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To the PRINTER'S.

HE following dialogue was put into my hands by a learned acquaintance, who faid he translated it from a Greek manufeript he found amongst fome loose papers in an old library. Whether the nufcript be found amongst some loose nuscript be found amongst some loose nuscript be found amongst some loose papers in an old library. Whether the conversation really happened in the Elysian Fields, or whether it was the work of some mortal amongst us, neither he, nor myself, were able to determine. The country, and people alluded to in it, perhaps may be imaginary, but I rather think they had a real existence, and that their history by some accident or other has been destroyed. My reason for this opinion is, becaule there appears so strong a representation of genuine character in it, and so little of sancy. It is true there will be some difficulty, if it be real, to account for its appearance here, but as this is a point I acknowledge myself incapable of solving, I must submit it entirely to the reader; with this remark only, that such things have heretofore made their appearance in our world, have heretofore made their appearance in our world, but how they got there, he will be better able perhaps to account for than your CORRESPONDENT.

SOLON, LYCURGUS, and 在SOP.

Solon. Pr'ythee Elop where hast thou been this many a day? We have had such a dull time of it bere fince you left us, that a ftranger wou'd rather faspect from our melancholy countenances, that this was the retreat of forrow, than the region of happinels, and pleasure.

happiness, and pleasure.

Lycargus. Come unpack, unpack.—In the old way I suppose—upon some drollery I'll warrant you.

£sop. 'Faith my old lads I have had a rare time of it, since I saw you. You politicians I you legislators! Why I have been to a country, where you daren't shew your beards. It is true old Greece made some sufs about you, and perhaps you did to-krably well for the mad-caps of Athens, and the sample should be sufficiently with the mad-caps of the sample should be sufficiently with the momer of you, and your divine institutions, as they are called, than they do of an old ballad, or the tale of a superannuated grannam. Why every think no more of you, and your divine inftitutions, as they are called, than they do of an old ballad, or the tale of a superannuated grannam. Why every mother's son of 'em is born a politician, and a legislator there; ay, I say, born a legislator. They so to it as naturally as a hound to the chace, or a poose to the water: ay, faith, and use as little reaction too. You shall see them sit down to make has with as little thought, nay I don't know but with much less, than they do to a beef-steak or an apple pudding. In our days it was thought necessary to prepare oneself by a course of study to go about that kind of business; but there's nothing of that fort there; no, nothing more is necessary than just sufficient instruction to enable them to read a sew super, and to write their names; they are then qualified to enter the list as orators, and legislators; and truly they make a striking figure in both ways.

Lycargus. But pray let us know something more of this strange country. Where does it lie? and how did you get to it? I should like to be acquainted with some of their principles, and institutions, and by what means they accomplish such aighty matters with so much exist, and so natural-times, and to reprinciples, and institutions! Why 7, as you term it,

aighty matters with so much exise, and so natural—

7, as you term it,

Esp. Their principles, and infitutions! Why
man you must not suppose, because you could not
hart a peg without fix'd principles, that they are
have the same hobble. Their principles are like their
doaks, they take off, or put on, as occasion retainers, and are both regulated by similar circumtances. They have this great advantage, they are
of such a cut that they never impede their progress,
he it either with or against the haind; and are of so
accellent a texture, that you may wear them, or
throw them off, without any sensible inconvenience,
he any weather. Now this is a resinement in prinsples, which your worships were entirely ignorant
at, and by the bye is not easily to be accounted
for. In this particular, I speak it with all due detences, lies the grand defect of your very wise intitutions. Whatever object you had in view, it
vassure to be hamper'd with some principle or other,
and could not be brought about, according to your
softrine, but by means perfectly consonant to it,
if you made a solemn promise in the face of the
torid, you held that you were obliged to comply
with the terms of it, let the inconvenience of a forld, you held that you were obliged to comply with the terms of it, let the inconvenience of a sun the terms of it, let the inconvenience of a templiance, or the advantages that might be defined from a violation of it, be ever fo great. This is the occasion of many difficulties to you and for countrymen, but they are happily obviated by the people I am speaking of. They have brought that matter to such a pitch of perfection, that they

can calculate to a fraction, how far they are bound to comply with their engagements; for this always, and very juffly, depends upon a variety of circumfances, fuch as the times, place, their convenience, the perions to whom they are bound, and the like.

Lycargus. I must really confess these are principles. Lam totally macquainted with. But come

ples. I must really confess these are principles. I am totally unacquainted with. But come, give us some account of your journey. How did you get amongst these surprising people? and how did you contrive to get acquainted with their as-

Æfep. Why you must know, that falling in company with Mercury the last time he came down with a meffage from Jove to these parts, I ask'd him what was ffirring in the upper regions? what was the latest news in those parts? and how matters went with our once brother mortals on the matters went with our once brother mortals on the earth? His godfhip I fancy had taken a hearty sup of nectar before he set out from above, which made him very communicative. After telling me a great many strange matters, I am going, said he, before I return home, an errand to the new world, as it is called; where if you have a mind, you may be an eye-witness to some of the uncommon things, I have been relating to you. I took him at his world have been relating to you. I took him at his word, fo after finishing his business in this quarter we set out. He took to his wings, and I embracing his two buttocks with my arms, was safely convey'd to our journey's end

two buttocks with my arms, was fafely convey'd to our journey's end.

Solon. By my troth a pretty eafy mode of travelling. Well, now let us know what follow'd £fep. Pr'ythee have a little patience; give me but time, and you shall have my whole budget; you know I am not much given to keep seerets. Well then, it was my very good fortune to take land at that critical period, when the grand assembly of lawmakers of a large state were just convened. Heavens what a sight! I think it was some prince or ambassador, who sance in the presence of an assembly of gods. What wou'd he have said had he been in my place? he might have ransack'd heaven and earth in vain for a simile. You know I was once tolerably well acquainted with the world, and was not apt to be consounded the in the company of kings and princes. But I don't know how it hapnot apt to be confounded tho' in the company of kings and princes. But I don't know how it happen'd; either the novelty of the matter, or the grandeur of the fight, affected my fenses in so instantaneous, and surprising a manner, that tho' only a spiritual substance, therefore not so liable to those fensitions as when in a carnal state, yet it was with the utmost difficulty I could retain the use of my faculties; however by degrees I come to and my faculties; however by degrees I came to, and after a few hours was so well recover'd; that I was able to bear the fight without hazarding a relapse. I remember it was the boast of old Rome, that she have a single the state of the same to be a single to be a borrow'd her dictators, and statesmen, from the plough. In this particular she is far outdone now. I'll warrant ye the odds are more than forty to one; I'll warrant ye the odds are more than forty to one; fuch a happy change has taken place in the terestical world! I cannot undertake to give you a circumfantial account of the characters, that composed this august body, now, nor of all the matters that were agitated amongst them whilst I was there. Tho' all were excellent in their kind, yet I cou'd perceive a difference; some were more craftly qualified than others, that is, were more highly impregnated with that rare spirit of nature, which so remarkably distinguishes this people from any I had ever beheld or heard of before. Athens may boast of her Demosthenes, Rome of her Cicero, but give me a ________, nay I cou'd name you a - ; nay I cou'd name you a fcore more fuch. Lycurgas. What! Are orators to plenty then,

Lycargai. What! Are orators to plenty then, that you count them by scores?

Lipp. Ay truly, providence has been very bountiful in that particular too. She has surnished them of all dimensions; as long winded or laconic as you please; indeed I much question whether your celebrated Spartans excelled some of them in this latter talent; the multum in parvo is truly descriptive of their ejaculations; and I was happily so placed, that I lost not a particle of these precious morfels. Being invisible to eyes of sich from my spiritual nature, and not sensible to the stabeh of matter, I could go where I pleased without being incommoded myself, or incommoding others; this gave me an excellent opportunity of noting all that incommoded myfelf, or incommoding others; this gave me an excellent opportunity of noting all that passed: The first business, that was taken in hand after my arrival amongst them, was the choice of their first magistrate. It seems this act had been omitted on the day appointed by the constitution of the state; it there are became a question whether it could be done at all afterwards, as the constitutional rule had not been observed; this occasioned a long

and learned debate, in which the matter was handled with the utmost skill, and acuteness, particus
larly by the opposers of the measure. One amongst
them, I remember, advanced many arguments that
were uncommonly forcible, and curious, and proposed an expedient equally sagacious, and new, but
all to no purpose, for the question was carried for
the opposite opinion. The next thing was the
choice of the grand executive council. Now I
thought I shou'd be able to get some insight into
the affairs of government; for as a heavy charge choice of the grand executive council. Now I thought I shou'd be able to get some insight into she affairs of government; for as a heavy charge was brought against the members of the old council, I expected their proceedings would be overlook'd, and theil administration publicly examined, but to my great disppointment, and surprise, I sound the matter was dropp'd. I confess this stagger'd me not a little, and I had very nearly doubted the wisdom and virtue of this august body; but their former conduct recurring to my mind, and the distinguished character of the member, who moved the charge, but did not prosecute it, undoubtedly for very wise tho unknown reasons, I became easily reconciled to the omission. The last affair of consequence I shall mention now, was the appointment of persons to represent the flate in a grand council, composed of represent the flate in a grand council, composed of represent the stream a number of other states, which with this formed one great republic. Now, said I to myself, shall I see some of the first characters this most extraordinary country produces; for as the peculiar situation of their affairs required the most able heads in the country produces; for as the peculiar fituation of their affairs required the most able heads in the their affairs required the most able heads in the land, I consequently expected to see such named for the most difficult charge they had to confer. Accordingly the nomination began, and proceeded for rapidly, that I cou'd not help exclaiming to myself, "What a rare country is this, where they so readily find men capable of filling the most important employments, that can fall to the charge of human beings!" I centrived to get a fight of these distinguished characters, which instantly bringing to my remembrance the old adage, "Fronti nulla fides," I came away well assured of their profound abilities, and uncommon sagacity.

fides," I came away well anured of their probabilities, and uncommon fagacity.

Solon. Truly, friend Ælop, you feem mightily wrapt up in this ftrange, new people; but methinks you have given us no inflances yet of the profound abilities, and uncommon fagacity, you speak of in

Efp. Nay, I don't know what you may call instances. I am satisfied I have mentioned only a infances. I am fatisfied I have mentioned only a few of their acts, which alone are sufficient to immortalize them; but if these won't content you, perhaps I may at some other opportunity relate some things to you, which will put the matter pass a doubt. Their money, my old boy! there's their fort. In this single article, they have gone beyond the power of magic itself. No magician, or necromancer, with all his art, can equal them. Such is their power over a shall piece of paper of about three inches square, that they can make it assume more shapes in a sew hours, than old Proteus did in the whole course of his existence. It shall now be gold; now silver; nay both at the same instant. In a moment at shall cease to exist; with a dash of the pen it is revived. It is now more; now less; and yet always the same. This amazing power has been exercised with infinite advantage to the state; for by a single touch, and a few words, which have a high magical virtue in shem, it becomes sen, twenty, thirty, forty times larger, and yet continues perfectly the same in matter and size; so that they can at a word encrease, or diminish it to suin every occasion, that may happen. This is a rare improvement in politics, and worth the whole are besides. It is true such sudden changes have occasioned some consuson at times, which will ever be the case in affairs of this nature; but the immense gains derived to the society from so valuable an art. the case in affairs of this nature; but the immense gains derived to the society from so valuable an art, richly compensate for any transitory evils, that may flow from the practice of it. Besides, as it is wisely ordained by Providence, that every evil shall work its own cure, by a gradual extinction of the ill principle it contains; so these disorders spend them-selves by degrees, and, to make ample amends for felves by degrees, and, to make ample amends for the ills they have occasioned, terminate in giving existence to a being, unknown to the good solks of our days, called a financier. This no easy matter to describe the character, and qualities of this being; though he arises out of constrains within himself every principle of order; he is a perfect counterpart to the occasion, that calls him to life. He is a thorough adept in the art of sime to life. He is a thorough adept in the art of fim-plifying, and is fo firingly addicted to the practice of it, that he never fails to instill into all his projects the genuine fpirit of that quality; mbreover,

gainst the fratrix. COURTS s commit. 12 O'clock

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