



POETICAL ASYLUM,

FOR THE ARGUS.

MESSRS. PRINTERS,

If you think the following parody, taken from an ancient work, entitled to a place in your paper, by inserting it you will oblige

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THE MAID'S SOLILOQUY.

Hail wedded Love—Milton, Book IV 1. 750.

Our Maker bids increase; who bids abstain
But our Destroyer, foe to God and man?
Milton Book IV. 1. 748

IT must be so—Milton thou reason'st well,
Else whence this pleasing hope, this fond desire,

This longing after something unpossess'd;
Or whence this secret dread, this inward horror,

Of dying unespous'd—Why shrinks the soul

Back on itself, and startles at virginity?
'Tis instinct, fatal instinct stirs within us—
'Tis nature's self, that points out an alliance
And intimates a Husband to the sex.

Marriage! thou pleasing, yet anxious tho't,
'Thro' what new scenes and changes must we pass—

The unchanging state, in prospect lies before me;

But shadows, clouds and darkness rest upon it;

Here will I hold—If Nature prompts the wish,

(And that she does is plain from all her works)

Our duty and interest, bids indulge it,
For the great end of Nature's laws is bliss:
But yet in wedlock, woman must obey—
I'm weary of these doubts, the Priest shall end 'em.

Nor rashly do I venture loss and gain,
Bondage and pleasure meet my thoughts at once.

I wed—my liberty is gone forever;
But happiness from time itself secured;
Love first shall recompence my loss of freedom;

And when my charms shall fade away, my eyes

Themselves grow dim—my stature bent with years,

Then virtuous friendship shall succeed to love,

Then pleased I'll scorn infirmities & death,
Renew'd immortal in a filial race.

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MISCELLANY.

Historical sketches, on Female Influence.

The early ages of the world, present the female character in a state of extreme humiliation. Sarah was imperiously commanded by her husband to prepare entertainment for the angel. Rebecca drew water for the servant and for Abraham; & Rachel, when accosted by Jacob, was in the field, attending the flocks of her father. Superior strength, pride or temper, in the one sex, took advantage of the delicate dependence of the other, and the virtue of the latter were unable to gain an ascendancy over the roughness of the former. In Egypt and Persia, the allconquering power jealousy confined the woman from knowledge & social intercourse, leaving them solely to the caprice and command of their individual lords. In Greece nothing was held in estimation but valor and publick eloquence: As nature had disqualified the fair sex for both, they were regarded as beneath the notice of heroes and orators. Homer considers Helen (the wife of Menelaus) of little other value than as a part of the goods stolen with her; and the same author celebrates Penelope for refusing suitors in the absence of Ulysses; not because she loved her husband supremely, but because, in thus doing, she preserved to his family the dowry she brought from her father, Icarus.

The early ages of the Roman empire presents the same subordination of the sex; but after the conquest of Carthage, the improving state of society, and of science, brought them forward to a degree of eminence; and for many ages the Roman women were respected throughout the world. Their victorious husbands, at their return from battle, revisited them with transport. They laid at their feet the spoils of triumph, and endeared themselves in their eyes, by the wounds which they had received for them and for the state.

To manners severely virtuous, the Roman woman joined an enthusiastic love of their country.—On the death of Brutus they all clothed themselves in mourning. In the time of Coriolanus they saved the city. That incensed warrior who had insulted the senate and priests, and who was superior even to the pride of pardoning, could not resist the tears and entreaties of the women. They melted his obdurate heart. The senate decreed them public thanks, ordered the men to give them place on all occasions, and caused an altar to be erected for them in the

place where the mother had softened her son and the wife her husband.

In the reign of Tiberius, when a heavy contribution was laid on the women they sought a man to defend their cause, but no man would consent to reason against those who had the power of life and death. The daughter of the celebrated Hortensius appeared. She revived the memory of her father's abilities; supported with eloquence, argument, and ability, her own cause and that of her sex. The triumphers blushed and revoked their orders. Hortensia was conducted home in triumph, and had the honor of having given, in one day, to men an example of courage, to woman a pattern of eloquence, and to tyrants a lesson of humanity.

But to the Roman empire, or to the refinements of polished society, we are not confined, in the discussion of this subject; for, after the subversion of the empire, the barbarians, who spread conflagration and ruin—who trampled on the monuments of art—who spurned the appendages of elegance and pleasure, introduced into Europe that spirit of gallantry and subordination to female merit, which now so eminently characterises their amusements and their courts.

That system which now teaches to consider the woman as equal; which powerfully influences customs manners and policy, in both hemispheres; which exalts the human character by softening the empire of force; which mingles politeness with the use of the sword; which delights in protecting the weak, and in conferring that importance which nature or fortune have denied, was first introduced from the frozen shore of the Baltic and from the savage forest of the north.

The barbarians who over run Europe, carried their opinion with their arms and thus the influence of the women is discovered to have originated; not in the depravity of sense nor in the caprice of fancy; but in the natural untaught manners of barbarians.

The influence thus gained and avowed began to extend itself, and to form a foundation upon science and religion; upon mental as well as personal attractions. Under the auspices of an improving state of society and of laws highly favorable to the sex, have flourished that simplicity which is the best index of an elegant and cultivated mind, that taste for refined literature, which charms in the possession and stimulates to instant improvement. The walks of science have been graced by a long train of illustrious females. Thrones have owed their significance and dia-

(Concluded in second page.)