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E PLURIBUS UNUM.

By SYLVANUS URBAN, *Gent.*

L O N D O N :

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night's lodging, altho' he was an handsome, well-bred man, as, she says, the world would acknowledge, should she reveal his name, which perhaps she may do at a proper time.

When he took his leave of her, he told her prophetically that, in London, she would sit in her chamber and starve; which, she says, she should have done but for the kindness of old Mr Cibber, to whose disinterested humanity she acknowledges herself to be indebted both for liberty and life.

[To be continued.]

An Account of the Prince and Princess of Wales, visiting Sir HANS SLOANE.

DR Mortimer, secretary to the Royal Society, conducted their Royal Highnesses into the room where Sir Hans was sitting, being ancient and infirm. The Prince took a chair and sat down by the good old gentleman some time, when he expressed the great esteem and value he had for him personally, and how much the learned world was obliged to him for his having collected such a vast library of curious books, and such immense treasures of the valuable and instructive productions of nature and art. Sir Hans's house forms a square of above 100 feet each side, inclosing a court; and three front-rooms had tables set along the middle, which were spread over with drawers fitted with all sorts of precious stones in their natural beds, or state as they are found in the earth, except the first, that contained stones formed in animals, which are so many diseases of the creature that bears them; as the most beautiful pearls, which are but warts in the shell fish; the bezours, concretions in the stomach; and stones generated in the kidneys and bladder, of which man woefully knows the effects; but the earth in her bosom generates the verdant emerald, the purple amethyst, the golden topaz, the azure sapphire, the crimson garnet, the scarlet ruby, the brilliant diamond, the glowing opal, and all the painted varieties that Flora herself might wish to be deck'd with; here the most magnificent vessels of cornelian, onyx, sardonyx and jasper, delighted the eye, and rais'd the mind to praise the great creator of all things.

When their Royal Highnesses had view'd one room, and went into another, the scene was shifted, for, when they returned, the same tables were covered for a second course with all sorts of jew-

els, polish'd and set after the modern fashion; or with gems carv'd, or engraved; the stately and instructive remains of antiquity; for the third course the tables were spread with gold and silver ores, with the most precious and remarkable ornaments used in the habits of men, from Siberia to the Cape of Good Hope, from Japan to Peru; and with both ancient and modern coins and medals in gold and silver, the lasting monuments of historical facts; as those of a Prusias, king of Bithynia, who betray'd his allies; of an Alexander, who, mad with ambition, over-ran and invaded his neighbours; of a Caesar, who inflay'd his country, to satisfy his own pride; of a Titus, the delight of mankind; of a Pope Gregory XIII. recording on a silver medal his blind zeal for religion, in perpetrating thereon the massacre of the protestants in France; as did Charles IX. the then reigning king in that country; here may be seen the coins of a king of England, crown'd at Paris; a medal representing France and Spain, striving, which should first pay their obedience to Britannia; others shewing the effect of popular rage, when overmuch oppress'd by their superiors, as in the case of the De Witts in Holland; the happy deliverance of Britain, by the arrival of King William; the glorious exploits of a Duke of Marlborough, and the happy arrival of the present illustrious royal family amongst us.

The gallery, 110 feet in length, presented a most surprising prospect; the most beautiful corals, crystals, and figured stones; the most brilliant butterflies, and other insects, shells painted with as great variety as the precious stones, and feathers of birds vying with gems; here the remains of the Antediluvian world excited the awful idea of that great catastrophe, so many evident testimonies of the truth of Moses's history; the variety of animals shews us the great beauty of all parts of the creation.

Then a noble vista presented itself thro' several rooms filled with books, among these many hundred volumes of dry'd plants; a room full of choice and valuable manuscripts; the noble present sent by the present French king to Sir Hans, of his collections of paintings, medals, statues, palaces, &c. in 25 large atlas volumes; besides other things too many to mention here.

Below-stairs some rooms are filled with the curious and venerable antiquities of Egypt, Greece, Hetruria, Rome, Britain, and even America; others with large

large animals preserved in the skin; the great *saloon* lined on every side with bottles filled with spirits, containing various animals. The halls are adorned with the horns of divers creatures, as the double-horn'd *Rhinoceros* of *Africa*, the fossil deer's horns from *Ireland* nine feet wide; and with weapons of different countries, among which it appears that the *Mayas*, and not our most *Christians* neighbours the *French*, had the honour of inventing that butcherly weapon the *bayonet*. Fifty volumes in folio would scarce suffice to contain a detail of this immense museum, consisting of above 200,000 articles.

Their *royal highnesses* were not wanting in expressing their satisfaction and pleasure, at seeing a collection, which surpass'd all the notions or ideas they had formed from even the most favourable accounts of it: The Prince on this occasion shew'd his great reading and most happy memory; for in such a multiplicity, such a variety of the productions of nature and art; upon any thing being shewn him he had not seen before, he was ready in recollecting where he had read of it; and upon viewing the ancient and modern *medals*, he made to many judicious remarks, that he appear'd to be a perfect master of *history* and *chronology*; he express'd the great pleasure it gave him to see so magnificent a collection in *England*, esteeming it an ornament to the nation; and expressed his sentiments how much it must conduce to the benefit of learning, and how great an honour will redound to *Britain*, to have it established for publick use to the latest posterity.

ORIGINAL LETTERS to an honest Sailor.

Mr P——y to Adm. V——x.

BETTER III. See the two first, p. 68-g.
S I R,

THIS will be deliver'd to you by Capt. *Limeburner*, one whom Sir *Charles Wager* prefer'd, at my recommendation: You will find him, I dare say, a very sensible honest man, and if he be such, I am confident, he will meet with your further encouragement and protection. Since I now write to you by him with safety, I will venture to do it with some freedom, and give you such lights into our way of acting and thinking here, as may perhaps be of some use to you. I take it for granted, that you have been thoroughly informed, by Mr *Wood*, of every thing that pass'd in parliament here, when

we first receiv'd the news of taking of *Porto Bello*, and I hope you had my former letter (See p. 69) likewise. When our ministers found that they could neither diminish the glory of your enterprise, nor lessen the importance of the place, both of which they attempted, they thought it most prudent to join in the cry, and seem as forward as any of us, in the addresses of congratulation, assuming, at the same time, great merit to themselves, since you acted, they said, by their orders: Your friends took the affair up with as high a hand as possible, and had the whole nation to back them in it: The ministry being thus forced to chime in with us, though their affection was visible to every one, it furnished us with the means of driving them further than ever they intend'd to go. When I say the ministry, you must understand me to mean only the *primum mobile*—there, for I am fully persuaded there are some among them, willing to act with vigour, and to do the nation justice. We shew'd them how much time and how many opportunities had been lost, and what ignominy this nation had suffer'd by our former timidity; we urg'd, that it was now manifest, by what you had done, as well as by what you had formerly said, that this very thing might have been accomplished long ago, with a much less force than *Hofier* had. We reproach'd them for sending no land forces with you, to enable you to push your conquests farther, and particularly, for their backwardness in not supporting you from time to time with more ships, and a constant supply of fresh stores, provisions, &c. At the same time we assured them, that if they would even now be in earnest in vindicating the honour of the nation, and carrying on the war with vigour, they should find us ready to support them in whatever could in reason be ask'd, and that all animosities should subside, till we had retrieved our lost reputation: To avoid these clamours, and urg'd by these assurances, they pretended to be as much in earnest as ourselves, and this begat my Lord *Catbarr's* expedition. (Perhaps in time I may explain something further to you on this head.) We made all our promises good, and having given them every thing they ask'd of parliament, no one expence was refus'd them, though many needless ones were demanded, particularly the increase of our horse and dragoons at home, under the ridiculous pretence of fearing a foreign invasion.