

32<sup>nd</sup>  
T A L E S, 34

Translated from the

Perſian of INATULLA of DELHI.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

V O L. I.



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M D C C L X V I I I .

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# P R E F A C E.

**T**HE many attempts made in Europe to imitate the eastern manner of writing, by men totally unacquainted with the literature of Asia, induced the translator of the following tales to present the public with a genuine specimen of oriental composition, as nearly as the very different idioms

a

of

of the English and Persian languages would permit. Had he endeavoured to make the diction more consonant to his own ideas of propriety and elegance, the characteristic manner of the original would probably have evaporated in his hands. He therefore chose rather to shew what the oriental style really is, than to substitute any thing of his own in its place.

Originality and novelty are perhaps the greatest merit of this work. The faults of Inatulla are many; but it is not the province of the  
 translator

translator to point them out. His readers will, no doubt, take that trouble off his hands: but had the tales been thought altogether destitute of beauty, they would probably have still remained in the obscurity of the Persian tongue. The language of the translation will, perhaps, be thought too florid and diffuse by men accustomed to the succinct and nervous manner of the ancients, and that concise elegance, which distinguishes many writers of modern Europe. But whatever liberties have been taken with the

English language, in order to bend it to the Persian idiom, the translator can aver, that he has retrenched many of the redundancies of his author.

Inatulla uses the pompous diction peculiar to the East, even in his most familiar and ludicrous tales. In some of them, the translator found it necessary to reduce his author's ideas into common language. But as the species of wit contained in them depends very much upon the idiom of the Persian, he is as little satisfied with his translation, as  
 he

he is with the subject of the stories themselves. . .

It appears that Inatulla was not the inventor of the tales which he introduces as episodes, and ingrafts upon a story of his own forming. They were taken from the writings of the Brahmins, and it were to be wished he had retained that simplicity of thought and language which is peculiar to the compositions of those philosophers.

The severity with which our author treats the fair sex stands in need of an apology. The British  
ladies

ladies will, no doubt, see with pleasure, how superior their own virtue is to that of the fair sex in India, though the latter are immured within harems and guarded by the watchful eyes of eunuchs. There is a strange perversity in human nature : it rises up in arms against all restraint ; and perhaps the best guardian of the chastity of wives is unbounded confidence from the husbands.

The translator chose his author, more from accident than design. Inatulla was put into his hands when he was learning the Persian,

rather on account of his metaphorical expressions and variety of diction, than for his reputation as a writer in the East. The grave Mohomedans of India think him too free in his expressions in some of the tales ; a censure which he will probably incur in this country, though great care has been taken in the translation not to offend decency. At any rate it is to be hoped his moral tales will make up for the levity of his ludicrous stories ; and that, upon the whole, Inatulla will afford some entertainment.



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The Author INATULA

• T O

T H E R E A D E R .

**T**O the liberal patrons of science, to the ornaments of the society of knowledge; to the descendants of the sun of genius, whose minds are enlightened like the morning, be it known, That in the days of joy and festivity, in the temperate season of  
VOL. I.            A            delight,

delight, when by the benign influence of the king of stars the teeming earth was cloathed in green, embroidered with bright clusters of flowers, the envy of the constellations, I walked forth with a few chearful companions, from the tumultuous waves of business into the calm of rural retirement, to recreate the mind with the prospect of vernal beauty.

There I beheld the cup-bearers of the sky <sup>r</sup>, from the fountain of benevolence, pouring forth bounty profuse on the exhilarated family of May, and the earth in full pride,

<sup>r</sup> The clouds.

intoxicated by the draught, disclosing without reserve the secrets of her swelling bosom. There I beheld the painter of the year<sup>2</sup> displaying his variegated fancies on his leafy tablets, and, with the pencil of power dipped in the æthereal bow, writing the lessons of wisdom divine on the fair forehead of blooming Nature. There the rosy-finger'd Spring, by the liquid mirror of a chrystalline pool, was attiring her fair daughters in seven-fold ornaments, while the love-whispering breezes stole kisses as they passed, and fanned their glowing beauties.

<sup>2</sup> The sun.

From the warmth of the vital ray the little blossoms on every tree threw off their winter garments, and the infant buds of the Spring from ruby cups sipped with joy the balmy dew. The leaves of the forest were loaded with manna, pure amber dropped from every bough, honey distilled from the rifted rock, and the humming bee, drunk with joy, strayed from flower to flower, forgetful of his bursting cells.

Sweeter than the musk of Tartar<sup>3</sup>, the morning breeze from the navel of every flower ravished per-

<sup>3</sup> Tartary.

fume. The breath of the mountain heifer was fragrant as the gales of Sirendiep <sup>4</sup>, by feeding on spicy herbs. The mouth of the frisking antelope was red like the bill of the pert, loquacious parrot, by cropping the purple meads.

Tremulous on the bladed grass shone bright the pearly drops, like an assembly of sparkling stars dancing on the plains of the zodiac; vocal was every bending spray, every reed was inspired, each warbling throat seemed to emulate the melodious voice of the bird of a thousand songs <sup>5</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> Ceylon.

<sup>5</sup> The nightingale.

The lofty mountains rose faint to the sight and lost their foreheads in the distant skies : the little hills, cloathed in darker green and skirted with embroidered vales, discovered the secret haunts of kids and bounding roes. The plain appears like paradise restored, where the proud cypress and tall arreaç seem walking by the margin of the passing stream. The infant buds, impatient to look around them, rend their green garments and unfold their eyes ; while every tree, on which the bulbul <sup>6</sup> sings, flutters with joy on the wings of their thousand leaves.

<sup>6</sup> The wood-lark, sometimes used for the pigtingale.

The

The spring displaying her elegant taste, the proud walk of the gold-feathered pheasant, the light tread of the small-hoofed hind, and the dancing of the star-trained peacock, infused joy into the soul of the spectator of the astonishing works of the Creator; insomuch, that his heart, which from misfortune lay before shrunk like a flower in the bud, was now happily expanded, and the capacious cup of desire filled with the wine of pleasure.

Some admired the external beauties of the objects they beheld, like the nightingale in love with the rose; some enchanted by the con-

cert around, like Suphys <sup>7</sup> delighting in madness, tossed the cup of exultation into the skies; while others, of wisdom more sound, investigated the utility, perfection, and greatness of the designs of nature, till, from the beauty of the picture, they adored the hand of the artist, and quenched their thirst in the cup of knowledge from the sacred fountain of truth.

The senses, formed to enjoy pleasure but for a time, became languid, when, wandering from my companions, I stretched myself down on the fallen blossoms of a mango-grove, where sleep delayed

<sup>7</sup> Suphys are a sect of mad philosophers.



not long to shut the gates of light,  
nor did fancy fail to entertain the  
mind with incorporeal visions.

Methought our company formed  
a circle on the grass, and were bu-  
sied each according to his genius  
in writing a description of the scenes  
they beheld; when, lo, a young  
maid advanced towards us of such  
exquisite beauty and form, that a  
devotee of true faith would have  
worshipped the divinities which  
beamed in the arched temples of  
her eyes, and wish to wear the  
zinar<sup>8</sup>, if woven of her ambrosial  
hair. Dark curling locks rolled

<sup>8</sup> The zinar is a string of amulets wore by  
the Hindows round their necks.

down

down her snowy neck in simbol<sup>9</sup> wreaths, while, in envy of her soul-deluding countenance, the rising moon contracting her beams, like an inferior star, twinkled on the plain of the horizon.

But how can I describe the delicate symmetry of her ivory limbs, the fair hemispheres of her panting bosom, the soft polish of her silver hands, and taper beauties of her coral fingers<sup>10</sup>, that, like the rod of Moses, were pregnant with enchantment? or what shall I say of

<sup>9</sup> Simbol is a kind of black twining aromatic grass.

<sup>10</sup> The Indian ladies dye their fingers red,  
those

those twin rose-buds of her sweet mouth that, smiling, disclosed a row of pearls, which seemed as ranged in a crimson casket? On her forehead sat beauty in a sun-beam garment, and love emptying his quiver from the bows of her sparkling eyes : her stature was the most tall and delicate tree nourished in the garden of love, and her flowing robes of the purest white washed in the seven fountains of the sun.

So majestic was her walk, that the pheasant of the forest would die to imitate, and the peacock languish to behold her : she slowly approached us ; upon which all  
 my

my companions, who had been lavishing their praise upon the streams, the birds, and the meads, at once broke their pen<sup>11</sup>, directing their eyes towards her, like sun-flowers to the meridian ray; while a glory encircled her presence, like a halo round the moon. For a moment she beheld us with the eyes of life, then she began to pour pearls of heart-pleasing eloquence and jewels of inestimable wisdom into the lap of attention.

“ To be enamoured with the  
 “ painted brides of the mead, transf-

<sup>11</sup> An oriental expression for giving up one theme and passing to another.

“ ported

“ ported with external beauty, and  
 “ captivated by the vernal choir,  
 “ is a weakness unworthy of rea-  
 “ son, and from wisdom far re-  
 “ moved. What is the tulip of a  
 “ week’s duration? what the song  
 “ of a sunshine hour? what availeth  
 “ it to give the heart into the hand  
 “ of ingratitude, or to fix the soul  
 “ upon that which remaineth  
 “ not?”

“ Of all gardens that of rheto-  
 “ ric justly challenges the highest  
 “ fame. It knoweth no winter,  
 “ and its flowers, like those of the  
 “ jeweller, ever retain their beauty  
 “ and intrinsic worth; and were  
 “ the incense of the Persian tongue  
 “ burnt

“ burnt on the Indian altar, the  
 “ world would be perfumed with  
 “ agla <sup>12</sup>, and the lovers of sublime  
 “ diction anointed as with the oil  
 “ of roses.”

Thus saying, she disappeared,  
 shedding fragrance around. —  
 I awoke in amaze, and mourned  
 the absence of the daughter of

<sup>12</sup> Agla is an Indian tree of a moderate height, producing a white flower very fragrant, from which they extract a perfume. From the knots of the same tree they also extract an odoriferous gum, which serves the purpose of incense, the oily part of which is used as one of the compositions in otter of roses, which we have translated oil of roses, above: otter is a corruption of the Shanſcrit word Obatar, which ſignifies Eſſence.

paradiſe.

paradise. But these words being deeply engraved on the table of memory, occasioned your humble slave INATULA, selector of the beauties of eloquence, and gleaner of the harvest of wit, to collect the fairest flowers dropt from the lap of fancy to adorn the glossy locks of rhetoric which fly loose to the effenced air.

Hoping therefore that the magnanimous sons of true genius will be the nutritive elements of my labour, and that they will veil the defects of this bashful bride of imagination with the gracious skirts of their favour; it concerns me not, if the low-minded, espying a fault, should

should give a loose to their tongue in the black field of calumny, like voracious panthers thirsting for the blood of the timorous hind; for it is known that the sculptor of the human frame wrote ERROR upon his forehead.

Since, then, I write with a design to please, let not my faults awaken your bitter spleen. If greater parts have fallen to your share from above, correct my thoughts, and mould them to the pleasure of your more exalted minds; if your genius should be low, expose not your own weakness by shewing mine.

The



The true judges of the refinements of stile, and embellishers of the temple of knowledge, know how much of the blood of the liver is poured forth, how the recesses of the brain are explored, and how deeply the mind must be searched, in obtaining the golden ore of poetry, and that not one pearl worthy of the king of science can see the sun, without diving a thousand times into the ocean of thought.

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THE  
BAAR DANESH;  
OR,  
Garden of Knowledge.

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CHAPTER I.

**T**HE breakers of the telisms<sup>a</sup> which guard the treasure of knowledge, and the withdrawers of the veil of antient history, rescued the following tales from the teeth of devouring time, and now,

<sup>a</sup> Charms, enchantments, or magical delusions, commonly wrote in Europe talismans.

dressed in modern ornaments, the descriptive pen once more presents them upon the leaves of explanation.

In the paradisial regions of Hindoستان there once reigned a king, who, like the world-ruling sun, comprehended the earth in the circle of his command, and with the bright torch of his justice enlightened the nations: his throne was in radiance like the bow of heaven, upon which, pre-eminent in majesty, he sat without observing the sceptered potentates of the earth more than atoms in the beams of his presence. He fixed the rings of subjection <sup>b</sup> in the ears of Fortune, and made the Spring spreader of the carpets of his pleasure. Time gave the reins of his party-coloured

<sup>b</sup> Rings in the ears are badges of slavery among the Mahómmedans.

courfers<sup>c</sup> into his hand, and Pride laid the head of obsequiousness upon the threshold of his door of audience.

His will was law : Fate waited upon his commands. The world attended his steps : Victory bore on high his standard ; while Death before him lifted up his tremendous spear.

But in the house of his prosperity, the light, which is the hope of descending life<sup>d</sup>, beamed not ; as the blossoms of his love<sup>e</sup> produced not the fruit of his wishes : for which he made grief his companion, and sat lonely, like a point in the center of the circle of sorrow. He beseeched the Almighty, day and night, that the chain of succession might de-

<sup>c</sup> Meaning night and day.

<sup>d</sup> A figure to express the king's having no children.

<sup>e</sup> The ladies of the seraglio.

scend, and the pearl-string of royalty be continued.

His unwearied petitions found at length grace in the celestial auditory; and his aged eyes were blessed with a ray of paternal hope. For lo, the bright star of royalty, attended by a thousand happy omens, was seen to rise, gilding the face of a rejoicing world, and illuminating the chambers of love.

Now the happy king laid the forehead of thanksgiving upon the dust of gratitude; he opened the doors of his wealth to the four winds, and enriched the world, at once, with his munificence. The thirst of avarice was, for the first time, quenched in the river of generosity, and the beggar, forgetful of his crutch, danced in the pride of independence,

This

This inestimable pearl<sup>f</sup>, in a happy hour, was named Jehandar<sup>g</sup>; and a chaste nurse of wakeful fortune<sup>h</sup>, for the nurture of the royal plant, had her head exalted. When he had reposed four years and four months in the bosom of care, rocked in the cradle of prosperity, he was brought forth, according to the custom of true believers, and committed to the charge of moralists of high fame, polishers of noble manners, and searchers of true knowledge, that they might cultivate his heaven-born genius, and teach him with dignity to rule that world which he was born to command by the sword of au-

<sup>f</sup> The young prince.

<sup>g</sup> Ruler of the world.

<sup>h</sup> That is, that her fortune was watchful, otherwise she should not have arrived at that dignity.

thority, the robe of favor<sup>i</sup>, and balance of justice divine.

Scarce fourteen fleeting years had waved their golden wings over his bleffed head, when he was accomplished in the secrets of science, and experienced in the perfections of art. The propriety of manners, the rectitude of thought, the extent of knowledge, and greatness of mind, displayed by this prince of mankind, became the theme of unwearièd fame; to which, when we add a consummate proportion of shape, genteel deportment, strength of body, and a majesty which bespoke his illustrious birth, we have a faint idea of the youth, whose fame rode in triumph upon the

<sup>i</sup> It is the custom in eastern courts, when great men are introduced, to present them with a dress and suit of arms called a Chelat.

four winds, and proclaimed him the wonder of the world.

As war and rebellion lay chained by the foot of his father's throne, the disposition of this sultan, illustrious as Keiwan<sup>k</sup>, turned upon the love of hunting, so that many of his youthful hours were spent in that noble sport. He, one day, according to custom, mounted his air-treading steed, turning to the chace of the long-bounding meafurers of the forest<sup>l</sup>, and wing-beating travellers of the unbounded air. The hawk of light wing, sprightly as the virgins of Singol, struck the golden-winged pheasant and lovely-eyed partridge fluttering to the ground. The green-eyed panther, unsheathing his claws, gored the

<sup>k</sup> One of the antient kings of Persia:

<sup>l</sup> Deer.



throat of the roaring mountain-bull; and the steel-hearted leopard, like fate, instantaneous, threw the high-bounding antelope bleeding on the earth. Nor was the hills and the woods deaf to the challenging neighing of proud-prancing steeds, and the loud opening of the gale-pursuing hounds.

Among the concourse of omrahs who attended the stirrup of royalty, Jewan Sadit<sup>m</sup> stood as unrivaled in favor as he was in nobility and worth. He was the constant companion of the prince's pleasures, and the repository of the secrets of his soul. This rendered him the envy of the courtiers, though in accomplishments the ornament of the court; in particular Budbucht<sup>n</sup>, an

<sup>m</sup> The virtuous youth.

<sup>n</sup> The mischievous.

amir ° of a grovelling soul, with the green eye of jealousy viewed him, and fed on the gall of malice, which was discharged on his own faithless heart.

Dreading the prowess of Sadit, yet desirous to accomplish his end, Budbucht had resolved the means in his dark mind, and made the generous quality of Sadit the ground of his wicked design. He for this purpose had previously informed himself of the haunt of a royal tiger, of strength so enormous that, with a blow of his broad paw, he could fracture the scull of the furious buffalo, and bear him, like a kid, to his den.

To this thicket, by various stratagems, he found means to turn the chace; the monster, roused by the

° Amir or omrah signifies a prince.

noise, started forward, presented such a visage of horror, and raised such a hideous roar, that the hearts of the bold were contracted, and the nerves of the valiant unstrung. The limbs of the frightened steeds could scarce bear them from the field of terror, and the hounds, with drooping tails, yelled as they fled from danger.

But the eye of the prince took fire, and valour swelled in his breast, so that raising his bright spear he spurred his horse towards the terror of the forest, as joyful as to the timorous deer.

Jewan Sadit, who stood before the prince, observing his youthful temerity, threw himself between him and danger, and with a nervous arm, wielding a sharp sabre, of the hard tempered steel of Damisk<sup>p</sup>, rushing upon the tyger,

<sup>p</sup> Damascus.

struck

struck him across the forehead. But the blade, by the force of the blow, fell glittering in fragments on the ground.

The torch-eyed savage, with growl tremendous, rising up, dislocated at one blow the arched neck of Sadit's Arabian steed, and brought the unfortunate omrah to the dust, expiring between his extended claws.

The generous soul of the prince being inflamed by revenge, he lifted up his spear, then meditating a deathful blow, forced on his snorting steed, and, deep in the tiger's large crest, buried his deadly weapon.

The son of terror at one gnash devoured the crashing wood of the spear, then collecting all his strength, he growled like distant thunder, and, fastening on the horse behind, held him fast with the paws of destruction. But  
the

the active sultan, bounding from his horse, drew his sword from his manly thigh, and with one blow dividing the spinal marrow, stretched him in death on the field.

Now the high cupola of heaven was rent with loud acclamations; for the pale courtiers, crowding around with all the interjections of amaze, extolled the mighty feat and the prodigious size of the tiger! But the prince viewing them with eyes of disdain, raising, at the same time, his dead friend in his arms, searched for his bleeding wounds, and thus turned their joy to a strain of sorrow.

“ Brave partner of my heart,” said he, “ though thy body was subject to death, thy soul was invincible to danger. Like double pomegranates we were united in friendship, but now  
 “ thou

“ thou art torn from my side. Nerve-  
 “ less is the arm of vigor, cold is the  
 “ breast of friendship, extinct is the  
 “ fire of youth! Why was I not per-  
 “ mitted to embrace danger rather than  
 “ to suffer a greater misfortune by thy  
 “ death? Yet why do I chide thy te-  
 “ merity, I was the only cause of thy  
 “ fall? If I cannot inspire thee with  
 “ the breath of my lips, yet can I wash  
 “ thy wounds with my tears.”

Thus mourned the generous prince  
 over his departed friend, while the cour-  
 tiers joined in the lamentation: but the  
 treacherous voice of Budbucht was  
 heard above those of his companions.

By the command of the prince, the body  
 was laid in his own pallangky<sup>a</sup>, carried

<sup>a</sup> A kind of litter, commonly called a pellan-  
 queen: the word is properly the diminutive of  
 pallang, which signifies a bed.

homeward in mournful procession, and with great funeral pomp buried in the area of the Musgid Jama<sup>r</sup>.

Such are the ills which attend those who attain to the favors of the great! but few are they, who to the last have found the friendship of a prince so permanent and true.

<sup>r</sup> The royal chapel.

CHAP.

## C H A P. II.

**T**HE prince, whose passions were violent, as the blasts of the north; mourned for some time the loss of his beloved friend, and was deaf to the voice of pleasure. But at length, the mist of sorrow began to dissipate, and a ray of serenity and pleasure to gild the calm surface of his mind.

One morning, in process of time; as he rode forth to enjoy the beauties of the season, and to breathe the healthful air as soon as the golden-winged griffin of day, in the sapphire fields of heaven, exalted his ardent flight, and bird and beast, panting at the heart, retired to the



cooling shade, he espied a beautiful garden, at which he alighted to enjoy an hour's relaxation, in a bower shaded with the cinnamon tree.

By the bank of a purling stream he beheld a comely youth, carelessly reclining his head against the aged trunk of a tamirhind. On his arm a beautiful parrot chattered a pleasant song. Moved with curiosity at the uncommon capacity of this green-coated prattler of the wood, he advanced towards the boy; upon which the parrot immediately took wing, and perching upon the prince's shoulder, began, as it fluttered with joy, to nibble at the roses of his lips.

Astonished at this familiarity, the prince demanded the price of the bird; to which the grumbling boy made no reply; but, with signs of discontent, stretched

stretched forth his open hand to seize the beautiful fugitive.

The prince, smiling at his disrespectful behaviour, said, "Young man, thou knowest me not; for that reason I readily excuse thy presumption; take this jewel, the price of a thousand birds; for my soul despiseth oppression." The boy accepted the present, but retired with tears in his eyes; when the prince, with the bird in his hand, returned pleased to the chambers of prosperity. Here he presented him to Mherpirwir<sup>o</sup>, one of his favorite blossoms, fair as the queen of the Pirri s<sup>t</sup>.

<sup>o</sup> The nourisher of love.

<sup>t</sup> Intermediate beings who are said to inhabit the air and answer to what we call fairies, which possibly may be derived from the above word.

The lady received him with joy, and affectedly chiding his absence, ran tittering into the apartments of pleasure. Thither the sultan, transported, pursued her ; for the elements of his life were fermented with the honey of delight, sucked from the moist roses of her fragrant lips, and his mind half distracted by the influence of her crescent brows, bending over the twins of the zodiac. But alas ! in the smiling season of love, the thin painted wings of vanity were unfolded in the air of pride ; and this butterfly of a sun-shine hour, flustered with the wine of royal favor, was soon chilled by the frost of disdain. Beholding her charms in the glass, she wandered over a wilderness of vain fancies. She at length became enamoured of her self, and made the shallow cup of conceit overflow with the froth of

of

of folly ; and thus, in an infortunate hour, addressed her royal admirer :

“ Divine receptacle of excellence, let  
 “ it not be deemed impertinent, or de-  
 “ viating from the rules of propriety,  
 “ if I propound one question which  
 “ now labours in my breast ; assuring  
 “ me first, you will not let the sceptor  
 “ of true judgment depart from your  
 “ right hand.”

Without waiting for a reply, she thus proceeded, calling forth all her charms :

“ Do you think, really, O prince,  
 “ that the unparalleled Painter of na-  
 “ ture”, on the scenes of creation, ever  
 “ drew such another picture of grace,  
 “ symmetry, and beauty, as you now  
 “ behold ?”

The prince astonished at the superla-  
 tive vanity of this fair deceiver, made

“ God.

no reply; but the parrot, who had been listening to their discourse, burst out into a loud laugh.

The vain daughter of beauty, struck with the reproof, shrunk up like a flower nipped by the blast of the north, and the signs of discontent began to darken the lustre of her polished brow; yet with well-dissimulated wantonness, seizing with the hand of sport the skirts of the prince; she, laughing, enquired what that chattering magpie meant? “If you cannot guess, perhaps the bird himself may inform you, Madam,” said the sultan, who was withdrawing to the grand durbar<sup>w</sup>. The trembling parrot, seeing him about to depart, while fury lightened in the lady’s eyes, beating the sides of his cage with his

<sup>w</sup> The audience chamber.

wings,

wings, cried out; “ O prince, leave,  
 “ leave not thy unfortunate friend,  
 “ Jewan Sadit, the victim of a woman’s  
 “ revenge !”

The sultan turning about in amaze, perceived with joy that the soul of his beloved companion had associated with the nature of this beautiful handful of existence; and running towards him, stroaked his glossy feathers and kissed his crimson bill; while the grateful bird nestled in his bosom, exhibiting every sign of delight.

The curiosity of the lady was highly inflamed, to know the history of the parrot’s transmigration, which she intreated the bird with all her eloquence to relate; but he presented a deaf ear to her importunity, and, like a painted nightingale, remained silent. At length she prevailed on the prince to impose

his absolute commands, when the unwilling bird began to break the seal of secrecy from the narrative of his fate.

**HISTORY**

## C H A P III.

## History of the P A R R O T.

**M**AGNANIMOUS protector of the world ; it is no secret to your enlightened mind, that there are three great principles in nature ; intellect, life, and matter. The first producing all the mental faculties ; the second, vital motion ; and the third, the five elements, earth, water, fire, air, and akash<sup>\*</sup>, of which all bodies are composed, animate and inanimate ; by a

\* A pure element or æther, according to the Brahmin Philosophy.

certain



certain plasticity in the atoms, impressed by the Intelligent Principle.

Now when the vital principle assumes to itself a body of fire, air, and akash, it becomes what we call spirit or soul, and is endued with perception and the activity of thought in its motions. The atoms of which all animals are formed, are contained in the grosser elements of earth and water; souls are afterwards associated with them for the purposes of generation, and various creatures are produced according to the species to which they are respectively annexed. But as these bodies are subject to a dissolution called death, the soul returns to its former state; and if it has inhabited a body endued with rational faculties, it becomes accountable for its actions, and is destined to heaven or hell, for a certain time, in proportion  
to

to its merits or crimes; but if its crimes are not in the extreme, it is destined to animate another creature of an inferior degree, till in the course of providence it again inspires the body of a man: if then its actions are perfectly virtuous, it is absorbed in the divine essence, divested of all body, where it remains to all eternity, unconscious both of pleasure and pain.

In this manner the soul of your faithful slave was, after death, associated with the body of a parrot; and having passed through the course of regeneration, was pleased with its happy state, but soon found that all creatures on earth are surrounded with the thorns of care, and gnawed by the caustic of sorrow.

When

When my little wings were fledged, and endued with sufficient strength to bear me in safety through the air, with a flock of my chattering companions, I strayed among the fields and the gardens, revelling among the sugar plantations, and devouring the most delicious blossoms, rocked in the cradle of spring.

When the season of love approached, I made love to a virgin bride, whose wings were tipped with gold, and her head crowned with sapphire. Her coyness was conquered by assiduity, and at last she consented to resign the treasure of her charms to my passion.

With mutual toil, and intuitive dexterity, we built our commodious habitation in the hollow of a mango tree, that the fruit, which was then in blossom, might subsist our young. But no sooner

was

was our happiness almost compleat; by the view of a beautiful progeny, than a hideous snake, twining his scaly length around the trunk of the tree, wound himself up; and, directed to the nest by their cries, devoured them one by one, in sight of their fluttering parents.

My consort was inconsolable for her offspring, and for some days sat moping like an owl, over the ruins of the palace of pleasure, while I endeavoured in vain to soothe her woes, redoubling my own distress by sympathizing with her sorrows. But the muddy torrent of grief, at length, by degrees, subsided; and the landscape of pleasure was again reflected in the mirror of joy.

Having smoothed our ruffled plumes, and expanded the wings of swiftness, we flew to a distant land, where we alighted in a paradisaical garden adjoining

ing to a royal mansion, gorgeous as the palaces of light on the rosy plains of evening. We afterwards found that the place was called Chanbalich, the imperial residence of the puissant emperor of Chathay †.

Enchanted with the beauties of the place, in comparison of which the choicest flowers of poetic description appear like weeds in the garden of spring, we fixed on a mulberry tree for the construction of a second abode; and having compleated it with taste and elegance, we drank joy from the bursting grape, and eat sweetness from the rosy nectarine.

But alas! one morning as the chaste partner of my life was hopping about the nursery of seeds, she was caught by

† China

the glossy neck in the treacherous snare of the gardener.

Anxious at her unusual delay, I began to beat the wings of enquiry, and found her struggling, and even almost expiring, in this indissoluble chain of captivity.

A long time I endeavoured, with my little bill, to untie the fatal noose, but found it a fruitless labor; so perching on a neighbouring tree, I bewailed my captivated mate, wringing my soul with sorrow.

I had not remained long in this cruel situation, when I heard the brazen door of the royal zennana<sup>z</sup> opened towards the garden; and lo! a company of beautiful damsels issued forth, playing heavenly strains upon a variety of instruments of music.

<sup>z</sup> The seraglio.

But

But in beauty, grace, and majesty, conspicuous above the rest, shone the royal virgin Gulzara<sup>b</sup>, like Zohara<sup>c</sup>, on the rosy fields of morn, when she rises with her sparkling attendants from bathing in the eastern deep.

No dew-drop glistening in the ray of the morning, could display half the brightness of her eyes; nor could all the softness of the rose of Damask compare with the fragrant blossoms of her cheeks. Her arched eye-brows were bows to kill, but her heart was tender, and her hands soft, to withdraw the weapon from the wound. From her red lips distilled balsamic sweets, and her panting breasts displayed a paradise of joy. The breezes from her ebon hair, stole precious essence to perfume

<sup>a</sup> The flower-garden.

<sup>b</sup> The morning star, or Venus.

the meads, where the beauteous nigris<sup>e</sup>, in sweet languor, reclines his head, turning, in expectation of her approach, its never-closing eyes. Nor do the meads rejoice alone in her presence, the sprightly lark, borne on the wings of pleasure, mistakes the opening of her eyes for the morning.

But words can no more paint her beauties, than the brightest colours in the treasury of nature can paint the meridian ray.

What insupportable pangs did I feel, when I perceived one of her attending nymphs running towards the companion of my distress, and seizing the screaming captive with the rude hand of violence; but her adorable mistress perceiving her, ran towards the place, and

<sup>e</sup> A kind of flower, probably the Narcissus.



Having checked the maid for the rudeness of her manner, stretched forth the delicate hand of compassion, and with all the tendernefs of pity difengaged her from the cruel fnare, ftroking her glittering wings.

I felt fome comfort at this gracious reception, but the lofs of my lovely partner for ever recurred to my diftracted mind ; determined at once rather to perish in company with my confort than to pine in the dark defart of folitude, I flapped the wings of love, and perched upon the alabafter hand of Gulzara, which held my captivated love.

Frightened at my intrusion ſhe ſtarted back, but ſoon perceiving the cauſe, I beheld the tranſparent pearls trickling from the full roſes of ſpring<sup>d</sup>, while

<sup>d</sup> Her cheeks.

the silver tongue of harmony pronounced these words of favor.

“ Go, happy couple, go, enjoy your  
 “ constant loves ; go feast without fear  
 “ on the most delicious fruits of my  
 “ garden. Let me never be the cause  
 “ of grief, nor, like the proud tyrant  
 “ man, pervert the laws of nature. Ah!  
 “ why was I born a princess to be thus  
 “ immured in these cold walls where  
 “ love is denied access, and beauty pe-  
 “ risheth like a flower in the desert ?”

So saying she released my companion, when we flew on the wings of ecstasy to our little nest, chattering expressions of gratitude. But we had not remained long in our joyful habitation; when we beheld the divine princess advancing towards the foot of the tree, where with one of her fair confidants she reclined on a mossy bank; while

the other nymphs, by her command, retired to a respectful distance, whispering the breath of envy.

Bending the ear of attention, my mind soon mounted to the zenith of astonishment, at the curious conversation which ensued.

Here the parrot, ruffling up his plumes, made a short pause, on which the prince, whose curiosity was excited, desired him to proceed in his narration. But the lady, whose bosom, during the narrative, had often swelled with envy, while her cheeks glowed with shame, darting a scornful eye at the parrot, then leering upon the prince, thus addressed him :

“ Sacred repository of wisdom, permit not the vain tales of this lying prattler to find belief in the auditory of your mind; but as it seems to  
“ please

“ please the prince, he may amuse us  
“ with his imaginary adventures, which  
“ are divested of the shadow of truth.”

The prince checked her presumption with a frown, and the parrot, obedient to his command, unlocked the fountain of eloquence to call forth the flowers of imagination on the cultivated garden of the mind.

## C H A P. IV.

The History of COMMLADEVE<sup>e</sup>.

**T**HE silver-robed daughter of beauty, with a smile benign as the evening ray, obliquely glancing through a shower in spring, thus questioned her lovely companion.

“ It must be so, my dear Commla-  
 “ deve ; the peculiar dignity which I  
 “ have always observed in your actions,  
 “ assures me that you were not bred to

<sup>e</sup> This, in the Sanscrit language, means fair as the lotus or water-flower.

“ fer-

“ fervility, nor inured to the chains of  
 “ bondage : do therefore satisfy my cu-  
 “ riosity in this point, permitting the  
 “ seal of secrecy to be melted by the  
 “ generous warmth of my friendship.”

Commladeve with a sigh, thus re-  
 plied.—“ Fair queen of perfections, it  
 “ were surely the height of ingratitude  
 “ in the obsequious slave of your pre-  
 “ sence, to keep any thing, under the  
 “ veil of secrecy, concealed from your  
 “ bountiful eyes. But you will be pleas-  
 “ ed to remember, that not my own  
 “ vanity, but your royal commands,  
 “ obliged me to a recital of my adven-  
 “ tures.”—— With that she wiped a  
 bright tear that stood in the corner of  
 her eye; and thus, with melodious  
 voice, charmed the ear of attention.

“ If a long pearl-string of royal an-  
 “ cestry should be deemed fortunate for

“ the possessor, few could with greater  
 “ propriety be ostentatious of fortune’s  
 “ favors than I ; but this is so far from  
 “ contributing one drop to the measure  
 “ of my happiness, that it has become a  
 “ source of bitterness in the troubled  
 “ fountain of my fate.

“ My progenitors, from time imme-  
 “ morial, were rajas of the fertile king-  
 “ dom of Chitor<sup>f</sup>, which they ruled  
 “ by the scepter of justice and the love  
 “ of their subjects, more than by the  
 “ sword of power. But at length the  
 “ spear of Islamism<sup>g</sup> pierced the peaceful  
 “ shades of our retirement, so that our  
 “ innocent plains streamed with blood,  
 “ and gleamed with hostile arms.

<sup>f</sup> One of the antient kingdoms of Hindostan, now a province of the Decan.

<sup>g</sup> Mahommedans.

“ I was

“ I was then in my thirteenth year,  
 “ and had, four years before, been be-  
 “ trothed to Ammarsein, heir to the  
 “ potent kingdom of Tilling<sup>h</sup>, but had  
 “ never seen him, but once, at the  
 “ pompous celebration of our nuptials.  
 “ After the destructive flames of war  
 “ had for some time been blown from  
 “ side to side before the contending  
 “ gales of victory, notwithstanding our  
 “ rajaputs<sup>i</sup> did justice to loyalty and  
 “ their native valor, yet, from the supe-  
 “ rior skill and number of the enemy,  
 “ the house of our prosperity was con-  
 “ sumed, and my father, who had re-  
 “ solved to perish with his country, was  
 “ found wounded in the field, and car-  
 “ ried prisoner in triumph to Delhi.

<sup>h</sup> Now called Golconda, or Tillingana.

<sup>i</sup> The fighting tribe of Hindoos.



“ I had previously been sent off with  
 “ my mother to a small fortrefs situated  
 “ upon a steep mountain, in the middle  
 “ of an impervious wood. I escaped the  
 “ rude hands of captivity ; but alas ! we  
 “ had no prospect to soothe our eyes,  
 “ except the smoaking ruins of our de-  
 “ solated kingdom.

“ Unfortunate for my father as for  
 “ me, the little beauty, wit, and other  
 “ accomplishments, which I was then  
 “ said to have possessed, were ex-  
 “ agerated by the voice of fame. It  
 “ reached, at length, the ears of the  
 “ vizier ; he became desirous to gratify  
 “ his passion, with the unblown rose of  
 “ my virginity : he therefore began  
 “ to solicit my father with fair pro-  
 “ mises of liberty, restoration, and royal  
 “ favor ; but he would not consent to  
 “ grace the cabinet of prostituted love  
 “ with

“ with this jewel of paternal affection.  
 “ But at the same time unwilling to  
 “ rouse the resentment of the vizier by  
 “ a downright refusal, he endeavoured  
 “ to temporize, by evasions, till other  
 “ objects should engage his mind.

“ But at length the patience of the  
 “ vizier was exhausted, and the insidi-  
 “ ous fawning of the lion changed to  
 “ menaces of rage. My unfortunate  
 “ father was thrown into a dungeon,  
 “ where his ears were only gratified by  
 “ the music of his own chains, and his  
 “ tongue only moistened by the tears  
 “ of his aged eyes.

“ Here he conversed but with his  
 “ own miseries, whilst death, his most  
 “ wished-for companion was thrust back  
 “ at the threshold of his abode. What  
 “ could he do? The power of human  
 “ fortitude was vanquished, and nature  
 “ shrunk

“ shrunk at a constancy of woe. So  
 “ having consented to write an order  
 “ for my delivery, he was freed from  
 “ the weight of his chains, and indulged  
 “ with the extent of a garden, where a  
 “ guard of Abyssinian slaves surrounded  
 “ him, with a wall of iron.

“ The bearer of this order being  
 “ bribed with a ring, carried at the  
 “ same time a private letter to my mo-  
 “ ther, informing her of the cruelty of  
 “ his situation, and begging some me-  
 “ thod might be contrived to convey  
 “ him a relieving potion<sup>k</sup>, which was  
 “ now the only possible hope of pre-  
 “ serving the skirts of his honor un-  
 “ stained, and the laws of his god invi-  
 “ olated.

<sup>k</sup> Poison.

“ Unfor-

“ Unfortunately this letter, wrote with  
 “ the gall of sorrow, conveyed that  
 “ deadly poison to my dear mother,  
 “ which my father had requested at her  
 “ hand; and, in the dreadful moment  
 “ when life stood quivering at the cold  
 “ door of the house of clay, she thrust  
 “ the letter into my hand, and, with a  
 “ smile, to encourage the example, re-  
 “ signed her soul to heaven.

“ The current of my blood ran back,  
 “ the face of my condition was darken-  
 “ ed, and the owl of affliction began to  
 “ scream in the hollow of my ears. But  
 “ I soon recovered from this transitory  
 “ death, and a glimpse of reviving hope  
 “ shot through the dark dungeon of  
 “ my despair.

“ I immediately gave orders for my  
 “ retinue to be prepared, in compliance  
 “ with my father’s command; but, in-  
 “ stead

“stead of my maids of honor, I gave  
 “private instructions that twenty of the  
 “bravest warriors of the court should  
 “be cloathed in complete armour, to  
 “attend me in covered doolys<sup>1</sup> to the  
 “imperial court of Delhi.

“The joyful vizier being informed  
 “of my approach by a messenger, by  
 “whom I requested the favor of first  
 “paying a visit to my father, it was  
 “granted me without hesitation. Ac-  
 “cordingly, when the doolys were car-  
 “ried within my father’s apartments, and  
 “all the bearers and servants had retir-  
 “ed, I threw myself at his feet, and  
 “clasping his trembling knees, inform-  
 “ed him of the desperate scheme I had  
 “undertaken for his deliverance.

<sup>1</sup> Covered chairs, in which women are carried on mens shoulders.

“ There

“ There was no time for hesitation,  
 “ he embraced me tenderly, and seiz-  
 “ ing a sword and shield, which I had  
 “ prepared for him, while I waved ano-  
 “ ther sabre in my own hand, he com-  
 “ manded me to follow under the sha-  
 “ dow of his protection.

“ So placing himself at the head of  
 “ his brave warriors, he fell upon the  
 “ guards in the passage, carrying death  
 “ before him to the gate, where we  
 “ mounted the Arabian courfers of my  
 “ retinue, so that by favor of the night  
 “ and the crowd we escaped the pre-  
 “ cincts of the city, and were far ad-  
 “ vanced on our journey before day.

“ Now the vizier, like a hungry  
 “ panther when robbed by the tiger of  
 “ his prey, gnashed the sharp teeth of  
 “ resentment, and, having dispatched  
 “ a party of horse in pursuit, we ob-  
 “ served

“ served them in a cloud of dust, the  
 “ very moment we had alighted in a  
 “ grove, to unbrace the strained fi-  
 “ news of toil.

“ I was immediately remounted, and  
 “ commanded with one trusty servant  
 “ to fly ; and, however desirous I was  
 “ to abide the event, my father was  
 “ not to be disobeyed.

“ I soon perceived the bloody work  
 “ of death commenced between unequal  
 “ numbers, and looking forward be-  
 “ held another body of cavalry on full  
 “ gallop on the road toward me. I  
 “ concluded myself now in the jaws of  
 “ inevitable ruin, so drawing a poig-  
 “ nard, I raised the hand of resolution  
 “ against my own existence; when I  
 “ heard a well-known voice crying,  
 “ Stop! stop! your rash hand, illustri-  
 “ ous prince, and in us behold your  
 “ loyal servants !

“ I

“ I immediately perceived him to be  
 “ the faithful dewan.<sup>m</sup> of my father, in  
 “ company with my young lord Am-  
 “ marsein, who being informed of my  
 “ bold undertaking, had advanced to  
 “ secure our retreat.

“ The joyful prince threw himself  
 “ on the ground to salute me; but  
 “ beckoning, I exclaimed; my father!  
 “ my father! my father! He appre-  
 “ headed my meaning, bounded into  
 “ his saddle; commanded three horse-  
 “ men to attend me, and with the rest  
 “ of his troop, on fiery hoof, flew to  
 “ the scene of action; where I was af-  
 “ terwards informed my father, with  
 “ five of wounded friends, remaining  
 “ of his train, like wood-men in the  
 “ meridian hour, scarce raised the arms

<sup>m</sup> Steward.



“ of languor. But this seasonable relief  
 “ soon veiled the face of danger ; for  
 “ the prince, like a young lion in his  
 “ first attempt, exulted in his might,  
 “ and strewed the field with slaughter.

“ While my heart burnt on the em-  
 “ bers of anxiety, I observed six horse-  
 “ men advancing on the wings of  
 “ speed. I fluttered with expectation,  
 “ like a lark when the dawn proclaims  
 “ the glad tidings of the morning.

“ But alas ! what was my disappoint-  
 “ ment and terror, when my attendants  
 “ were smote with the sword, my wea-  
 “ pons wrested from my hands ? I  
 “ remember no more ; for I was car-  
 “ ried off insensible of existence, and  
 “ on my recovery found myself lying  
 “ in a covered pallangky, travelling I  
 “ knew not whither, and guarded by a  
 “ company of horsemen.

“ Now

“ Now all the horrors of my fate  
 “ crowded at once upon my mind. I  
 “ conceived myself in the hands of a  
 “ cruel enemy, whom I considered as  
 “ the murtherer of my father, of my  
 “ mother, of my husband, of my friends,  
 “ and the intended murtherer of my  
 “ own virtue.

“ I was, in short, carried to Delhi,  
 “ dragged into a magnificent zennana,  
 “ and by the abominable hands of  
 “ eunuchs, laid upon a bed of state.

“ I had not long remained here to  
 “ ruminate on my miseries, when I be-  
 “ held an old tottering wretch enter  
 “ the apartment, with a long black  
 “ beard dyed with antimony, a staff in  
 “ his withered hand, and his hollow  
 “ eyes like candles in the socket, ex-  
 “ piring in the last flames of desire;  
 “ he advanced, and thus addressed me :

“ Let thy griefs be dispelled, O fair  
 “ light of my eyes! I come to worship  
 “ the rising sun of thy beauties, and  
 “ enfold thee in the arms of love.”

“ Art thou that monster, said I, who,  
 “ dead to humanity as to pleasure,  
 “ riseth, like a ghost from the grave,  
 “ to devour the flesh of the living, and  
 “ suck blood from the veins of the inno-  
 “ cent? Go, spectre! go, direct thy  
 “ adoration to heaven, and infold with  
 “ those withered arms the altar of thy  
 “ offended God.

“ Wounded by the dart of reproach,  
 “ for a moment, he hesitated between  
 “ patience and anger; but, at length,  
 “ his meagre jaws grinned a horrid  
 “ smile, and he staggered forward to  
 “ embrace me; when, with all the  
 “ force of horror and resentment, I  
 “ threw him at full length on the floor.

“ He

“ He arose uttering exclamations of  
 “ rage, and with a fierce countenance  
 “ retiring, told me, that since my folly  
 “ had rejected his lenity, it must expe-  
 “ rience the effects of his power.

“ As he left me no time for reply, I  
 “ threw myself down on the bed of af-  
 “ fliction, fluttering like a bird in the  
 “ snare, dreading the hands of the  
 “ fowler ; but my attention was soon  
 “ drawn from my condition, by the  
 “ appearance of an antiquated daughter  
 “ of Time, whose breasts hung withered  
 “ and low, and whose flaming eyes were  
 “ like festering wounds. Her long  
 “ prominent nose, seemed a hook to  
 “ suspend her lower jaw, and a crooked  
 “ gash between, devouring her own  
 “ lips, extended from ear to ear.

“ Bent, like a beggar on crutches,  
 “ she limped towards me; and, with

“ the squeaking voice of a squirrel, thus  
 “ presented her deceitful address.

“ Fair princess, whose beauties  
 “ brighten my aged eyes, and recal  
 “ the past joys of my youth, let me  
 “ approach the eyes of discernment  
 “ with the jewels of wisdom, and drop  
 “ into the ear of attention the salutary  
 “ balm of advice.

“ How much is your fortune to be  
 “ envied, sweet princess, who, as yet,  
 “ in the morning of life, hast risen,  
 “ with superior lustre, to the zenith of  
 “ terrestial blifs! What do I say? here  
 “ paradiise itself smiles around. Here  
 “ love has taken up his abode. Here  
 “ the treasures of Karoon<sup>n</sup> are accumu-  
 “ lated for you: variety to please the

<sup>n</sup> A person, who according to the Mahom-  
 medans, was possessed of immense wealth.

“ fight;

“ sight ; music to charm the ear ; and a  
 “ thousand maidens, cloathed in gold,  
 “ obsequious to the turn of your eye.  
 “ What more is to be enjoyed, or what  
 “ more is to be desired ? Let there-  
 “ fore the curtain of virgin modesty be  
 “ withdrawn, and the light of pleasure  
 “ shine freely into the perfumed apart-  
 “ ment of love.”

“ Thus the vile forceress continued  
 “ her strain of temptation, till rage fer-  
 “ menting in my bosom, burst forth in  
 “ a torrent of abuse. When the hag  
 “ perceived her wheedling arts were vain,  
 “ she tottered out muttering revenge,  
 “ and presently returned with a band  
 “ of base eunuchs, who seized me by  
 “ her command, bound me up to one  
 “ of the pillars, and began to raise  
 “ their whips over me, and threaten  
 “ me with the terror of the scourge ;

“ but my spirits being expended in the  
 “ struggle, my eyes were overshadow-  
 “ ed with darkness, the current of my  
 “ blood stood still, and for some time  
 “ I remained without motion, the pale  
 “ companion of the dead.

“ When I recovered from this state  
 “ of mortality, I found myself unbound  
 “ on a couch, surrounded by a number  
 “ of beautiful females, pressing my  
 “ limbs with their tender hands, and  
 “ others besprinkling my face with  
 “ water made of artificial snow, while  
 “ the mother of prostitution was sitting  
 “ squat on the carpet, like the trunk  
 “ of an aged tree.

“ When she perceived me recover,  
 “ she withdrew, telling me she hoped  
 “ her next visit would find me more  
 “ sensible of my own folly, and thank-  
 “ ful for her intended favors.

“ I now

“ I now addressed myself to the ladies  
 “ around, acknowledged their huma-  
 “ nity, at the same time informing them  
 “ that their care for my recovery had  
 “ to me proved the greatest misfortune,  
 “ for that death was the only friend  
 “ from whom I now hoped relief, and  
 “ that a grave was the only bed upon  
 “ which I wished to repose.

“ I perceived this declaration drew  
 “ sympathizing tears into the bright  
 “ eyes of one of this fair assembly,  
 “ which prepossessed me so much in  
 “ her favor, that I courteously re-  
 “ quested the others would retire, and  
 “ leave me to recover my fatigue, giv-  
 “ ing, at the same time, a private hint  
 “ to the lady who I intended should re-  
 “ main.

“ When they had all taken leave, I  
 “ took hold of this favorite lady’s hand,  
 “ when



“ when I perceived I had lost a ruby of  
 “ inestimable value, from the ring-  
 “ finger of my own, which gave me  
 “ some concern, as it had been the nup-  
 “ tial gift of my lord Ammarsein ; but  
 “ I took no further notice at that time  
 “ of this least of my misfortunes.

“ When I had seated the lady by me,  
 “ I told her I was well assured, that the  
 “ breast which possessed so much hu-  
 “ manity, harboured no guile : that  
 “ therefore I had chosen her for the re-  
 “ pository of my confidence, and the  
 “ companion of my distress. She re-  
 “ turned me thanks for my favorable  
 “ opinion, which she hoped, by her be-  
 “ haviour to deserve ; and assured me  
 “ whatever I had to communicate,  
 “ should remain under the seal of se-  
 “ crecy, locked up in the treasury of  
 “ her heart.

“ Without

“ Without further céremony, I be-  
 “ gan to unfold the black book of my  
 “ destiny, which we blotted together  
 “ with our tears; and, when I had  
 “ finished the mournful tale, she hastily  
 “ arose, and desired me to compose my-  
 “ self a little; then embracing me ten-  
 “ derly, told me she was going, at the  
 “ risque of her life, to effect my imme-  
 “ diate deliverance. With this she in-  
 “ stantly ran out of the room.

“ I was somewhat astonished at this  
 “ abrupt behaviour, but soon found  
 “ that my friend was true to her word.  
 “ Being intimate with Mherpirwir, the  
 “ favorite mistress of the illustrious  
 “ prince Jehandar, she hastened to pay  
 “ her a visit, and, relating the particu-  
 “ lars of my story, it was communi-  
 “ cated to the sultan.”

The

The prince here interrupting the parrot, told him he remembered the whole, but was impatient to know by what means she had travelled to the court of Cathay. The parrot resumed his narrative, but first begged that the lady, who now began to discover strong emotions of anxiety, might retire.

The lady, unable to suppress her passion, flew like a fury to the bird, and would have instantly deprived him of his head, had not the prince seized her hands, and commanded her, instantly, to leave the room: she obeyed in a flood of tears, to the no small astonishment of the sultan. The poor parrot recovering from his fright, proceeded thus:

“The generous prince,” continued the fair Commladeve, “was no sooner  
“informed

“ informed of those deeds of darkness,  
 “ than he commanded the attendance  
 “ of the vizier; and having pierced his  
 “ heart with the lances of reproach,  
 “ told him his life must now answer  
 “ for an immediate delivery of the cap-  
 “ tive maid.

“ The vizier having exhausted all his  
 “ long practised arts of flattery and de-  
 “ ceit, finding the prince unshaken in  
 “ his purpose, trembled for the im-  
 “ pending blow, and was constrained  
 “ to give orders for my delivery.

“ Accordingly the chojaferai <sup>o</sup> was  
 “ dispatched with a guard and a close  
 “ litter, with orders to convey me to  
 “ the prince’s zennana <sup>p</sup>, whose respect

<sup>o</sup> Master of the household; generally the chief eunuch.

<sup>p</sup> Womens apartment, or seraglio.

“ and.

“ and complaisance permitted him not  
 “ to alarm me with the light foot of  
 “ curiosity.

“ Here I found my faithful friend;  
 “ who durst not return to her habita-  
 “ tion: she introduced me to the court-  
 “ ly Mherpirwir, by whom I was en-  
 “ gaged to a repetition of all she had  
 “ heard before, and, having supped  
 “ together on the most exquisite rari-  
 “ ties of the season, I was conducted  
 “ into a magnificent apartment to feast  
 “ on the sweets of repose.

“ Here sleep, the twin brother of  
 “ death, in spite of fear, distress, and  
 “ anxiety, visited my aching eyes; and  
 “ next morning, when the king of stars  
 “ pierced through the casements of my  
 “ solitude, I found myself, like the  
 “ traveller of the desert, who had, ac-  
 “ cidentally,

“ cidentally, met with a fountain to  
 “ quench his burning thirst.

“ A number of female slaves imme-  
 “ diately attended to attire me ; and in  
 “ a few hours, I was conducted by the  
 “ chief eunuch, to the anti-chamber  
 “ of the great durbar<sup>9</sup>, where he direct-  
 “ ed me to a rent in the purdo<sup>r</sup>, to be a  
 “ witness of what passed in the hall.  
 “ Here I beheld the young sultan feat-  
 “ ed in majesty on a gorgeous throne,  
 “ which was exquisitely formed in the  
 “ shape of an expanded peacock, fea-  
 “ thered with precious jewels, bright as  
 “ the variegated bow, with the golden-  
 “ mooned train, like a canopy of fire  
 “ projecting over his sacred head : a  
 “ gilded book in his left hand, and a

<sup>9</sup> The audience chamber.

<sup>r</sup> A curtain or skreen.

“ studded

“ studded scepter in his right: while a  
 “ thousand omrahs, in glittering bro-  
 “ cade, with their hands joined obse-  
 “ quiously before, formed an exten-  
 “ sive avenue according to their rank,  
 “ from the foot of his awful tribunal.

“ Here she was interrupted by the  
 “ adorable Gulzara, who requested a  
 “ particular description of your majes-  
 “ ty’s person; which, with the boldest  
 “ strokes of the pencil of rhetoric, she  
 “ attempted; and, to all appearance,  
 “ raised such emotions in her panting  
 “ breast, as might prove unfavourable  
 “ to her future repose. When the fair  
 “ Commladeve had endeavoured to  
 “ gratify her curiosity on this head, she  
 “ thus proceeded on the flowery paths  
 “ of narration.

“ I now beheld the vizier conducted  
 “ by chobdars<sup>9</sup>, towards the throne,

<sup>9</sup> Mace-bearers.

“ bowing

“ bowing his face three times to the  
 “ ground, while they proclaimed health  
 “ to the king of the world!——When  
 “ his accusation was read aloud, he  
 “ humbled his furrowed forehead to  
 “ the dust; and, uncovering his bald  
 “ head, made a confession of his guilt  
 “ in tears, but begged, that in conside-  
 “ ration of his past services, he might  
 “ be permitted to grasp the skirts of  
 “ mercy, and that the expiring flame of  
 “ his life might be left to the extinguish-  
 “ ing hand of nature. To which the  
 “ prince made this reply: though mer-  
 “ cy is the attribute of heaven itself,  
 “ yet we give birth to a thousand crimes  
 “ by forgiving one. Thus, at last, the  
 “ weed of wickedness becomes so luxu-  
 “ riant in the soil of life, that the hand  
 “ of toil is never able to root it out.



“ When I heard these words, I  
 “ trembled for the irrevocable decree,  
 “ and, compassionating the unfortunate  
 “ wretch, begged the choja would  
 “ make intercession for his life in my  
 “ behalf, and acquaint the prince, that  
 “ hearing my father and husband were  
 “ still alive, I had nothing to demand  
 “ of the vizier but a ruby ring which I  
 “ held in particular estimation, and  
 “ which was stolen from my finger, as I  
 “ imagined, by some of the eunuchs of  
 “ his zennana.

“ The prince, though with seeming  
 “ reluctance, remitted the severity of  
 “ his intentions, but threw him from  
 “ the height of office, with these re-  
 “ markable words :

“ When the pillars of the state are  
 “ rotten, the fabric must fall to the  
 “ ground ; we therefore lighten thy  
 “ weak

“ weak shoulders of the weight of go-  
 “ vernment, and permit thee to walk  
 “ to the grave in peace, and let God  
 “ be the judge of thy sins.

“ He then commanded the ring to  
 “ be restored; for which purpose all  
 “ the eunuchs who were present, were  
 “ called, and strictly questioned con-  
 “ cerning the theft, but they stood ob-  
 “ stinately to their innocence, and infi-  
 “ nuated, that as the old woman was  
 “ present, she ought equally with them  
 “ to be suspected of that crime.

“ The old forcerefs was accordingly  
 “ sent for, but vehemently denied the  
 “ charge; upon which the vizier and  
 “ omrahs proposed the torture to draw  
 “ confession from the accused, but the  
 “ prince objected to this method, say-  
 “ ing;

“ There is nothing concealed from  
 “ the eyes of those whom God hath  
 “ chosen to be the judges of his people,  
 “ why therefore should the innocent  
 “ suffer for the guilty, and his ministers  
 “ be charged with injustice? Let there-  
 “ fore the accused be carried into sepa-  
 “ rate apartments, till we have consult-  
 “ ed the Genius of Truth.

“ As soon as they were carried off,  
 “ the prince ordered a small quantity  
 “ of hing<sup>t</sup> to be brought, and having  
 “ rubbed it on the cover of the book  
 “ which he held in his hand, he desired  
 “ it might be placed on a table in the  
 “ the adjoining chamber. He then or-  
 “ dered back the prisoners, one by one,  
 “ and commanded them to walk alone  
 “ into the chamber, and there, with

<sup>t</sup> A kind of drug.

“ their

“ their right hand on the book, to  
 “ swear to their innocence before God ;  
 “ when, if they were guilty of the fact,  
 “ the power of their arm would inevita-  
 “ bly be taken away ; but if guiltless,  
 “ they should receive no hurt.

“ At this I observed some of the  
 “ courtiers turning the sneer of con-  
 “ tempt, while others, with open  
 “ mouths, devoured the air of astonish-  
 “ ment ; and I must confess, I myself  
 “ had no favorable opinion of this un-  
 “ common manner of trial. But when  
 “ I saw the first eunuch returning, and  
 “ heard the prince commanding one of  
 “ the omrahs to examine whether his  
 “ hand was tainted with the smell, I  
 “ began to see through this artifice, and  
 “ admired the sagacity of the scheme.  
 “ In short, all the eunuchs upon exa-  
 “ mination, were discharged, but when

“ the old woman came to the trial, her  
 “ conscience accused her of guilt ; and,  
 “ fearing the wrath of heaven, she re-  
 “ turned without touching the book ;  
 “ for upon the strictest examination, her  
 “ hand was found perfectly untainted  
 “ with the odor.

“ She immediately confessed her  
 “ crime, and implored forgiveness, but  
 “ she was decreed to be scourged out of  
 “ the city, while the whole court re-  
 “ sounded with acclamations of praise  
 “ of the prince’s wisdom.

“ Thus I recovered my ring, and re-  
 “ tired greatly delighted with the sul-  
 “ tan’s behaviour, which my heart, un-  
 “ experienced in guile, soon disclosed  
 “ to the piercing eye of Mherpirwir.  
 “ She flamed with jealous rage, till she  
 “ found means to effect my destruc-  
 “ tion.

“ How-

“ However fair the externals of my  
 “ present condition now appeared, no-  
 “ thing could in fact be more delusive.  
 “ It was not sufficient to be conscious  
 “ that the veil of my chastity was as  
 “ snow, since the rigorous tenets of our  
 “ religion rendered me polluted in the  
 “ eyes of my family and friends, and an  
 “ abomination to the arms of my hus-  
 “ band \*. What could I do? My  
 “ heart in spite of reason and honor re-  
 “ belled against my own repose, and a  
 “ delirious imagination presented me,  
 “ night and day, with the enchanting  
 “ idea of the illustrious sultan, in-  
 “ much that I thought of liberty no  
 “ more, and trembled for the hour of  
 “ my departure.

\* By the Hindoo religion, all persons who  
 associate with another sect, in any manner what-  
 ever, are polluted and excommunicated.

“ I was now informed that the gene-  
 “ rous prince had reinstated my father  
 “ in his dominions, and had ordered a  
 “ magnificent retinue, with honor, to  
 “ attend me to his court. The news  
 “ was like thunder to my ear, and,  
 “ tossed by a whirlwind of passion, I ran  
 “ to the chojaferay, conjuring him to  
 “ inform the prince, that as I was  
 “ now excommunicated from the so-  
 “ ciety of my friends for ever, I re-  
 “ quested permission to remain under  
 “ the royal shade of his bounty, and  
 “ pass the future days of my life in some  
 “ solitary corner of obscurity.

“ The prince was astonished at my  
 “ request, but immediately gave orders  
 “ for an appointment of slaves, and all  
 “ other necessaries suitable to the dig-  
 “ nity of my birth. This having reach-  
 “ ed the ears of Mherpirwir, she was  
 “ stung

“ stung by the scorpion of jealousy  
 “ more and more, till she quickly ac-  
 “ complished my ruin. That very night  
 “ I was seized by a band of ruffians, in  
 “ disguise, and carried by a Mogul  
 “ merchant to the court of Chathay,  
 “ through a variety of dangers and dis-  
 “ tresses, and sold as a slave to the in-  
 “ comparable Gulzara.”

Here the prince arose, striding thrice  
 across the apartment with hasty step,  
 while the lightening of a storm of rage  
 darted from under his cloudy brow;  
 but sitting down, he commanded his  
 attention while the parrot continued his  
 tale.

The adorable Gulzara, here wiping  
 the sweet tear of compassion, like the be-  
 nign dew of heaven which stands glif-  
 tening in the morning ray, with a voice  
 that could charm to innocence the ser-  
 pent



pent in the hand of danger, thus her lovely companion addressed :

“ O Commladeve ! why do you af-  
 “ flict my ear with that odious word  
 “ *slave* ? You must be sensible, my  
 “ friend, that I never considered you in  
 “ that light. Are we not all free by  
 “ nature ; and surely accursed are they  
 “ who inhumanly impose chains of  
 “ bondage on their fellow creatures ?  
 “ O Commladeve, methinks I could  
 “ love the prince, but Gulzara would  
 “ die before she could betray you.  
 “ What a wretch must that lady be, who  
 “ could thus make so light a sacrifice of  
 “ innocence ! Surely were such a mag-  
 “ nanimous prince acquainted with the  
 “ baseness of her mind, an assemblage  
 “ of all the beauties of our sex could  
 “ not draw him within the circle of her  
 “ charms. Were I disposed to the in-  
 “ fection

“ fection of envy, my heart would sick-  
 “ en at her happinefs in his love. But  
 “ why fhould we envy the happinefs of  
 “ others, when it only diminifhes our  
 “ own!

“ You muft have heard that my  
 “ royal father, Alta Chan, has deftined  
 “ me, at a proper age, to the arms of  
 “ Tuli Chan, fourth fon of the moft  
 “ puiffant monarch Chingez Chan<sup>w</sup>,  
 “ the conqueror of the world ; who,  
 “ from being a captain in the fervice of  
 “ Onick Chan, king of Moguliftan,  
 “ fhaded with his victorious ftandards  
 “ the crimfoned face of the extended  
 “ earth, and reduced the power of a  
 “ thoufand kings within the gtafp of  
 “ his potent hand.

<sup>w</sup> Zengis Chan, the Great:

“ But

“ But the young lion Tuli Chan,  
 “ like his father, delighteth in nothing  
 “ but in rapine and blood. Bred up  
 “ in the fields of slaughter, his soul is  
 “ shut up to humanity; he places his  
 “ boast in depopulating kingdoms, and  
 “ glories in his own might; with him  
 “ love is but the lust of a savage,  
 “ and beauty but the play-thing of an  
 “ hour. What happiness can I expect  
 “ with such a man? Ah, were he the  
 “ magnanimous Jehandar!”

“ So saying, she arose erect, while her  
 “ jet-black hair rolled behind, like the  
 “ deep stream round the marble rock,  
 “ as it falls from the hills of Sewalic.  
 “ Then, seizing the arm of Commla-  
 “ deve, they walked into the zennana,  
 “ like the daughters of light<sup>x</sup>, when

<sup>x</sup> The Houries, or the women promised by  
 Mahommed to his followers in Paradise.

“ they

“they retire into the gilded apartments  
of Paradise.”

Fired with the description of this fair idol of perfection, and the idea of rivalling so great a prince, the sultan gave the reins of reason into the hand of imagination, and ran headlong into the wilderness of love.

Like Mudgeno<sup>r</sup> he frequented the silent shades, talked with the trees, and reasoned with the floods, sat lonely with sorrow, and passed the night in tears. Insnared like a bird in Gulzara's flowing hair, he incessantly besought heaven to end his wretched existence, or permit the united streams of their life to flow through the regions of joy. Let not the manner of his love surprise us ;

<sup>r</sup> Famed in a fine poem for his love for Leilli.

love

love assaults the ears as well as he assails the eyes; for the image of beautiful objects in description, pass over polished minds, fair as the reality over polished glass; the only difference is, that the last retains no impression, but the first on the table of memory leaves the object deeply engraved.

The prince now neglected to hear the sequel of the parrot's adventures; but some days after, he commanded him to repeat the whole, and asked him a thousand questions concerning the fair bride of his imagination. This only inflamed him the more, when the parrot thus concluded his tale to the ruin of the conceited Mherpirwir.

In this peaceful habitation, with my beloved mate, I enjoyed for some time a life of uninterrupted pleasure,

and we were often fed by the fair hand of this guardian angel of Eden. At length misfortune found out our retreat in a cat's rapacious form, when my mate was devoured in protecting her helpless young, and they too perished in the same unrelenting claws, which left your slave to sorrow.

The scene of my former joys became odious to my eyes, and I wandered on the wings of distraction, till one day, gnawed by the worm of hunger, I alighted on a fig-tree, in a garden, when I found myself entangled in a net<sup>z</sup>; there was I caught by the boy you beheld, and had the happiness soon after of recognizing my ge-

<sup>z</sup> Nets used to preserve fruit from the birds, and save it in its fall.

nerous prince, and of reciting my little adventures.

Now in your bosom I seek protection from the rage of that bubble of pride, who, with a handful of beauty, would exalt herself as the criterion of perfections, and the fairest of the daughters of men. Does she think the fertility of the fancy of nature could be expended in one poor piece? or all the beauties of the garden of creation comprehended in a single flower?

Under this extensive star-built arch of heaven, how many noble exhibitions of the divine hand; strokes of transcendent beauty, and beings that each other excel in the infinite scale of perfection; and were this gilded insect of vanity to unfold her wings  
in

in the presence of the divine Gulzara,  
her spark would be lost in the blaze,  
like the fire-fly in the ray of the  
morning.



## C H A P. V.

**T**HUS Jehandar Shaw permitted the cuckunufs<sup>a</sup> of love to build her inflammable nest in the cleft of his broken heart. But to gain further assurance of the real existence of this fair object of his desires, he commanded the attendance of a most eminent painter, whose name was Benzire. His eye was the compass of proportion; his fancy the mirror of nature; and his pencil the finger of spring. His touch was like the rod of enchantment, which, in living perspective on the wing of a beetle, could unfold a new creation to the eyes.

<sup>a</sup> Perhaps the phoenix.

Had the far-famed Mani of Chin<sup>e</sup>, now lived to have beheld the productions of this unparalleled pen, the favor of embellishing his enjoyments would have been deemed by him a noble school of improvement.

Here art and nature joined their powers; for which art gave body and color, nature seemed to inspire his pictures with life: here the sight so deceived our judgment, that we never doubted of the reality, nor thought of satisfying the touch, excepting when some fair maid was pourtrayed in all her wanton smiles, which tempted us to the false embrace. Or when some luscious fruits were painted bending the tender boughs, and then, when we stretched forth our hand, we started at the hovering bee.

▷ A famous painter of China.

This great master of his art, the prince commanded to be dressed in the apparel of a merchant, and ransacked the hidden treasures of a dynasty of kings, to furnish him with rich merchandize. With these he ordered him to travel to the happy region, dignified by the abode of that inconscius robber of hearts ; and there endeavour, by the power of his art, to steal a resemblance of that envy of the Pirries.

Benezire, in obedience to the will of his prince, bound up the necessaries of his intention on the hardy bred fons of the defart<sup>d</sup> ; and with a long string of ostrich-necked camels, began to wind, by slow degrees, the line of his tedious journey.

After sustaining much toil, and surmounting much danger, he at length

<sup>d</sup> Camels.

arrived

arrived safe at the golden city of Chan-balich<sup>e</sup>, the magnificent capital of the rich and potent kingdom of Cathay, situated upon the banks of an inhabited river, by the foot of the gorgeous throne of Alta Chan<sup>f</sup>, fugfar of Chin, and father to the divine Gulzara.

Here, at the gate of the royal palace, he unbound the packs of inestimable treasure, and, selecting a few of his most ordinary trinkets, distributed them, according to custom, among the servants of the imperial court; yet so great was even the value of these, in proportion to the presents of other merchants, that they procured him a speedy admission into the shadow of the ministers of the illustrious presence, where he obtained the honor of dis-

<sup>e</sup> Probably Pekin.

<sup>f</sup> Emperor.

playing his inestimable merchandize before the eyes of the astonished court.

The king, vouchsafing to look upon him, enquired of the approaching to the throne, from what country that merchant had travelled, which could produce such rich traders, and supply him with such valuable and curious commodities.

Benezire, from the fertility of his invention, gave satisfactory answers to these demands; and the king having pitched upon some of his goods, left the price to his own valuation; then dismissing him, gave particular orders to treat him with justice and hospitality, while in the protected circle of his royal dominions.

As Benezire was returning to his lodgings, he heard the sound of his own fame in every street, and soon  
found

found it had reached the impearled ears of Gulzara, who had signified her sublime will to command his immediate attendance. But the crafty painter, knowing that delay was the true ferment of female curiosity, excused himself by pretended sickness, from accepting the unmerited honor tendered by her royal favor.

The next morning a second order arrived; but he counterfeited sickness so well, that the messenger was effectually deceived, and returned with this answer, and petition:

“ Bright queen of the world, the  
 “ goods which the house of their<sup>e</sup> ser-  
 “ vant’s poverty containeth, are only  
 “ adapted for the meanest of the slaves

<sup>e</sup> It is common in the east, to address princes in the third person plural.

“ of their royalty, from whom only he  
 “ expected the slightest attention. But  
 “ as it hath pleased their high will to  
 “ command his attendance, he is sorry  
 “ that sickness has hitherto prevented  
 “ him from the honor of such unmerit-  
 “ ed favor; but if they will condescend  
 “ to inspect his commodities to-morrow,  
 “ within the gate of the palace-garden,  
 “ he will wait their royal commands,  
 “ and be brightened by the beams of  
 “ their presence.”

The curiosity of the princess having  
 now mounted the zenith, she immedi-  
 ately consented to his petition. As  
 soon as the world-warming sun had ex-  
 alted his luminous head over the bright  
 shoulder of the topaz morning, high in  
 a golden amari<sup>1</sup>, on the back of a tow-

<sup>1</sup> Called also a howdar, or elephant castle.

ering state elephant, caparisoned in embroidered purple, with trappings of massy gold, issued forth, like the moon on the heavenly pavement, attended by a thousand stars that graced her splendid train, Gulzara in radiance that eclipsed the day !

The delicate smilers of the season<sup>k</sup> faded at her approach, and conscious of inferior charms dissolved in envious tears.

Here seated, like a goddess, in Fortune's adamantine throne, attired in golden robes, she commanded the merchant to attend, who hastened to her joyful presence, thrice bending the forehead of obedience to the dust of humility, then opened his rich merchandize to her auspicious view.

<sup>k</sup> The flowers.

But



But as soon as she approached towards him, she drew over her veil, thin as the filmy web on the dew-bathed lilies of the morning. She commanded her attending matrons, who had devoured the blossoms of many years, to bring his various curiosities for her inspection.

Now the crafty Benezire begun with the worst of his commodities. By degrees he produced better and better, till such muslins of inconceivable fineness, stuffs of such richness and taste, trinkets of such exquisite workmanship, and jewels of such inestimable worth, were revealed, as had never before been exhibited at one time, from the secret treasury of nature, or the public store-house of art.

Her choice was distracted by variety, and at last she made choice of the whole,  
expressing

expressing her surprize in such beautiful exclamations, as the tongue of explanation, like a pretender to music, must be ridiculed in attempting to command.

When they were carrying them off into the zennana, one of her fair worshippers<sup>1</sup>, kissing the dust of obeisance, told her, that the merchant had still a small casket unopened, which he was endeavouring with all his art to conceal; that it was studded with precious jewels, and carefully wrapt up in a cloth of embroidered crimson.

Imagining there must undoubtedly be something extraordinary in this box, she commanded him to open it, to which the merchant pretended the greatest unwillingness; but the greater

<sup>1</sup> Maids.

difficulty he made, the more her curiosity was excited; till no longer able to resist her importunity, in manner wholly obsequious, he thus addressed her:

“ O serene beam of the firmament,  
 “ you have condescended to bestow  
 “ praises on the things you have seen,  
 “ yet the only thing in which I can  
 “ glory as the possessor, is contained in  
 “ this precious box. But as it is the  
 “ inestimable property of a great prince,  
 “ it is impossible for me to unlock it,  
 “ without the key of his supreme plea-  
 “ sure.”

On hearing these words, the flame of curiosity gained ascendancy. The sharp thorns of her threats were mixed with the sweet flowers of persuasion, when Benezire thus signified his assent:

“ Fair

“ Fair pattern of excellence, it is  
 “ known to your enlightened mind that  
 “ a breach of the ties of confidence,  
 “ hastens to the pit of dishonour,  
 “ exposes the heart to the vulture of  
 “ conscience, and the face to the darts  
 “ of reproach. But since the resistless  
 “ commands of a princess, the asylum  
 “ of the world, are laid upon me, it must  
 “ plead to the world my excuse. Yet  
 “ have I promised, I have even sworn,  
 “ that this box should not depart from  
 “ my own hand, therefore let your slave  
 “ be indulged, most gracious princess,  
 “ with the honor of presenting it himself  
 “ to your bright eyes, endued with so  
 “ many virtues.”

When the princess perceived his ob-  
 stinacy, and that to all appearance the  
 plough of time had furrowed his aged  
 brow, she commanded him to advance

\*

with

with the box, and, with the coral fingers of morning, drew the veil from the face of brightness that darted chosen rays

Benezire, like a sparkling atom aspiring to the radiant sun, was lost in the dazzling blaze, and stood for some time like the picture of astonishment, staring without speech or motion ; when unfortunately the precious box fell from his trembling hand.

Gulzara, somewhat alarmed at his uncommon perturbation, questioned him thus : “ What is the matter, Sir ? who  
“ are you, and from whence, that dare  
“ in my presence be so forgetful of  
“ yourself ? ”

Benezire recollecting himself as well as he could, replied :

“ O brightest star of the firmament  
“ of empire, excuse the imbecility  
“ of

“ of old age. The storms of many  
 “ years, that have shaken this tottering  
 “ frame, subject me to these unfortu-  
 “ nate tremors.” Then taking up  
 the box, it flew open by a spring to  
 the touch. The first object that pre-  
 sented itself to her view, was a living  
 picture of Jehandar Shaw, which he  
 had drawn with the pencil of excel-  
 lence.

The princess blushed at the unexpect-  
 ed encounter, turning her eyes aside,  
 but reviewing it attentively, with appa-  
 rent satisfaction, she took it up in her  
 lovely hand, and, having minutely ex-  
 amined it, turned to the merchant,  
 and enquired whose box it was that  
 was so full of the incense of delight?

“ The box is the property of your  
 “ slave,” replied Benezire — “ But  
 “ the

“ the picture,” interrupted the princess,  
 “ whose picture is this ?”

“ The picture,” continued Benzire,  
 “ is a faint resemblance of Jehandar  
 “ Shaw, prince of the mighty empire  
 “ of Hindostan, whose beauty excels  
 “ the beauties of Joseph <sup>m</sup>, and whose  
 “ valor exceeds the valor of the heroic  
 “ Rustum <sup>n</sup>, as much as the figure of  
 “ juvenility the decayed powers of de-  
 “ crepid old age. His princely gene-  
 “ rosity makes that of the far-famed  
 “ Hatim of Tai be forgotten ; the  
 “ music of his eloquent tongue is a  
 “ charm to the ear of affliction ; and  
 “ the birds of the free air, by his hu-

<sup>m</sup> Joseph the son of Jacob, is thought by the Mahommedans to have been the handsomest of men.

<sup>n</sup> A famous hero of Seistan.

“ manity

“ manity, are invited to perch on his  
 “ right hand.

“ Why then should I relate among  
 “ the least of his accomplishments, that  
 “ when mounted upon his fire-breath-  
 “ ing courser, that is bold like the pan-  
 “ ther, the hungry lion skulks, tremb-  
 “ ling among the foxes, and the huge  
 “ elephant, in the maddening season of  
 “ desire, flies roaring into the caverns  
 “ of obscurity ?

“ When his wit darts like lightning,  
 “ the thunder of applause rolls around,  
 “ and his judgment is a pole-star of  
 “ direction to the world : when his love  
 “ is once kindled, it is like the fire of  
 “ the magi, never more to be extin-  
 “ guished. When he moves to war,  
 “ the trembling nations mark, with  
 “ astonishment, his rapid progress, like  
 “ the path of a comet through a stormy



“ sky : but when his brow commands  
 “ the storms to silence, his soul is serene and placid as the deep, after the  
 “ winds are laid.”

The princess, before prejudiced in favor of this character, and seeing the picture, bore testimony of the truth, permitted the seeds of affection to take root in the garden of her heart ; and alas ! too soon the bitter plant began to rear its prickly head, cherished by the ray of luxurious pleasure, pouring on a fertile soil. But virgin-moesty had seized upon the skirts of utterance, and the impropriety of the time obliged her to silence ; yet loath, very loath, to lose all view of the object of her wishes, she demanded the price of the picture.

Benezire, turning his face to the ground expressive of the utmost anxiety, thus exclaimed : “ Unhappy man, that  
 “ I am !

“ I am! let my life be as the dust of  
 “ your feet, that I may die a martyr to  
 “ my fidelity, rather than by disposing  
 “ of this picture, prove a traitor to the  
 “ confidence of my prince.”

“ Darest thou thus amuse me with  
 “ these vain excuses!” replied the prin-  
 cess? “ I plainly perceive thy words are  
 “ divested of the raiment of truth;  
 “ what is a hand-breadth of paper  
 “ sketched over with a trifling picture  
 “ to merit the attention of royalty! and  
 “ shall the whim of my fancy,” said  
 she, “ be controlled by such an obsti-  
 “ tinate old man as thou!”

The pretended merchant, prostrat-  
 ing himself on the dust, begged her re-  
 sentment might not be kindled for the  
 destruction of a fly like him. He  
 confessed that if she estimated the pic-  
 ture according to external appearance,

its value might be computed at a few dinars <sup>o</sup>; but if, according to the estimation of a mind long prepossessed in favour of the original, both worlds were unequal for the purchase.

“ O fair queen of the age !” continued he, “ the particulars of the story  
 “ are these. The great Koshilick Chan,  
 “ king of Choten <sup>p</sup>, in the celestial  
 “ house of empire, possesses a star, in  
 “ comparison of which the stars of the  
 “ firmament above are but dim sparks  
 “ on the skirts of night. The perfumed  
 “ praise of this rose-bud of sweetness,  
 “ had gratified the soul of the young  
 “ Jehandar, and a treaty being set on  
 “ foot between the potent princes, for  
 “ joining these sparkling lights of the

<sup>o</sup> A small Persian coin.

<sup>p</sup> A kingdom of China, bordering on Tartary and Thibet.

“ zodiac

“ zodiac in one constellation, I was de-  
 “ puted by Jehandar to carry to her this  
 “ precious picture, that it might employ  
 “ the hours of her expectation. It was  
 “ also given me in charge to draw, if  
 “ possible, a faint shadow of her tran-  
 “ scendent beauties, to bless his longing  
 “ eyes. Thy slave was assured that,  
 “ for this service, his toils would be re-  
 “ warded with the hand of liberality, so  
 “ as to enable him to spend the autumn  
 “ of his life in the pleasures of ease and  
 “ independence.”

The princess, who had lost her heart  
 in play with this deluding picture,  
 heard with anxiety every syllable of this  
 discourse, and told him it was far from  
 her intention to frustrate his long che-  
 rished hope : but that if money was  
 the object of his wishes, he might at

once satiate his thirst in the stream of her royal bounty.

Benezire bowed his face to the ground, and replied :

“ Fair object of the world’s adoration ! let thy gracious pardon descend upon the meanest of the slaves of thy presence, who is himself the painter of this piece. The disguise in which thou now beholdest him was merely for the commodiousness of travelling through kingdoms, where the useful merchant finds open the arms of hospitality, and the gates of protection unfolded. Therefore, in compliance to thy royal will, if thou shalt permit thy servant this evening to copy it off, the morning shall restore it to your eyes.”

To this the fair Gulzara consented, but commanded him to send for his  
imple-

implements, and finish it in one of the gilded pavilions by the gate of the zenana garden.

Benezire kissed the dust of obedience; and Gulzara, like the beam of the west, retired into the golden haram. Here she commanded the attendance of the chief eunuch, and dispatched him to acquaint her royal father with some particulars of the merchant's story, and to beg that such an eminent hand might be permitted to draw her picture, as a present to her intended lord.

The king, whose paternal love had never trespassed the bounds of her pleasure, gave immediate attention to her request; and, accordingly Benezire, was commanded to execute this pleasing difficulty, which, with the outmost exactitude of art, he twice performed to her full satisfaction. He intended, from

the mirror of reflection, to have transcribed a third copy for himself; but what was his agreeable surprize, when, in the weighty purse of gold and jewels her prodigal generosity had conferred upon him, he found one of the pictures concealed.

Thus having accomplished his first intentions, beyond the presumption of his most sanguine hopes, he turned the face of joy to the far-famed kingdom of Hindoستان. He soon arrived there in safety, to the no small satisfaction of his longing prince.

CHAP.

## C H A P. VI.

**W**HEN Benezire had obtained leave to kiss the royal carpets of obeisance, and to express his benedictions in the prince's auspicious presence, he presented the divine resemblance of that incendiary of love to the joy-sparkling eyes of expectation.

The firmament, whose azure veil ten thousand huris<sup>9</sup> hides ; the eyes of enchanted fancy wandering over the region of dreams ; nor old Time in the circle of ages, where nature exhibits her skill, such a picture of consummate

<sup>9</sup> Nymphs of paradise:

beauty



beauty had ever before beheld ; for lo ! the lap of astonishment was filled with flowers, and the cup of amazement overflowed with the intoxicating wine of joy.

Here the pencil of description, like the stalk of the lilly, from year to year, might put forth new blossoms ; and the pen of imagination, like the tree of Palmyra, become an exhaustless fountain of praise.

The prince, who only saw before the imperfect image of Gulzara in the troubled stream of his fancy, now grasped at this lively resemblance, which shone in the calmer flood of his mind : but, alas ! he was still deceived, and was cast away on the sands of love.

Such was the power of fancy, that a few days after, when he was seated in the tribunal of justice, which his aged  
father

father had resigned to him, Jehandar was overpowered by a delirious imagination, and fell headlong from his imperial throne, and lay extended, motionless, on the floor, like a picture wove in the spreading tapestry.

The court was in an immediate uproar, and physicians hastened at the general cry. They, having opened the stagnated channels of life, and with the cold water of roses besprinkled his pallid face, he was again seated on his throne, where he sat like a mourner of the dead, bedewing a parent's tombstone.

But, alas! the poison of love had been absorbed by the arteries of life. He grew distracted; he threatened his own life; and the storms of alternate madness and melancholy clouded the face of his refulgent fame.

Nothing

Nothing was heard upon his tongue but the name of this fair enchantress ; and his eyes were never turned but to the Caba<sup>r</sup> of his earnest desires, till at length the report of the prince's madness was heard in every street.

The sage counsellors and supporting pillars of the throne now found it necessary to acquaint his royal father of his condition ; and as he drank the sap of his existence from this scion of youth, it quickly withered his old age, and he became, like a lonely tree, blasted in the wilderness of sorrow.

However, calling his unfortunate son into the peaceful apartments of privacy, he began to shed the dew of advice upon the flowers of his decayed under-

<sup>r</sup> The temple of Mecca, towards which the Mahommedans always turn their faces when they pray.

standing, and to open the windows of instruction upon the melancholy dungeon of his mind. But his ears were now deaf to the voice of wisdom, and the once-famed tribunal of reason was barred against the appeal of sense.

The aged king found at length that all his endeavours were in vain; he found that he could not turn him, by the force of persuasion, from the melancholy mazes of madness, and therefore, he began to water the prickly thorn of sorrow from the fountain of exhaustless tears. He then called together his physicians, high skilled in the virtues of every herb; his viziers, long accustomed to untie the intricate knots of difficulty; and magicians versed in the occult powers of enchantment. He offered his choice of the twenty kingdoms of Hindostan to him who should expel  
this

this destructive spirit of madness, or administer the balm of peace to his son's afflicted mind.

But after all the powers of art were in vain expended, the fire of imagination gained ascent, and the moon of madness encreased in the hemisphere of his hapless fate; when one of the company of wisdom, as the last resource, proposed this promising expedient which was received with general approbation.

The expedient proposed was this, that night and day should be presented to his mind a fresh picture of the ingratitude and inconstancy of women, composed of such extraordinary circumstances as might engage the ear of attention, till the auditory of reason might be opened, and judgment resume her throne.

## C H A P VII.

## The Story of the First Companion.

ONE of the chosen in the society of wisdom, unveiling the fair bride of eloquence, introduced her thus upon the flowery carpet of explanation.

There once was a youth who from the flowers of prosperity, drank the dew of happiness, and from the inheritance of his father possessed much wealth. In the exercises of the body and accomplishments of the mind he was unequalled among his companions, and in valor and comeliness unrivalled  
among.

among his peers. Nor was he less praiseworthy in the extent of his liberality, which brightened the house of his hospitality and gladdened the hearts of his friends.

One day, as he rode through the city, his ears were struck with the voice of sorrow, and, looking round, he beheld an old hard-hearted usurer, assisted by the cutwal's guard<sup>s</sup>, dragging a beautiful female from the arms of an aged parent, who invoked heaven and earth to pity the severity of his distress.

Touched with compassion at this scene of misery, he stopped and demanded the cause. He was given to understand the father of the young lady was indebted thirty thousand rupees to the old shroff<sup>u</sup>, who having

<sup>s</sup> The mayor or chief magistrate of the city.

<sup>u</sup> A money-monger, exchange broker, or banker.

stripped him of all his possessions, was now carrying the daughter into slavery.

Buchtear<sup>w</sup> having enquired into the particulars, generously discharged the debt, restored the lady to freedom, the father to joy, and the whole family to the comforts of life.

But as misfortune to the generous mind is often the food of love, Buchtear, in his visits to the family, was affected by the daughter's beauty, which, like a meteor in a dark sky, beamed brighter to his admiring eyes, till he was led, in pursuit of the fair delusion, into the bottomless pit of distress.

When he perceived a due return of his passion, he bound with this fair unfortunate the indissoluble knot of marriage, and pledged with her his heart ;

<sup>w</sup> The friend of virtue.



and so enamoured was he of his lot, that, like the assiduous bee, he lived but on the flower of her charms, inso-much that rest was inconsistent with a moment's separation; and pleasure with any pleasure which she did not partake, for his attention prevented her wishes, and his heart was the receptacle of her love.

Nor was she cold to his passion or indifferent to his caresses. She returned them with redoubled ardor, being bound in the chain of his generosity, and caught in the net of his endearments, so that, like a handmaid, she administered to his pleasures, and caught the rising wish in the corner of his amorous eye.

If the foot of separation advanced an uncommon step in the way of worldly business, the bitter gall of sorrow was  
poured

poured from the cup of anxiety, and the roses of her cheeks were destroyed in a torrent of tears. In short, the love of this happy pair was become the song of the virgins, and the chime of unwearied fame.

Buchtear had an uncommon propensity to hunting, in which noble exercise he excelled so, that his spear became the dread of the forest, and his arrows the fate of the beasts of the field. By chance he became acquainted with a young man, brother to the ruler of the city, who often shared with him the spoils of the chase, and measured the wine of society under his hospitable roof.

One day the glance of this young man fell on Buchtear's fair lady, and immediately her eyes became fixed upon him. Without waiting for fur-

ther encouragement, this pupil of vice, forgetful of the sacred ties of friendship, permitted the infectious air of lust to fever in his putrid mind: upon his return home, he called one of the age-worne daughters of prostitution, accustomed, like the screech owl of darkness, to ravage the sacred nest of the innocent dove of chastity, and to howl over the ruins of reputation.

This mistress in iniquity, being bribed by the means of gold, with the address and subtilty of satan, insinuated herself, by degrees, into the acquaintance and confidence of this yet unsuspecting fair one. She began to bait the snares of vice with pleasure, and to spread the bird-lime of ruin on the blooming branches of the tree of bliss. But the shy bird, for a long time, would not listen to the call of enchantment, and  
was

was blind to the lure of deceit ; yet by degrees she became enamoured with the song, familiar to the objects of danger, and hopped into the inextricable snare.

Thus the soft clay of female composition, unretentive of a grateful or lasting impression, was moulded to the purposes of sin. She consented to sink the fair vessel of her own and her husband's honor in the black whirlpool of infamy ; and to pollute, like a falling flower, the unspotted garments of her perfumed reputation.

When a few days of dear-purchased pleasure had elapsed, and this frail business of her broken fame became whispered among the inhabitants of the same shade, and began to be reverberated from every quarter like the voice of the ghost of murder, in their consci-

ous and affrighted ears, they considered the danger of their situation, and dreamed of nothing but the sword of vengeance impending over their wicked heads. There now remained no means of retrieving their lost peace, or securing their future safety, but by swimming the gulph of wickedness into which they had already so unwarily plunged. They bound a hellish knot of conspiracy, and waited the favor of an opportunity to execute their cursed design.

About the dark hour of midnight, when all was prepared for their scheme, the fair fiend arose from the arms of her husband, and embracing her gallant at the door, they set fire to the four corners of the house, and mounting on horses, half-loaded with gold, jewels, and precious effects, made away. When they perceived that the flames defied  
the

hands of human labor, they went to a distant city, where, for some time, undisturbed, they enjoyed their adulterous pleasures, covered their heads with the ashes of infamy, and drank the dregs of the cup of fornication.

The unfortunate husband being awakened by the flames, and the noise of the distracted servants, started from his pillow of repose, and, missing his beloved wife, went in quest of her through the floods of fire, till life, by the excessive pain, seemed preparing to desert her untenable abode, and his eyes, with the insufferable heat, to melt in their ivory sockets.

When the fire had consumed the house, the lady was no where to be found, and he concluded, without the shadow of doubt, that she had suffered in the relentless flame. The generous

unsuspecting husband was tossed in the waves of distraction, and thus in bitterness of heart exclaimed!

“ Why, O fate, hast thou spared my life, and robbed me thus of the delight of my soul. It were better to share her sad fortune, than to be left lonely in tears. I am like some vagrant bird which the storm of a winter night has driven far from shore: I am fatigued, I flutter in search of land, but I see nothing but the wild waves that roll beneath. How long shall this frail nature of mine support the toil of grief? Death should come like a hospitable man, and invite me to his dark but peaceful abode.—My blood already boils in my grief, and soon will the bubble of life burst in air.—And yet this soul is tenacious of its clay, and still fond of its restless dwelling-place. Why dost thou

thou not fledge thy little wings, thou flutterer, that art drowned in grief? What shall I do!—The prophet forbids me to spill this cup of life; yet my cruel destiny might excuse this breach of the will divine.”

Thus mourned the disconsolate husband in the solitary shades of night, but the sun of reason began to dawn with the morning, and he gave orders to search the rubbish that he might pay his last duty of respect to the remains of his best-beloved.

To his no small astonishment he perceived that no signs could be traced by the eye or produced by enquiry. Buchtear was amazed, and he immediately suspected that the lamp of truth had not yet enlightened this scene of darkness, and, going to communicate his surmises to his friend, to pour his dis-

tress



press into his bosom, and to receive the balm of consolation from his hand, he was given to understand, that he had been absent since mid-night.

Now the shadows of former doubts became substantial in reason's eye, and from the significant sneers of contempt, he concluded with certainty, that his base friend had plucked the flower of domestic bliss, and contaminated the bed of honor. Yet still a dupe to her deceitful smiles, he could never be brought to believe that she herself had thrown fire into the fair edifice of her own reputation, but that in the hour of confusion and terror, she had been seized by the hand of violence.

In this vain persuasion of her chastity, he dressed himself in dust-coloured sackcloth, and, with wood-ashes, disfiguring his body, concealed a short sword

sword under his garment. He then waving a bundle of peacock feathers in his hand, thus equipped, like a begging fakeer, set out from door to door, and from town to town, to endeavour, if possible, to find out their retreat.

After much fruitless enquiry, he at last lighted on the track of intelligence, and arrived at the door of their lodging. Here he beheld an old woman, of whom he enquired if such a lady was at home, to which she unsuspectingly replied, that she was. At this news Buchtear was so elated, that his girdle burst with joy; so having called the old woman aside, he put a purse of money into her hand, and conjuring her to be faithful, desired she would acquaint her mistress that her husband was in disguise at the door, and if she was desirous of embracing the opportunity of escape,

escape, he was prepared to protect her from the lawless brutality of a thousand villains.

The old daughter of iniquity promised to whisper it in the ear of secrecy, as she said there were much company in the house; and accordingly limping away, like a wisp before the wind, she delivered the husband's message to the lady, who was now sitting, with her particular, quaffing the agat-cup of love-inspiring wine.

She started as from a dream of terror, and, running to the window, beheld her impatient husband walking about in the dress of a dervish<sup>x</sup>, with the aspect of distraction and pain; then flying to her gallant, she alarmed

<sup>x</sup> A mendicant, hermit, or devotee, and is the same as a fakeer or collinder.

him of their danger, exclaiming, “ let  
 “ us fly ! let us fly ! ” for while yet  
 the hand of revenge is not twisted in  
 the locks of freedom, still of safety  
 there remains some hope.

The gallant ran out, without reply,  
 and ordered two horses to be immedi-  
 ately saddled, at the back-door: but the  
 husband having observed the old wo-  
 man watching him, through the balco-  
 ny, now first suspected the treachery of  
 his wife. The fire of rage gained a-  
 scent, and rushing into the house, like a  
 hungry wolf which invades the defence-  
 less cottage, he searched from place to  
 place, till accidentally falling on the  
 back-door, he there saw a lady in a veil  
 mounting a horse, in confusion, by the  
 assistance of two peons <sup>r</sup>, while his base

<sup>r</sup> Footmen.

friend was prancing upon another around her.

Like the lightning that blasts the trees of the forest, the injured Buchtear, with the flaming sword of vengeance, laid the peons on the dust of death; then flying to the murderer of his honor, would have quenched his revenge in his blood, had he not saved his life by fear, and turned his face to flight.

Buchtear now hesitated about the life of his spouse, but humanity prevailed over anger, and the weakness of a woman who was in his power, proved stronger than an opposing lion.

Accordingly, having seized the reins, he obliged her to dismount; and having purchased new apparel, and provided for his returning journey, he carried her off without a word of reproach,

proach, with intention of restoring her to her parents.

When he had wound up the long line of his distance, and arrived in the environs of his native city, it being now approaching the close of day, to avoid the piercing eye of ridicule, and the sneers of a calumnious world, till the veil of night should conceal the infamous object of his dishonour, he thought proper to halt in a retired grove, and dispatched his servants before, to prepare the house for his reception.

While here he reclined in the shade, the thievish spirit of silent sleep deceived the guards of sense, and, robbing the house of imprudence, left open the doors of danger. The lover, who had traced their rout, arrived in this unlucky hour, and beheld the unfortunate

tunate.

fortunate Buchtear sleeping, with the snake of his bosom,

The opportunity was too precious to be lost: he drew a dagger from his side, he advanced like a tiger, with caution, towards his prey, with an intention to lengthen his sleep by death. The lady awaking, seized his hand, and whispering, told him it was a pity to give him so easy an exit; let us first, continued she, tie him hand and foot with a strong cord, and afterwards consult together the means of his death, when the eyes of revenge shall be gratified.

This wicked proposal was approved, and when they had almost accomplished their design, the unfortunate Buchtear awoke, and beheld two hellish fiends combined against his life. He now, when too late, repented that he spared  
the

the life of the adulterers : “ but what  
 “ fate ordains, said he, no mortal can  
 “ evade.” Rejoicing in her artifice, this  
 daughter of wickedness threw the end  
 of the rope over a branch of the tree,  
 and calling her gallant to her assistance,  
 they hoisted him up by the heels like a  
 rope-dancer sporting in the air ; then  
 sitting down before him with her lover,  
 embittered the elements of his life with  
 sharp taunts, drunk wine from the cup  
 of hilarity, and displayed her charms in  
 lascivious attitudes before his eyes.

She then devoured hot kisses from  
 the trembling lips of lust. At last, the  
 yeast of dalliance, the fermenting liquor  
 of passion overflowed the vessels of con-  
 tinence, both seized the moment of love,  
 and the unhappy husband became the  
 accursed witness of his own dishonour.



When the fair fiend arose, she advanced towards him, and presenting a drawn dagger to his throat, cry'd, "Now thou shalt know the extent of a woman's revenge." But thinking she had not yet sufficiently tormented him, she sat down again by her lover, with intention to add new stings to her inveterate malice.

At length, drunk with debauchery and wine, they reposed their giddy heads on the pillow of misfortune, and left a cup of wine overflowing on the ground by their side. The unfortunate Buchtear, with some glimpse of reviving hope, beheld this imprudent conduct, but was not in a state of capacity to take just reparation for his wrongs; he in the mean time was alarmed with a new and more terrible danger.

Turning

Turning up his eyes to heaven, he beheld a prodigious snake moving along the branch to which he was suspended. The snake made directly towards him, and slowly descending by the cord, glittering in the evening ray, he began to roll his rattling folds round his body, grasping his quivering frame; then rearing his scaly neck, and brandishing his forked tongue, began to hiss in the distorted face of the pale wretch who was dried up with consuming horror.

“Heaven!” exclaimed he, “what  
 “black demon is this, darkening the  
 “light of life, and melting the corpo-  
 “real substance! External danger ex-  
 “cruciates the soul, and internal dif-  
 “ease breaks the bitter gall of accu-  
 “mulated sorrow! Merciful God! for  
 “what unheard of guilt should the  
 “bolts of thy vengeance be so forcibly  
 K 2 “hurled

“ hurled against me in this state of pro-  
 “ bation, as if eternity itself were too  
 “ short for the punishment of my  
 “ crimes ! Bite, bite, thou marrow-dry-  
 “ ing demon ! Why dost thou delay to  
 “ bite ? Let me die ; though I die un-  
 “ revenged, let me die, let me die ;  
 “ let me descend, though to a fiery  
 “ grave, lest I throw the darts of  
 “ blasphemy against the impregnable  
 “ vault of heaven to revert on my own  
 “ head.”

While thus he spoke, the snake, by  
 degrees, untwined his glistening folds,  
 and descending to the ground, slowly  
 dragged his length along, approached  
 the sleeping lovers, and as he glided  
 over the face of the gallant, the unfor-  
 tunate man raised his hand to the place ;  
 the snake, apprehensive of danger, seized  
 him by the under lip, and his depart-  
 ing

ing soul changing for once her untenable abode, flew to the world unknown.

The snake then attracted by the fumes of the wine, dipped his head into the cup, and having drank it half out, let fall some black drops into the remainder from the corner of his venomous jaw; he then returning by the way he came, carried terror to the soul of Buchtear, but passed over without hurting him, and concealed himself in the hollow of the tree.

The unfortunate Buchtear, on beholding this strange and inexplicable work of Providence, was overwhelmed in a flood of astonishment, but could not yet pretend to prognosticate the final turn of the yet-revolving heavenly wheel.

Thirsty with her debauch, at length the lady awoke, and greedily applying the cup to her lips, drank the dregs of

the cup of fate ; then endeavouring to awake her lover, she perceived he had slept his last, on which she fell headlong from the flowery bank of pleasure, where she sat sporting with love, into the bottomless whirlpool of despair ; and without knowing the cause of his death, revenge became predominant in her malicious soul. She drew the dagger from his side, she ran like a fury to her husband, and pointed it to his naked breast.

The poor husband, deprived of the power of resistance, saw himself once more in the claws of this demon, and while life yet stood trembling on the threshold of existence, he thus exclaimed:

“ O my beloved wife ! is it thus  
 “ you repay my unshaken constancy,  
 “ and inviolable love ? Hear one word,  
 “ one

“ one word, I beseech you, and then let  
 “ my fate be determined.”—“ Speak  
 “ then,” replied she, “ speak—What  
 “ have you to say?”

The unfortunate Buchtear, with sub-  
 missive tone and faltering voice, thus  
 began.

“ Patience, my beloved, that I may  
 “ breathe!—One’ moment’s patience  
 “ and you shall hear all.—Yes, I am well  
 “ assured—this proves to a demonstra-  
 “ tion that destiny rules the actions of  
 “ of men. Chastity so pure, love so  
 “ sincere, and perfections so great, could  
 “ never have been blotted from the fair  
 “ book of reputation by less than the  
 “ hand of Fate. What then can be  
 “ said; since it has pleased the record-  
 “ ing angel of the unalterable will of  
 “ Providence’ to write these cruel sen-  
 “ tences of misfortune in the diary of

“ our lives.—What can be said? No-  
 “ thing! What cannot be helped should  
 “ be forgotten.

“ The sacred prophets of God were  
 “ given up to the temptations of Satan,  
 “ that having passed like gold through  
 “ the fire they might shine with superior  
 “ lustre; and shall we, poor, imper-  
 “ fect, blind mortals, dare to repine at  
 “ the decrees of heaven? Had this  
 “ heart been cold to love, susceptible  
 “ of revenge, and hardened against  
 “ pity, how soon might your fate have  
 “ been determined? But oh that I am  
 “ subject to those soft feelings, can  
 “ peace ever visit my grave, or death  
 “ prove a wall of separation? No, my  
 “ restless spirit shall haunt the scene of  
 “ my former joys, and hover over the  
 “ bed of your repose.”

“ I now

“ I now swear by the holy prophet  
 “ of immortal truth, that not one hair  
 “ of these ambrosial locks shall be dis-  
 “ composed, nor a member of that de-  
 “ licate frame suffer injury, if you un-  
 “ tie these hands. If I have unwarily  
 “ offended; let my faults be concealed  
 “ by the skirts of your mercy, and let  
 “ our former happiness be restored and  
 “ even augmented by reflecting on past  
 “ misfortunes; for it is known that love,  
 “ when pruned by the hand of adver-  
 “ sity, encreases in fruit like the vine,  
 “ and at the departure of winter the  
 “ fragrance of the returning season is  
 “ sweeter than the full year.”

While thus, on the excruciating rack  
 of pain, the wretched husband tempo-  
 rized with his impending fate, the poi-  
 son began by degrees to inflame her in-  
 compassionate



compassionate bowels, and the spasms of convulsive death to rend her frame, till at length she fell foaming on the ground, and expired in the agonies of pain.

While Buchtear was returning thanks to heaven for interposing the divine hand, one of the servants returned and unbound him. So having related the particulars to the astonished magistrates, they ordered them to be interred on the spot, and the story to be engraved on their tomb.

Therefore, O sublime prince! to be distracted with the external beauty of a woman, and haunt the painted rainbow of imagination in the clouded sky of madness, is inconsistent with thy noble self and the dictates of true wisdom; for be assured the fair flower  
of

of the female cheek never sheds the sweet odour of gratitude.

When fate wrote down the fair catalogue of female virtues, a blot fell upon gratitude from his pen.

CHAP.

## C H A P. VIII.

The Story of the Second Com-  
panion.

**T**HIS unmerciful tearer of the robes of chastity, having concluded his strange story, another old impotent blackener of female fame thus blotted the page of divine beauty.

We are told, that as once a select party of friends were enjoying themselves under a sham-miana <sup>p</sup>, pitched in a publick garden, enhancing with mirth, wit, and wine, the bright charms of social conversation, they were accosted by a handsome stranger, who, with un-

<sup>p</sup> A kind of canopy.