

THE  
**FREEMASONS' MAGAZINE,**

AND

CABINET OF UNIVERSAL LITERATURE.

FOR JUNE 1796.

EMBELLISHED WITH AN ENGRAVING OF THE  
 SECRETARY'S JEWEL OF THE LODGE OF THE  
 NINE MUSES.

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form a contrast between the morality and theology of mankind, before, and since revelation; and from that contrast to deduce the necessity, the use, and beneficial tendency, of revealed religion.' P. iii.

Conformably to this plan, the author distributes his subjects into three propositions; in the *first* of which he contends, that nothing short of revelation could have destroyed idolatry; the *second* argues it as necessary, from the ignorance of man and the justice of god; the *third* establishes the argument of its utility, in having been the instrument of giving glory to God in the highest, and communicating peace and good-will to man. These propositions are elucidated and enforced with a degree of spirit, elegance, and accuracy, that discovers a mind well tutored in general literature, and strongly impressed with theological truth.

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*A Defence of Revelation in Ten Letters to Thomas Paine, being an Answer to his First Part of the Age of Reason.* By Elhanan Winchester. 8vo. Pages 113. Parsons. 1796.

AFTER the learned and elegant apology of Dr. Watson, (*Vide our Review of last Month*) it is almost unnecessary to notice the various antagonists of Mr. Paine: the good bishop has done so much that very little remains to do: he has stripped the infidel, and held him up to public scorn. Truth, however, requires us to say, that, throughout his *Defence of Revelation*, Mr. Winchester writes as a sound divine and a good christian.

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*The Battle of Eddington, or British Liberty, a Tragedy.* 8vo. Price 2s. 6d. Elmsly.

FROM the dedication which is to Mr. Pitt, we learn that this tragedy is the performance of a Mr. Penn, grandson and representative, in the elder branch of the founder of the British government in Pennsylvania. We highly commend the generous and manly strain of feeling in which the whole of this tragedy is both conceived and expressed; and recommend it to the serious perusal of all lovers of their country, who, if they should sometimes object to the less polished effusions of the poet, must revere the noble and dignified spirit of the man.

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*Letters on the Drama.* 8vo. Price 3s. 6d. Elmsly. 1796.

THESE letters, twelve in number, are from the same author as the last article; and are entitled to the same kind of commendation. A gentleman who writes for his amusement, is too apt to disdain the minuter rules of composition so necessary to every author. It is but justice, however, to Mr. Penn, to say, that, amidst some careless and some superficial observations, these letters evince a sound understanding and a good taste.

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*The Decline and Fall of the English System of Finance.* By Thomas Paine, Author of *Common Sense*, *American Crisis*, *Rights of Man*, *Age of Reason*, &c. Pages 44. 8vo. Price 1s. Eaton. London. 1796.

MR. PAINE's treatise on finance, like all his other compositions, has so much originality, that we cannot apply to it any known rules. Amid all the wildness of his fancy, there is however, here and there, some little Plain Sense. The chief object of the present book seems to be to prove the evil conse-