrament, and Directions for the Communicant's daily walk with God. By the Rev. Dr. Wray. J. T. Has on hand and intends keeping a Supply of WRITING PAPER, Folio, Quarto, Post, Foolscap, Visiting Cards, and Ink Powder.

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and looked at each other in mutual embarrassment for some space.

At length the deer, which was of the largest size, began to lower his formidable antlers, as they do when they are brought to bay, and are preparing to rush upon hound and huntsman. Duncan saw the danger of a conflict in which he must probably come by the worst, and as a last resource stretched himself on the little ledge of rock which he occupied; and thus awaited the resolution which the deer should take, not making the least motion, for fear of alarming the wild and suspicious animal. They remained in this posture for three or four hours, in the midst of a rock which would have suited the pencil of Salvator, and which afforded barely room enough for the man and the stag, opposed to each other in this extraordinary manner.

At length the buck seemed to take the resolution of passing over the obstacles which lay in his path, and with this purpose approached towards Duncan very slowly, and with excessive caution. When he came close to the highlander, he stooped his head down as if to examine him more closely, when the devil, or the untameable love of sport, peculiar to his country, began to overcome Duncan's fears. Seeing the animal proceed so gently, he totally forgot not only the dangers of his position, but the nuptial compact which certainly might have been inferred from the circumstances of the situation. With one hand Duncan seized the deer's horns, whilst with the other he drew his dirk. But in the same instant the buck bounded over the precipice, carrying the highlander along with him. They went thus down upwards of a hundred feet, and were found the next morning in the spot where they fell. Fortune, who does not always regard retributive justice in her dispensations, ordered that the deer should fall underneath and be killed upon the spot, while Duncan escaped, with his life, but with the fracture of a leg, an arm, and three ribs. In this state he was found lying on the carcass of the deer, and the injuries which he had received rendered him for the remainder of his life the cripple I have described. I never could approve of Duncan's conduct towards the deer in a moral point of view, although, as the man in the play said, he was my friend, but the temptation of a heart of grease, offering as it were his throat to the knife, would have subdued the virtue of almost any deerstalker. Whether the anecdote is worth recording, or deserving of illustration, remains for your consideration. I have given you the story exactly as I recollect it.

An English gentleman talking with his servant, said, "It is a long time since I heard from your mother, madam she is old."—"O! no, your honour," answered the maid, "she is not dead, or she would have let you know of it."

LETTER FROM THE POSTMASTER GENERAL. Upon the subject of Postage on Newspapers, Pamphlets, &c. 10th January, 1832.

SIR: I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, enclosing the resolution of the House of Representatives, relative to "the expediency of abolishing the postage on newspapers and periodicals;" in which, you inquire the amount of "net revenue arising from this source, and the amount of each, separately; also, my opinion upon the propriety of adopting this measure, having a due regard to the propriety of the department with any other information which may be useful to the committee in forming a correct opinion on the subject."

To the first inquiry, I will observe, that the accounts of postages on newspapers and pamphlets are kept together without distinguishing one from the other. The commission to postmasters is the same on both; and no occasion has ever arisen for separating them on the books of the Department. The intention of the law appears to have been to discourage their transmission by mail, except in cases where it might be regarded as a matter of considerable interest; and the object is accomplished. The postages on newspapers and pamphlets arise principally on the former, probably more than four fifths of the whole. The remainder is almost entirely on periodicals.

The gross amount of postage on newspapers and pamphlets for the year ending June 30, 1830, was \$196,606 34. That for the year ending 30th June, 1831, was 223,485 01. The increase in one year, was \$26,878 67. The commission allowed to postmasters on newspapers and pamphlets is 50 per cent. on the gross amount; but by reserving to the Department the fractions of cents, the net proceeds are a little more than one half of the gross amount. The net proceeds of postage on newspapers and pamphlets for the year ending June 30, 1831, amounted to \$99,513 44. For the year ending June 30, 1831, do 112,111 22. Increase of net proceeds in one year \$12,597 78.

To the second inquiry, I have the honour to submit the following remarks: The increase of postages on newspapers is in a greater ratio than that on letters; and the increase of postages of every description, is in a ratio considerably beyond that of the population and business of the country. This greater ratio of increase has resulted from the greatly increased facilities which have been perceived, at an early day, the propriety and necessity of making such improvements in some of the leading mail routes, as would be calculated to draw every kind of communi-

cation, as much as possible, into the mails, and would thus increase the revenue to a greater amount than the increased expenditure required for such improvements, my attention has been constantly directed to this object. The propriety of the course adopted has been justified by the results; the improvements having called for a considerable expense, while they have increased the revenue beyond their cost. But if improvements shall now cease to be made, the ratio of increase of revenue will be necessarily diminished. If the progress of improvement shall continue, the gross amount of postage on newspapers and pamphlets for the year ending the 30th June, 1832, may be fairly estimated at \$249,000; and the net revenue at \$124,500. If the postage shall be abolished on newspapers and pamphlets, it will not materially diminish the labour of postmasters; and as their compensation, generally, does not exceed a fair equivalent for their labour, they would probably solicit an increase of commission on letter postage. Should this be granted, the diminution of the means for carrying on the operations of the department, and for that progress of improvements which the country demands, would consequently be \$249,000, for the first year, with the loss of its progressive increase from year to year. But if the postmasters should be denied an increase of commission to countervail the loss which they will sustain in being deprived of this part of their compensation, then the immediate diminution of net revenue to the department would amount to about \$124,500 a year. There must also be estimated the increased expense of transporting the mail, incurred by additional weight which would be given to it in many sections of the country in becoming the medium for conveying the newspapers which are now transported by other means, and by the greater number of papers which would be distributed, the expense of which could neither be anticipated nor computed.

Should the measure be adopted, it would, of necessity, give an immediate check to all further improvement in mail facilities, and require a curtailment of some that are already afforded. And in order to preserve the rapidity and certainty of communication, now secured between the large commercial towns, so important to the great interests of the country, it will probably become necessary to provide for separating the newspaper from the letter mails. The Post Office Department has always sustained itself without any expense to the Treasury. Besides the conveniences which it extends to every section of the Union, it furnishes the means to all the departments of the Government for transmitting its communications to all parts of the country, free from expense. On its present basis, it can be conducted securely. Its operations, its revenues and its expenses, are held up to public view; and the head of the department has at all times, the strongest inducement, which a proper estimate of public sentiment can present, to manage its concerns with the strictest regard to economy, combined with the greatest degree of public convenience, allowed by the means at his command. But should it ever be thrown on the Treasury for support, it is evident that the same corrective restraint would not exist, either upon the representatives of the people, through whom the calls are generally made, or upon the head of the department. I have no hesitation in giving the opinion, that the establishment ought, at all times, and under all circumstances, to rest on its own resources, independent of the National Treasury. Newspapers and periodicals are held to be of inestimable value to the community, though it has not yet been considered the duty of the Government to distribute them through the nation, entirely at the public expense. The freedom of the press, guaranteed by the Constitution and the small share of postage with which these publications are charged, compared with the whole expense of their transportation, demonstrate the estimation in which they are held. If they shall be transmitted entirely free of postage, and an equivalent amount appropriated from the Treasury, their transmission will be at the expense of the Government; or if the department shall still depend upon its own sources alone, then their transmission will be at the expense of those who pay the revenue in postages on letters. From the preceding views of facts, the committee will judge of the policy or justice of adopting either of the alternatives stated, and how far the energies of the department would be impaired by abstracting from it the revenue derived from newspapers and pamphlets, and at the same time, adding to its charges the increased number which it would be required to transport.

I have the honour to be, Very respectfully, Your obedient servant, W. T. BARRY. Hon. WILLIAM RUSSEL, Of the Com on the Post Office, and Post Roads, &c. &c.

JUST RECEIVED: From the N. Y. Protestant Episcopal Press, THE HOLY BIBLE, Price, \$1, \$1 25, \$1 75. THE CHURCHMAN'S ALMANAC, For 1832—Price 64 Cents. For Sale at this Office, by J. THOMPSON. PRINTING Neatly executed at this Office.

METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL.

- November. Wind, W. w. 1. Clear, pleasant, light breeze, n w. 2. Clear, cool morning frost, w. 3. Cloudy, part of the day, cool, frost, w. 4. Cloudy, P. M. clear, heavy frost, light breeze, w. 5. Hazy, cold morning, hard frost, light breeze, w. 6. Cloudy, moderate, hard frost, light breeze, w. 7. Clear, pleasant, light breeze, smart frost, w. 8. Clear, pleasant, light breeze, s. s. e. 9. Cloudy, mild, light breeze, n w. 10. Cloudy, light rain, in morning, heavy rain at night, fresh breeze, s. s. e. 11. Clear, pleasant, fresh breeze, n w. 12. Clear, pleasant, fresh breeze, n w. 13. Clear, cool, light breeze, n w. 14. Flying clouds, cool, fresh breeze, n w. 15. Clear, cool, light breeze, n w. 16. Clear, cold, ice, light breeze, n w. 17. Clear, cool, light breeze, frost, n w. 18. Cloudy, cool, rain at night, light breeze, s. s. e. 19. Clear, pleasant, fresh breeze, n w. 20. Clear, pleasant, heavy frost light breeze, n w. 21. Cloudy, cool, heavy frost, rain at night, fresh breeze, n. e. 22. Cloudy, hail, rain and snow before day, snow drifted 3 or 4 feet deep, heavy snow, n w. 23. Clear, very cold, hard frost, very low tide, fresh breeze, w. w. n. w. 24. Clear, pleasant, hard frost, moderate breeze, n w. 25. Cloudy part of the day, pleasant breeze, n w. 26. Cloudy, drizzle rain, cool, fresh breeze, s. e. n. w. 27. Clear, cold, fresh breeze, n w. 28. Clear, cold, heavy snow, n w. 29. Clear, very cold, hard frost, heavy snow, n w. 30. Clear, very cold, considerable ice along shore, moderate breeze, n w. s. w.

A HIGHLAND ANECDOTE.

By Sir Walter Scott, BART.

The same course of reflection which led me to transmit to you the account of the death of an ancient hunter, induces me to do the particulars of a singular incident, offered to me by a friend, which seems highly qualified to be illustrated by the anecdote. It was suggested by the spirited engraving of the Great Huntsman, which adorned the first number of your work, and perhaps bears a close resemblance to the character of that powerful and young hunter as a subject for another. Of this you are the only competent judge.

The story is an old one, but not an ancient one; the actor and auditor was not a very agreeable youth. Duncan, for so I shall call him, had been engaged in the affair of 1745, with others of his class, and was supposed, by many, to have been an accomplice, if not the principal actor, in a certain tragic affair which made much noise a good many years after the rebellion. I am content with indicating this, in order to give some idea of the man's character, which is bold, fierce and enterprising.—Traces of this natural disposition still remained on Duncan's very good features, and in his keen grey eye. But the limbs, like those of the aged burocrer in my former tale, had become unable to serve the purposes, and obey the dictates, of his inclination. On the one side of his body he retained the proportions and firmness of an active mountaineer; on the other he was a dissipated cripple, scarce able to limp along the streets. The cause which reduced him to this state of infirmity was singular.

Twenty years or more before I knew Duncan, he resided his brothers in forming a large grazing in the highlands, comprehending an extensive range of mountain and forest, land morass, lake and precipice. It chanced that a sheep or goat was missed from the flocks and Duncan, not satisfied with despatching his shepherds in one direction, went himself in quest of the fugitive in another.

In the course of his researches, he was induced to ascend a small and narrow path, leading to the top of a high precipice. Dangerous as it was at first, the road became doubly so as he advanced. It was not much more than two feet broad, so rugged and difficult, and, at the same time, so terrible, that it would have been impracticable to any but the light step and steady brain of a highlander. The precipice on the right rose like a wall, and on the left sunk to a depth which it was giddy to look down upon; but Duncan passed cheerfully on, now whistling the Gaithering of the Clan, now taking heed to his footsteps, when the difficulties of the path particularly required caution.

In this manner he had more than half ascended the precipice, when, in mid-way, and it might almost be said, in mid-air, he encountered a buck of the red deer species, running down the cliff by the same path, in an opposite direction. If Duncan had had a gun, no rencontre could have been more agreeable; but as he had not this advantage over the deer, the highest degree of awkwardness, neither party had the power of retreating, for the stag had not room to turn himself in the narrow path, and if Duncan had turned his back, he would have known enough of the creature's habits to be certain that he would rush upon him while engaged in the difficulty of the retreat. They stood, therefore, perfectly still, and looked at each other in mutual embarrassment for some space.

At length the deer, which was of the largest size, began to lower his formidable antlers, as they do when they are brought to bay, and are preparing to rush upon hound and huntsman. Duncan saw the danger of a conflict in which he must probably come by the worst, and as a last resource stretched himself on the little ledge of rock which he occupied; and thus awaited the resolution which the deer should take, not making the least motion, for fear of alarming the wild and suspicious animal. They remained in this posture for three or four hours, in the midst of a rock which would have suited the pencil of Salvator, and which afforded barely room enough for the man and the stag, opposed to each other in this extraordinary manner.

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By Sir Walter Scott, BART.

The same course of reflection which led me to transmit to you the account of the death of an ancient hunter, induces me to do the particulars of a singular incident, offered to me by a friend, which seems highly qualified to be illustrated by the anecdote. It was suggested by the spirited engraving of the Great Huntsman, which adorned the first number of your work, and perhaps bears a close resemblance to the character of that powerful and young hunter as a subject for another. Of this you are the only competent judge.

The story is an old one, but not an ancient one; the actor and auditor was not a very agreeable youth. Duncan, for so I shall call him, had been engaged in the affair of 1745, with others of his class, and was supposed, by many, to have been an accomplice, if not the principal actor, in a certain tragic affair which made much noise a good many years after the rebellion. I am content with indicating this, in order to give some idea of the man's character, which is bold, fierce and enterprising.—Traces of this natural disposition still remained on Duncan's very good features, and in his keen grey eye. But the limbs, like those of the aged burocrer in my former tale, had become unable to serve the purposes, and obey the dictates, of his inclination. On the one side of his body he retained the proportions and firmness of an active mountaineer; on the other he was a dissipated cripple, scarce able to limp along the streets. The cause which reduced him to this state of infirmity was singular.

Twenty years or more before I knew Duncan, he resided his brothers in forming a large grazing in the highlands, comprehending an extensive range of mountain and forest, land morass, lake and precipice. It chanced that a sheep or goat was missed from the flocks and Duncan, not satisfied with despatching his shepherds in one direction, went himself in quest of the fugitive in another.

In the course of his researches, he was induced to ascend a small and narrow path, leading to the top of a high precipice. Dangerous as it was at first, the road became doubly so as he advanced. It was not much more than two feet broad, so rugged and difficult, and, at the same time, so terrible, that it would have been impracticable to any but the light step and steady brain of a highlander. The precipice on the right rose like a wall, and on the left sunk to a depth which it was giddy to look down upon; but Duncan passed cheerfully on, now whistling the Gaithering of the Clan, now taking heed to his footsteps, when the difficulties of the path particularly required caution.

In this manner he had more than half ascended the precipice, when, in mid-way, and it might almost be said, in mid-air, he encountered a buck of the red deer species, running down the cliff by the same path, in an opposite direction. If Duncan had had a gun, no rencontre could have been more agreeable; but as he had not this advantage over the deer, the highest degree of awkwardness, neither party had the power of retreating, for the stag had not room to turn himself in the narrow path, and if Duncan had turned his back, he would have known enough of the creature's habits to be certain that he would rush upon him while engaged in the difficulty of the retreat. They stood, therefore, perfectly still, and looked at each other in mutual embarrassment for some space.

At length the deer, which was of the largest size, began to lower his formidable antlers, as they do when they are brought to bay, and are preparing to rush upon hound and huntsman. Duncan saw the danger of a conflict in which he must probably come by the worst, and as a last resource stretched himself on the little ledge of rock which he occupied; and thus awaited the resolution which the deer should take, not making the least motion, for fear of alarming the wild and suspicious animal. They remained in this posture for three or four hours, in the midst of a rock which would have suited the pencil of Salvator, and which afforded barely room enough for the man and the stag, opposed to each other in this extraordinary manner.

At length the buck seemed to take the resolution of passing over the obstacles which lay in his path, and with this purpose approached towards Duncan very slowly, and with excessive caution. When he came close to the highlander, he stooped his head down as if to examine him more closely, when the devil, or the untameable love of sport, peculiar to his country, began to overcome Duncan's fears. Seeing the animal proceed so gently, he totally forgot not only the dangers of his position, but the nuptial compact which certainly might have been inferred from the circumstances of the situation. With one hand Duncan seized the deer's horns, whilst with the other he drew his dirk. But in the same instant the buck bounded over the precipice, carrying the highlander along with him. They went thus down upwards of a hundred feet, and were found the next morning in the spot where they fell. Fortune, who does not always regard retributive justice in her dispensations, ordered that the deer should fall underneath and be killed upon the spot, while Duncan escaped, with his life, but with the fracture of a leg, an arm, and three ribs. In this state he was found lying on the carcass of the deer, and the injuries which he had received rendered him for the remainder of his life the cripple I have described. I never could approve of Duncan's conduct towards the deer in a moral point of view, although, as the man in the play said, he was my friend, but the temptation of a heart of grease, offering as it were his throat to the knife, would have subdued the virtue of almost any deerstalker. Whether the anecdote is worth recording, or deserving of illustration, remains for your consideration. I have given you the story exactly as I recollect it.