

*Janus et ultrices posuere Cubilia Curae,
Pallentes habitant morbi, tristisque Senebrus,
Et meus et maleuada Fames et turpis Egestas,
Terribilis Visu Forme.* VIRGIL.

IT is somewhere asserted that man may with more truth be defined *Animal Capax Rationis*, than *Animal Rationale*, and the instances of human folly that occur at all times and places, and in varieties without end, abundantly prove, that our species, however capable they may be of occasional exertions of the rational faculty, cannot boast of being very readily under its influence. Its dominion over the passions is at best precarious, and can only be acquired by a patient attention and vigilance which not many are disposed to exert, and must be confirmed by such a settled habit as few have perseverance enough to acquire. Unfortunately our habits are generally on the other side, and some of them have a tendency to deprive us even of the capacity itself. This is particularly the case with those who indulge to excess in the use of intoxicating liquors. A drunken man is in a state of temporary insanity, and capable of committing any act of violence or extravagance to which any other lunatic might be impelled. Notable instances of this kind are to be found in history. Alexander the Great, in one drunken fit, burned the magnificent metropolis of the Persian Empire, and in another murdered his friend. And though it is not for ordinary drunkards to make bonfires of capital cities, instances are not wanting to show, that to assassinate a friend in a drunken frolic is not the peculiar prerogative of heroes.

These it may be said are extreme cases; and I readily admit, that the burning of a town is not a common prank; that a bottle or a candlestick, is sometimes hurled without effect, and a blow from them is not always mortal; and that at these orgies there are generally some, less frantic than the rest, whose interposition may, for the moment, prevent serious mischief; but it will not be denied that the causes of many of the murders committed in the fashionable mode of manly duels, originate in the petulance prompted by intemperate drinking. These would be atoned for by the Indian apology, "the rum did it," rather than expiated by blood, if the reasoning faculty were allowed to assume its proper influence after such temporary suspension. But even where no such tragical consequences as these are the result, innumerable evils fall not to ensue and destroy much of the comfort of human life. Follow the drunkard from the tavern or other scene of intemperance to his home. See the sensibility of his wife wounded by the degrading situation in which she sees the man she loves and once esteemed. If there be any latent moroseness of temper in him it is sure to break forth. Should any provocation real or imagined occur, he abstains not from abuse, nor sometimes even from blows. His children are terrified, and that which ought to be the temple of peace and domestic happiness is converted into a theatre of the wildest disorder. If the practice is persisted in till it grows into a habit, the misery ends not here. Ruin follows "like an armed man," and the family on whom plenty and prosperity once smiled, find poverty with its attendant distresses staring them in the face.—These are no exaggerated pictures; no creatures of a gloomy imagination. The realities press themselves upon our daily observation, and sometimes under more dismal forms than those which I have portrayed; and form one of the most abundant sources of human misery.

The Lacedemonians are said to have occasionally made their slaves drunk, and in that state to have exhibited them to their children, that the disgusting appearance might inspire their youth with aversion; and in the interesting history of Prince Lee Boo, an amiable native of one of the Pelew Islands, an account is given of the effect produced on an ingenuous child of Nature by the sight of a drunken man for the first time. "An incident at Macao gave him an aversion to all kinds of spirits. One of the seamen being much intoxicated, Lee Boo supposing him very ill, in great concern applied to Mr. Sharp, the surgeon, to relieve him. On being informed of the nature of his ailment, and that it was merely the effect of a liquor in which common people were apt to indulge, and would soon go off of itself, his anxiety subsided, but he would never afterwards even taste spirits." With us the sight has become so familiar as to lose its effect, and we are hardly shocked at it when presented to our view under appearances the most loathsome.

I have more than once heard a most respectable clergyman, now no more, relate, that when he was residing at Fort Hunter,

as missionary to the Mohawk Indians, he found one of them, whose name was Isaac, so remarkable for his sobriety, that he could not help bestowing on him the highest praise for a virtue so uncommon. Isaac modestly replied, "You are very good, Father, to entertain so favorable an opinion of me; but I have no merit in being sober; I love rum as well as other Indians do, but when I drink it, I become a madman; and might kill my friend, or my wife, or do some other dreadful mischief that would afterwards make me miserable." However modestly Isaac might think of himself for this habit of self-denial, to abstain from a favorite gratification on account of the evil consequences that follow from indulging in it, is the noblest triumph of reason; and in the scale of just estimation places this untutored Indian far above the celebrated Macedonian Hero, who, though he subjugated all Asia, was not master of himself.

From Bell's Weekly Messenger.

MR. SADLER'S ASCENT IN HIS BALLOON.

THIS venerable and intrepid British Aeronaut made his seventeenth excursion into the regions of air on Monday, from the Gardens of the Mermaid Tavern, at Hackney. He was accompanied in his flight by Lieut. Paget, of the Navy, the gentleman who was to have ascended with him from Cambridge, but who, from unavoidable circumstances, did not go up.

The fame of Mr. Sadler spread wide and near, and being the only English traveller who ever ventured so many times to mount aloft, the recollection of the narrow escape he had in July, 1810, (when he ascended from Bristol) of being lost in the sea, into which he fell with his Balloon, added to the serenity and beauty of the day, occasioned an immense crowd of spectators to flock from all parts of the Metropolis, and the adjacent counties, to witness his flight; but no one time within our memory, from the ascent of the first aerial traveller seen in England (Lunardi) down to the present, did we ever witness curiosity so much on the alert. The road to the Mermaid, at a very early hour, was lined with carriages and horsemen of all descriptions, from the titled peer to the humble cabbage venders, and with respect to the pedestrian, the same variety of character and description of persons trod the footpath. Indeed, so extremely thronged were all the roads from town, and from the eastward part of the country, that the passage was completely blocked up for a considerable time.

The necessary precautions had been taken by Mr. Sadler to prevent the improper intrusion of persons into the gardens of the Mermaid, by the introduction of a proper number of peace officers, outside and inside, and by the timely aid and assistance of the Tower Hamlets Militia, which regiment, with considerable difficulty, kept the ground, and at the same time good order.

The Balloon had been previously brought from the Pantheon to the Gardens, whither the barrels containing the inflammable gas necessary to be used in filling it were placed. About eight o'clock in the morning the men employed in this department began the operation, which, under the direction and superintendance of Mr. Sadler, continued till near half past one o'clock, when the process was completed. When the Balloon was sufficiently inflated, the appearance was such as to call forth the most decided approbation from at least 3000 spectators within the gardens.—Though this appearance of the Balloon was truly grand, when the car was brought into the Gardens to be appended to the Balloon, its beauty and brilliancy drew forth an involuntary burst of applause, which may well be conceived when we give a short sketch of its embellishments.

The Balloon is precisely the same, only fresh varnished, as when Mr. Sadler ascended at Cambridge; but the Car is splendid in the extreme. It is an entire new one, and decorated in an appropriate manner for the day—the Anniversary of the Prince Regent's Birth. It is lined with beautiful yellow silk of the richest texture, and fitted up with exquisitely elegant cushions of the same color. The covering is cotton, of azure blue, studded over with stars of most brilliant appearance; a wreath of acanthus-leaves intermixes the bottom of the car, which is adorned with crimson velvet, and the outside displays a rail of Chinese fret work, carved in the most curious manner, gilt and covered with crimson velvet, and enriched with gold bordering. At each end of the car are deposited the Prince Regent's plumes, finely worked in gold cloth, and adorned with a variety of oak leaves, of acorns, &c. The canopy, which is formed over the car, is of a conical form, composed of rich crimson silk; the top of which is surmounted by a rich coronet, and costly plumes of *drap d'or*; the base formed by a cornice, to which the Bal-

loon is attached by about thirty golden cords; added to these cords six additional ones of the same beauty are suspended from the cornice to the car, over these hung festoons of satin, with gilt acorn trimmings, looped up with gold twill. On the top are six other plumes of feathers, forming six sections, each of which is enlivened by sprigs of laurels and gold berries, presenting one of the most superb objects which the ingenuity of man can devise, or which the fancy of the spectator can hope to see realized!

The car having been affixed to the Balloon about half past two o'clock, the travellers (Messrs. Sadler and Lieutenant Paget) accompanied by several friends, passed through the crowd of spectators to the stage, accompanied by the standard or flag bearers. They were received with loud shouts of applause, which evidently made great impression upon Mr. Sadler. The necessary ballast having been stowed in the car, and the whole being ready for ascending, the two aerial travellers prepared to take their seats. Another involuntary burst of applause broke forth, which was re-echoed from the tops of the surrounding houses, and from the people in the street. At 20 minutes before three o'clock they took their seats; Mr. Sadler stepped in first, and the Lieutenant immediately followed; the cords, which, till this time had been held by about 30 men, to prevent the Balloon from ascending, were let go, and the men hung upon the car, in order that the Balloon might be removed from the spot where it was filled, to some little distance, that in ascending it might clear the trees, and at the same time afford the spectators a fuller view of the ascent. Exactly at eighteen minutes before three o'clock, the signal being made, they let go their hold, and the Balloon gradually arose (clearing the trees) in a slow and truly majestic manner.—Mr. Sadler and Lieut. Paget saluting the spectators as they ascended, the spectators returning their salute by reiterated shouts of applause, and clapping of hands. In this manner the Balloon kept slowly ascending, taking a South-east direction for near 20 minutes; during the whole of this time the travellers were distinctly seen by the naked eye. Mr. Sadler waving his flag and the Lieut. waving his hat, to the great satisfaction of the spectators. The Balloon then ascended higher, still keeping in sight for upwards of ten minutes, until it became no larger in appearance than a bird, and at length was lost to the view.

The brilliancy of the Balloon and Car—the majestic appearance in its ascension—and the coolness and intrepidity displayed not only by the venerable aeronaut, but by the novice in travelling the airy regions, were themes of conversation while they remained in sight, and long after. In the many ascensions of aeronauts was never witnessed, either in Garnerin or in Lunardi, (certainly both men of courage and skill) more of self-possession of the latter quality, than was evinced by Mr. Sadler. And with respect to the grandeur of the object in the air, we never saw any Balloon which displayed to the sight so sublime an idea of aerial travelling; for the venerable aeronaut seemed to manage the Balloon at pleasure.

During the process of filling, and until the ascension, the band of the Tower Hamlets continued playing some beautiful airs.—They were stationed near the Assembly Room.

The general expression of the spectators, when the travellers were beyond their sight, was an expression of humanity and feeling for their safe return, in which sentiment we sincerely participated.

It is impossible to describe in adequate terms, the scene which was presented all the way to town on the return of the spectators. Upon making the most moderate calculation, the roads contained nearly one hundred thousand persons of all sexes, ages, and conditions. In the vicinity of the Mermaid, such confusion was created from the impossibility of foot passengers making their way, several persons were thrown down and much hurt—several ladies fainted—and, for several minutes, so completely wedged were the people, that they could not pass on. The confusion was greatly heightened by the vast number of carriages which occupied the high road into which the passengers were forced by the rapidity of the pressure. We have not heard of any serious accident, and we sincerely hope not any has occurred.

Mr. Sadler was dressed in black—Lieut. Paget wore a blue coat and nankeen pantaloons.

From a London paper.

Match against Time.—Mr. Wildard, of Duke-street, Oxford-road, undertook yesterday morning to drive a horse, under 14 hands, drawing 26 stone, to Maidenhead, in an hour and three quarters, for a wager of 100 guineas, and a fe-

cond wager that he performed 15 miles in the first hour, for half the original stake. The morning was very unfavorable, but the driver did the 15 miles in four minutes under the hour; but the animal lagged in going the 19th mile, and was beat at the 26th. The distance to Maidenhead is 26 miles.

A singular circumstance occurred at a Church at the West end of the town on Saturday last. A couple were married for the third time. The first time the ceremonies were performed, the parties were under age; the second time the licence was filled up in the wrong name; this rendered another licence necessary, and the ceremony was performed a third time.

Female Pugilists.—The late contest between Molineux and Crib has awakened the heroism of a female and an American, who has challenged the British fair to combat. An Irish woman, (O'Donnell) not liking to hear our British ladies vaunted over by a foreigner, has accepted the challenge.—The battle it is supposed will be fought in the Grove, at Hackney, (it being the property of a gentleman who supports the Irish ladies) on the 21st of this month. The females of Hackney seem very much interested, and betting runs high.

Boxing.—A tremendous pitched battle for 50 guineas a side was fought on Saturday at Knowle Heath, (Bucks) between *Ben. Colman* a bargeman, and *Geo. Lovel*, a coachman, and a reputed *millar*. The contest was maintained with an obstinacy never excelled for one hour & thirty-five minutes, when both were carried off the ground without deciding the battle. The combatants were twelve stonemen, round hand hitters, but without science.

FROM THE UNITED STATES.

New York, November 28.

LATEST FOREIGN NEWS.

[Received by the ship *Martha*, Capt. Gardner.]

It appears that Lord William Bentwick, late British Minister at Sicily, has had a long audience with the Prince Regent, and has returned to that country with the final determination of the British ministry.

Large quantities of military stores are ready at Plymouth to be sent to Jersey and Guernsey. A Cartel arrived from Morlaix about the middle of October, with an American Messenger, with despatches to our charge des affaires in London.

London, Oct. 2.

A mediation is determined on and appointed, between Spain and the American Colonies; the English gentlemen are named in the last Gazette, among whom we observe Mr. Morier, lately our charge d'affaires to the U. States.

It is reported that Bonaparte meditates the invasion of Jersey, with an army of 30,000 men from the port of Cherbourg. Advices to this effect have been sent by Lord Liverpool to General Don, who have taken the necessary precautions. It is however probable that the object of the French armament is very different from that which it seems to threaten.

October 8.

The accounts from the French coast state, that Bonaparte has captured the admiral of the Boulogne flotilla, in consequence of the failure of the attack on the Naïad. It is also reported that the Scheldt fleet is completely ready for sailing & is daily expected to attempt to slip out to sea. It is said that in con-