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PRODESSE ET DELECTARE—
E PLURIBUS UNUM.

By SYLVANUS URBAN, *Gent.*

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some old Dispensary, printed about the time of the witching-days of that old bigot King James; where it is recommended as a specifick against witchcraft, and gives an humourous account of the supposed operation of this medicine, as practised by a curious old wizard. He likewise bestows one very singular letter on the fidelity, sagacity, and longevity, of Ulysses's dog Argus, the only animal that recognized his master after so many years of absence; and proves that the circumstances recorded of him are not only poetical, but likewise truly consistent with the natural history of the canine species.

(To be continued.)

165. *Select Epigrams. In Two Volumes.*

THE editor of these little volumes, which may boast much typographical elegance, has made an ample and judicious selection of the best epigrams in the English language, and has extracted the beauties of our epigram-writers, from Sir John Harrington to the late Mr. Bishop, the worthy master of Merchant Tailors school. What we esteem a singular excellence is, that the editor has not admitted into his collection any of those wanton and licentious pieces which too often disgrace works of a similar nature. The volumes are inscribed to Mrs. Crespigny. We shall present our readers with the following epigrams, as a specimen of the selection:

"FATI VALET HORA BENIGNI.

By the late Mr. BISHOP.

"When Tom call'd in one day on Ned,
His wife was plastering deary's head,
Who sigh'd but dar'd not shake it:
'Tis well Tom's pace is something slower;
For, had he come an hour before,
He'd seen the vixen break it."

"ON TWO NEIGHBOURS WHO DIED
AT THE SAME TIME.

By the late Dr. JAMES FORDYCE.

"My neighbour Thornton cannot live a day,"
Cried honest Jones *, then in a deep decay;

'Jones cannot live a day,' cried Thornton,
broke [joke].
With cruel gout, though still he lov'd a
To think himself might die, each one was
loth; [both].
Before the day expir'd, Death seiz'd them

166. *A Layman's Protest against the profane Blasphemy, false Charges, and illiberal Invektives, of Thomas Paine, Author of a Book intitled "The Age of Reason. Parts I. and II. Being an Investigation of true and false Theology. By J. Padman, Jun.*

"THE Age of Reason," by Thomas Paine, is one of the most ignorant, gross, and scurrilous libels upon Common Sense and Revealed Religion that the eighteenth century has produced. We rejoice to find that such a despicable attempt to subvert the Christian faith has been duly noticed. The learned and excellent Bishop of Landaff has, in his "Apology for the Bible," refuted, in the most masterly manner, the absurd and vulgar objections of this arch-infidel; and Mr. Erskine, in a strain of sublime eloquence, has vindicated the Christian Religion from the charges this impious writer had adduced against its divinity. Mr. Erskine was the first layman who publicly entered his protest against "The Age of Reason." Mr. Padman, jun. in the work now before us, makes some remarks on different parts of Paine's treatise; and, though we discover little depth of judgement in any of his observations, yet we may pronounce this "Protest" to be a very useful one, a very good antidote to the poison of Paine, and fitted for the comprehension of the inferior classes. Had Mr. Padman inserted less of his "dissenting cant" (see pp. 146, 149, 150), it would have redounded more to his honour. Why attack the Ecclesiastical Establishment of this country when defending the Divinity of the Bible? What occasion was there for such a sinister attack? Could he not have vindicated

* As the editor of this selection has inserted, occasionally, concise biographical notes, we cannot help saying a little respecting "honest Jones," mentioned in the above epigram. Mr. Samuel Jones was a watch-maker, and a well-known character at Bath. His singularities attracted much notice, and occasioned his shop to be much resorted to by the nobility and gentry during the season. His natural impetuosity of temper was easily excited, and upon very trivial occasions; but, when the subject of religion was started (which he generally introduced in conversation with his customers, even if they were persons of the highest rank), he often exceeded the bounds of respect, decency, and decorum. A creed opposite to his own (which was singularly enthusiastic) exposed its professor, whether dean, archdeacon, or prebend, whether peer or baronet, to the rudest language. This conduct, of course, injured him in his business essentially. But he was contented; thinking that, by such avowal of his opinions, he served the cause of the Gospel. With all his eccentricities, he was an honest man, and, as such, much respected. He died June, 1794. A painting of him was for some time hung up in the pump-room. Rev.

our holy Religion without letting the world know he was a Nonconformist? "Lord, what a dust I make!" said the fly on the chariot-wheel. We have heard Mr. P. holds a mercantile situation; if so, he has employed his leisure hours meritoriously.

167. *Copies of Original Letters recently written by Persons in Paris to Dr. Priestley in America. Taken on board of a Neutral Vessel. (Concluded from p. 516.)*

"WHATEVER can tend to humble the English Government is most anxiously sought after, in whatever shape the mode of opposition presents itself. The only, or almost the only, outlet for English merchandize is the port of Hamburgh. The French, who have at present long arms, have stretched out one of their fingers towards that town, and have, as we understand, even laid it on. We expect to hear, every post, that the port is shut against the English, and that the English merchandize, which is emmagazined there, to the amount of three or four millions, is confiscated*. What the fate of these petty Oligarchies in the North will be, is yet uncertain; whether these towns, such as Hamburgh, Embden, Franckfort, will remain as they are, under the great changes operating in the Empire; or whether they will be amalgamated with some other territory †, and till the general day of deliverance arrives, which, according to the signs, does not appear to be at a very great distance.

"Of those antient and regular Governments that will soon fall, Spain seems determined to take the lead. Every thing internal is big with revolution, according to all the accounts which travellers of observation and veracity bring us from thence. In addition to this, the French Government are on the point of demanding very serious explanation, why, during a year and a half of hostility with England, Spain has been more sedulous to help the common enemy than aid the interests of her ally the French Republick. It is not very doubtful that one of the interludes before alluded to will be the march of an army across the Pyrenees, through Madrid, to Lisbon, unless the demands made by the

French Government be instantly complied with, which are said to be, the delivery of the Spanish fleet into the hands of the French, to be put under the direction of French officers, and the invasion of the kingdom of Portugal by the Spanish troops. In this alternative it seems that Spain is placed, trembling on every side for her present political existence, and with good reason to tremble. If these two Governments, which will then form one, be also revolutionized, a considerable portion of longitude and latitude in Europe will take the Republican system, and we shall have made *pretty decent progress*, considering the little space of time we have had to operate in, and the obstacles we have hitherto met with, which are at present considerably removed.

"Amidst these changes without, you will no doubt be surprized to hear of an unexpected change that takes place, from time to time, within. You will have trembled for our Constitution, and probably felt *some alarm for liberty* on the events of the 18 Fructidor; you will have felt similar *disagreeable sensations* in hearing of the late arrests of the Deputies in Holland. These are events, no doubt, *very distressing*; but, unfortunately, we are so placed as to be obliged to commit one evil to avoid an accumulation; no one pretends that either those men, at least the immense majority of them, who have been sent, from time to time, to Cayenne, or the Dutch Deputies now under arrest, are enemies either to Liberty or their respective Republicks; *no one of common sense entertains this opinion*: knowing many of this conquered party intimately, I can aver, that they have left none behind more pure in manners, or more decided in favour of republican liberty. But, unfortunately, those of France suffered their personal passions to interfere with their political duties, and they lent, unwittingly, their aid to those who wished to crush the Republick, while their only aim was to crush the men in power, whom they considered as usurpers, and whom they hated. The men in power WERE TOO WELL VERSED IN REVOLUTIONS not to amalgamate their own personal enemies with those of the state; and hence arises the expedition to Cayenne. Take the in-

* "The reader must not imagine that, because this prediction has not yet been verified, it is therefore a proof of ignorance in the writer. It is known to many persons, that this project was actually decided upon by France, and that its execution was prevented only by the fear of opposition from those continental powers, the ruin of whose commerce was involved in the consequences of such a measure."

† "Such is the nature of the acquisitions which the Directory encourages the Princes of Germany to make at the expence of their neighbours. They are to be annexed to their territories only for the present, and till *the general deliverance* arrives. A spirit of justice or wisdom is said to have influenced the two great powers of the Empire to reject these poisoned gifts, and to refuse to lend themselves to the accomplishment of such iniquitous and dangerous projects. May this be the symptom of returning reason on other points not less important!"