

# MARYLAND GAZETTE.

T H U R S D A Y, J U N E 1 2, 1 8 0 6.

### Miscellany.

#### TIMON; OR, THE COMFORTS OF MARRIAGE.

POOR *Timon* rail'd, poor *Timon* swore;  
The marriage knot he ne'er would tie;  
Full many a summer had pass'd o'er,  
Before the youth began to sigh.  
Alas! poor *Timon* in his lure,  
Began to think about his cure,  
And he was right, you may be sure.

His *Rosalinda* often frown'd,  
And bade her *Timon* hie away;  
And she was pleas'd, whene'er she found  
That *Timon* rather chose to stay.  
'Your love,' she cried, 'I can't endure';  
But *Timon* thought her words a lure,  
And he was right, you may be sure.

On wings of down time flew away,  
When Hymen crown'd the simple pair;  
A smiling race they now display;  
The boys are strong, the girls are fair.  
They laugh at grief, tho' they are poor;  
For love, each hardship they endure,  
And they are right, you may be sure.

But soon, alas! misfortune round  
Her clouds of grief and sorrow threw:  
Pale want and haggard care were found,  
And hope, with fainting pinions flew.  
But love, an angel at the door,  
Still bade them smile, tho' they were poor,  
And love was right, you may be sure.

And now, how sad they sat and sigh'd,  
Each day of some dear joy bereft;  
Their little smiling infant died,  
And not one ray of hope was left;  
Save that, in heaven burn love secure,  
She blest'd him still, tho' he was poor,  
And he was right, you may be sure.

Domestic love! celestial spark!  
Still shall thy lasting flame survive;  
When all around is still and dark,  
Keep life's all changing scene alive.  
They grieve no more, that they are poor;  
In love they find out sorrow's cure,  
And they are right, you may be sure.

#### The Story of Madam Villacerfe.

MADAM VILLACERFE, a French lady of noble Family, dignified character, and unblemished life, whose remarkable and tragic death was distinguished by an evenness of temper and greatness of mind, not usual in her sex, and equal to the most renowned heroes of antiquity. The short history of this excellent woman is, I believe, generally known, and will probably be recognised by many of my readers, but she is so striking an example of philosophic suffering, Christian fortitude, generous forbearance, and angelic love, without the least possible alloy of selfishness or sensuality, that the affecting circumstance cannot, in my opinion, be dwelt on too long, or repeated too often.

An early, a mutual affection, had taken place between this lady and Monsieur Festeau, a surgeon of eminence, in Paris, but, from the insurmountable obstacles which in those days (A. D. 1700,) so strictly guarded superior rank from intermingling with plebeian blood, all further intercourse was prevented, than animated civilities, when opportunity offered, and soft but secret wishes. The lover would have perished, rather than by a rash proceeding, degrade the object of his tenderest affections in the eyes of her family and the world; and his mistress, taught by love, the omnipotent leveller of all distinctions, though she felt too powerfully the merit of her admirer, who is the scale of unprejudiced reason, far out-weighed a thousand fashionable pretenders to frivolous accomplishment and superficial attainment; resolved

To quit the object of no common choice,  
In mild submission to stern duty's voice,  
The much-lov'd man with all his claims resign,  
And sacrifice delight at duty's shrine.

After some years passed in what may be called a defeat, rather than a struggle of the passions; after a glorious victory of duty and honour, which surely affords a durable and exalted pleasure, far beyond the gratification of wild wishes and misguided appetites; Madam Villacerfe, from an indisposition which confined her to a chamber, but not to her bed, was, by the prescription of her physician, ordered to be bled. Festeau, as surgeon to the family, was sent for, and his countenance, as he entered the room, strongly exhibited the state of his mind. After gently touching her pulse, and a few professional questions, in a low,

hesitating voice, he prepared for the operation, by tucking up that part of a loose dress which covered her arm: an interesting business to a man of fine feelings, who had long laboured with the most ardent attachment to his lovely patient, whose illness diffused an irresistible softness over her features, and lighted up the embers of an affection, suppressed, but never extinguished.

Pressing the vein, in order to render it more prominent, he was observed to be seized with a sudden tremor, and to change his colour; this circumstance was mentioned to the lady, not without a fear, that it might prevent his bleeding her with his usual dexterity. On her observing, with a smile, that she confided entirely in Monsieur Festeau, and was sure he had no inclination to do her an injury, he appeared to recover himself, and smiling, or forcing a smile, proceeded to his work, which was no sooner performed, than he cried out, "I am the most unfortunate man alive, I have opened an artery instead of a vein."

It is not easy to describe his distraction, or her composure; in less than three days, the state of her arm, in consequence of the accident, rendered amputation necessary, when so far from using her unhappy surgeon with the peevish resentment of a safe and little mind, she tenderly requested of him not to be absent from any consultation on the treatment of her case; ordered her will to be made, and after her arm was taken off, symptoms appearing, which convinced Festeau and his associates, that less than four and twenty hours would terminate the existence of one who was an ornament to her sex. The voice, the looks, the stifled anguish of her lover, as well as her own feelings, convinced her of the approaches of death; an opinion, which her earnest and solemn entreaties, on a death bed, not to be disregarded, obliged her friends to confirm. A few hours before the awful moment of dissolution, that period which none can escape, and the fear of which bold men only affect to despise, she addressed the disconsolate surgeon in the following words:

"You give me inexpressible concern for the sorrow in which I see you overwhelmed, notwithstanding your kind efforts to conceal it. I am removing—to all intents and purposes, I am removed from the interests of human life, it is therefore highly incumbent on me to begin to think and act like one wholly unconcerned in it. I feel not the least resentment or displeasure on the present occasion. I do not consider you as one by whose error I have lost my life; I regard you, rather, as a benefactor, who have hastened my entrance into a blessed immortality. But the world may look on the accident which, on your account alone, I can call unfortunate, and mention it to your disadvantage; I have therefore provided, in my will, against every thing you may have to dread from the ill-will, the prejudices, or the selfish misrepresentations of mankind."

This pattern for Christians, this example for heroes, soon after expired. A judicial sentence, devoting his fortune to confiscation, and his body to exquisite tortures, could not have produced keener sensations of misery and horror, than Festeau felt during her address, which was an emanation of celestial benignity, an anticipating revelation, a divine ray from the spirit of that God who inspired and loved her, and in whose presence she was shortly to triumph and adore.

But when he contemplated her exalted goodness and unparalleled magnanimity in suffering pain and mortal agonies, inflicted by an unhappy man, who, of all others, loved and doated on her most; when he saw her dying look, and heard that groan which is repeated no more; sick of the world, dispirited with human life and its vain pursuits, angry beyond forgiveness with himself, he sunk into the settled gloom and long melancholy of despair.

This is one of the many instances in which a little forethought, and a small share of prudence, would have prevented much serious evil and irretrievable calamity. I have said, in a former article, that love, though not curable by herbs, may be prevented by caution, and as it was impossible that Madam Villacerfe's relations could be entirely strangers to the partiality of Monsieur Festeau, they should industriously have prevented all intercourse between the young people. The agitated frame and deranged appearance of her lover, observed previous to the catastrophe, by a gentleman nearly related to the lady, from whom I tell the story, pointed him out as the most improper man alive for medical or surgical assistance, which requires coolness, dexterity, a steady hand, and a collected mind.

In the sudden and disastrous accidents to which human life is, on every side, and during every moment exposed, it will frequently be found, that those connected to us by the nearest and dearest ties of blood, friendship or affection, are often, by those very circumstances, disqualified from affording us prompt and effectual relief, or even solace and comfort, in the common circumstances of life. The fond mother, whose

infant is a constant source of toil and occupation, which no one else would willingly submit to, and delight, which all must envy, on seeing it suddenly spring from her arms into a deep and rapid stream, would probably sink to the ground in a fainting fit or an hysterical convulsion, and be rendered, by the ardour of affection and the violence of her feelings, wholly unable to snatch her child from death. A bye-stander, perhaps, a reprobate and a scoundrel, uninfluenced by philanthropy, love, or a sense of duty, and amply repaid by half a crown, with all his senses about him, would directly jump in, and, a stranger to the unmanageable ecstasies of a mother, restore the darling to her arms.

### Law of the Union.

#### AN ACT

To regulate the laying out and making a road from Cumberland, in the state of Maryland, to the state of Ohio.

BE it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America, in congress assembled, That the president of the United States be, and he is hereby authorized to appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, three discreet and disinterested citizens of the United States, to lay out a road from Cumberland, or a point on the northern bank of the river Potomac, in the state of Maryland, between Cumberland and the place where the main-road leading from Gwynn's to Winchester, in Virginia, crosses the river, to the state of Ohio; whose duty it shall be, as soon as may be, after their appointment, to repair to Cumberland aforesaid, and view the ground from the points on the river Potomac herein-before designated, to the river Ohio, and to lay out in such direction as they shall judge, under all circumstances, the most proper, a road from thence to the river Ohio, to strike the same at the most convenient place, between a point on its eastern bank, opposite to the northern boundary of Steubenville, in said state of Ohio, and the mouth of Grave-creek, which empties into the said river, a little below Wheeling, in Virginia.

SECT. 2. And be it further enacted, That the aforesaid road shall be laid out four rods in width, and designated on each side by a plain and distinguishable mark on a tree, or by the erection of a stake or monument, sufficiently conspicuous, in every quarter of a mile of the distance, at least where the road pursues a straight course so far or farther, and on each side, at every point where an angle occurs in its course.

SECT. 3. And be it further enacted, That the commissioners shall, as soon as may be, after they have laid out said road as aforesaid, present to the president an accurate plan of the same, with its several courses and distances, accompanied by a written report of their proceedings, describing the marks and monuments by which the road is designated and the face of the country over which it passes, and pointing out the particular parts which they shall judge require the most & immediate attention and amelioration, and the probable expence of making the same passable in the most difficult parts, and through the whole distance; designating the state or states through which said road has been laid out, and the length of the several parts which are laid out on new grounds, as well as the length of those parts laid out on the road now travelled: Which report the president is authorized to accept or reject, in the whole or in part: if he accepts, he is hereby further authorized and requested, to pursue such measures as in his opinion shall be proper, to obtain consent for making the road, of the state or states through which the same has been laid out: Which consent being obtained, he is further authorized to take prompt and effectual measures to cause said road to be made through the whole distance, or in any part or parts of the same, as he shall judge most conducive to the public good, having reference to the sum appropriated for the purpose.

SECT. 4. And be it further enacted, That all parts of the road which the president shall direct to be made, in case the trees are standing, shall be cleared the whole width of four rods: and the road shall be raised in the middle of the carriage way, with stone, earth, or gravel and sand, or a combination of some of all of them, leaving or making, as the case may be, a ditch or water course on each side, and contiguous to said carriage way: and in no instance shall there be an elevation in said road, when finished, greater than an angle of five degrees with the horizon. But the manner of making said road, in every other particular, is left to the direction of the president.

SECT. 5. And be it further enacted, That said commissioners shall each receive four dollars per day, while employed as aforesaid, in full for their compensation, including all expences. And they are hereby authorized to employ one surveyor, two chainmen and one marker, for whose faithfulness and accuracy they, the said commissioners, shall be responsible, to attend them